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Executive summary

While there was agreement as to the WHY to cooperate (resource efficiency, dwindling budgets), there was more discussion, and no agreement on WHAT are the cooperation is about and HOW and WHO are to define these COMMON PRINCIPLES for cooperation. There were also some formal discussions, to point out that that Member States have signed a legal environmental framework and need to find the needed resources for its implementation. And that data collected under DCF shall support fisheries management, having in mind the new CFP which refers to environmental objectives.

Actions

Given that MSFD is a Member State responsibility it was stated that Regional Seas Commissions do not have the mandate to talk on behalf of the Member States. It is agreed that DG ENV and DG MARE (ambassadors are Kenneth Patterson and David Connor) will place the topic on the agenda of the Marine Directors in June next year to present the case for cooperation in monitoring of the sea under CFP and MSFD. And to invite EFARO/ICES, Regional seas convention and one or two 'champions' to define clear objectives for data collection.

Challenges

Ices has experience from the Celtic and the North Sea on testing integrated monitoring (WKMSFDemo, and WKPIMP). With the Celtic pilot showing that it can be challenging to identify the common principles with the regional seas commissions, and with the North Sea pilot showing the challenges when many ICES member countries are involved in a survey. How do we ensure that we have the community behind us, and that we make use of the established groups, such as the SCICOM Steering Group on Integrated Ecosystem Observation and Monitoring, the survey groups, the assessment groups, etc etc.

Outstanding issue(s) / "Barriers to progress"

There seemed to be an understanding at the meeting, that the definition of the COMMON PRINCIPLES for cooperation will be a scientific exercise. While there definitely will be a need for scientific input, we should be aware, that this needs to take into account f.i. the revised Commission decision on GES, and will in the end be a political decision. Also to be successful such an exercise needs the blessing of all involved partners, and a possibility for these partners to designate their scientific experts.

Introduction

Tammo Bult (President EFARO) introduces the topic Surveying the sea under CFP and MSFD. How collect & manage best possible data/information? efficiently, effectively, for the money available by cooperation, coordination and targeted rational decisions to deliver on information needs under 2 main frames: CFP, MSFD. The outcome of this seminar should answer the question How improve on current situation? And provide ideas and actions.

Mr. Matjaž Malgaj (DG ENV) presents the status at this moment: globally there is not a good status of the world oceans. It is set on the agenda by global agreements: UN 2030 agenda and the World ocean asset. And the thread of pollution is recognised. How to improve this in such a way that we can sustainably use the products from the seas? The main goal is to have healthy oceans to feed the population.

Therefore the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive was made. It is an obligation to the member states expressed in a broad framework that at a national level where regional cooperation is needed. There is no strict EU enforcement but a policy to work together to improve.

The challenge we face today is to come to a common implementation strategy. The approach is more risk based data collection and to fulfil the increased demand on data from Brussel in such a way that we not duplicate the work. We need collaboration and innovation.

Panel discussion

The panel discussion moderated by Maarten Mens by Mr Bas Drukker (DG MARE), Mr David Connor (DG ENV), Anne Christine Brusendorff (ICES), Philippe Moguedet (EFARO/IFREMER) highlight a number of six challenges related to Policy (changes in demands of data), legal framework (CFP has very clear targets on data collection whilst MSFD has a broad frame work), Financing (the DCF only finances the collection of data that is needed for fisheries management), Clear objectives for the data collection, Methods to analyse the data and finally the actual data collection process (resources and knowledge needed).

World Café discussion

At 5 tables there was a discussion in 4 rounds on the following topics:

- **Table 1:** The Dance of the Scorpions; communication. Chair: Ross Jolliffe
Personal, trusted contacts are pivotal: make good use of these 'champions' for new process changes
People are willing to collaborate
Key scientists don't have the time to manage the programme and communications - it needs skilled communicator / leaders / practitioners
Need a plan / programme that people can communicate with
There is already a clear fisheries data collection structure and communication because of regulation. Heritage less so on Env.
Previous work is buried (re-communicate previous outputs)
Prioritise the evidence outcomes and communicate them understandably to non-specialists (for policy and wider publication)
Map the communication flow between existing influencing bodies and make use of that in the programme
Top-down regulation communications are clear, bottom-up needs to be focussed
Communicate with industry, use industry data
Member states have responsibility for investment - a new priorities communications issue
ICES communication routes can be impenetrable to outsiders (not deliberate)
OSPAR does well to coordinate agreement on what is needed but does not facilitate (by design)
Don't forget to communicate actively with Med / Black sea
Use collective RCM meeting of chairs in communication
Have major award for best communicator, enabler of progress, each year.
- **Table 2:** Coordination on regional scale; Scientific. Chair: Philippe Moguedet
- **Table 3:** Coordination on regional scale; Governance. Chair: Anne Christine Brusendorff
- **Table 4:** Breaking the tradition; Starting from scratch. Chair: Luc van Hoof
An overall higher level objective of what we want to achieve in ecosystem management and hence the data we would require is needed. When this higher level objective has been set it can be determined what of the current set up in data collection/surveys can be kept.
Commitment of the MS at the regional level is a prerequisite to have this been developed and implemented successfully.
The system should be results based with the perspective of the end-users as focal point.
- **Table 5:** Compelling case for member states to cooperate. Chair: Rian Schelvis.
Short outcome: different member states want to retain autonomy (□), spread/not enough knowledge over institutes in one country, not fit in existing surveys, no common objectives, no consensus on what data is needed to collect, no clear enforcement from DG ENV to the regional convention groups to report data, regional convention groups have no legal force to the member state to collect data, make better use of CFP/DCF operational programs and working groups to include MSFD data collection.

Action points

Out of the table discussions the following action points were formulated:

1. Multiple step approach
EFARO/ICES go to Regional Seas Convention groups to define common objectives and a plan to proceed.
2. Improve uptake of funding;
Attached is an extract on the relevant Articles for EMFF funding for data collection; and the hand written note on funds that can be made available for monitoring programmes under the MSFD. Very little of this allocated funding has been used, and mainly by three countries (Fi, FR, and Pl). One reason could be that co-financing is requested/and a lack of contact between those responsible for EMFF and MSFD. Use these funding to perform together with EFARO a regional pilot desk study.
3. Devise plan for MSFD/CFP data collection at regional scale.
The environment overviews could serve as an input, when looking into potential environmental monitoring parameters in specific ecoregions. The revised Commission decision on GES could also serve as an input
4. Organise buy in from member states and DGs.
To develop an outline of the use of current DCF fisheries data, also for MSFD purposes, and to come up with a suggestion for potential environmental data for inclusion to the fisheries independent sampling programme
5. If we don't find common objectives between the organisations involved, data collection will be at the same point in 5 years time. Do we know why there seems to be limited motivation to make progress on something that seems so beneficial? Are there other pathways to be identified? (Remembering that this has been an issue for consideration earlier, e.g. 2012 Council, as well as ICES earlier contact to the Marine Directors, and ICES participation in their meeting)
6. Find champions to make good regional examples. Sven Kupschus (CEFAS) and Dennis van Schaardenburg (Informatiehuis Marien) volunteered.



Funding under
EMFF_Data collection.

Programme



Time	Event	Remarks
10.25	Welcome	Moderator Maarten Mens
10.30	Opening & EFARO analysis of the situation	President EFARO Tammo Bult
11.00	Setting the stage	EU Commission Mr. Matjaž Malgaj (DG ENV)
12.00	Can we fix it?	Panel discussion -> addressing problems <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ICES Anne Christine Brusendorff- EU commission Mr Bas Drukker (DG MARE)- EU commission MR David Connor (DG ENV)- EFARO Philippe Moguedet
14.00	Start of discussions	'World café' method -> looking for solutions
16.00	House of Commons Debate	Taking action
17.00	Final remarks	Moderator or president EFARO