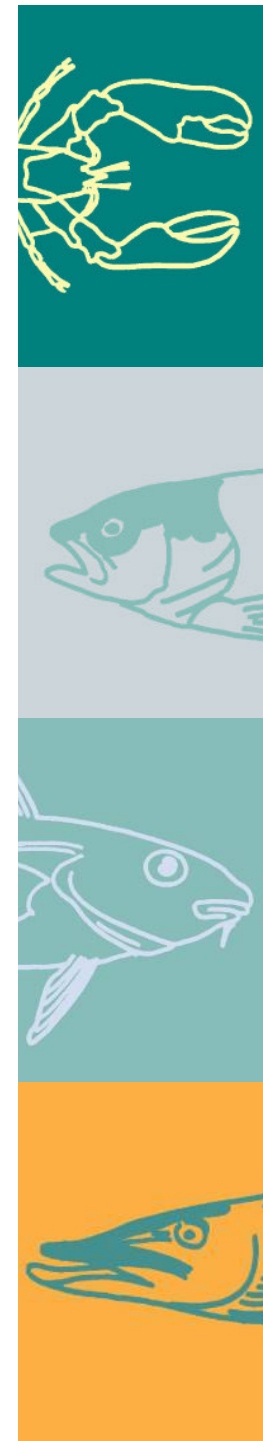


Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy – views of the Swedish Board of Fisheries

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A new Common Fisheries Policy

1. Objective hierarchy
2. Scientific advice
3. Decision-making processes and stakeholder involvement
4. Rights-based management
5. Fleet overcapacity
6. Allocation of fishing opportunities – relative stability
7. The external dimension
8. Aquaculture
9. Monitoring and enforcement



Today's objective

The Common Fisheries Policy shall ensure exploitation of living aquatic resources that provides sustainable economic, environmental and social conditions.



Objectives – must be:

Clearly formulated, prioritised and provide guidance for management decisions, and broken down into time-based and measurable subobjectives.

Framework: the ecosystem approach - its goods and services.

- Producing (food)
- Regulating (climate)
- Supporting (biodiversity and functions)
- Cultural (recreation)



Objectives, in order of priority, could be:

1. ...guarantee consumers wholesome food through utilising the aquatic ecosystem as close to maximum yield as possible without risk to the biological diversity and the system's resistance to disturbances.
2. ...contribute to the maritime policy... through taking the impact of the sector on the regulating and supportive functions of the aquatic ecosystem including biodiversity into consideration.
3. ...create employment, income, recreational opportunities and serve as a carrier of cultural heritage. ...provide a reasonable standard of living for sector's practitioners.



Decision-making process and stakeholder involvement

Focus on long-term objectives instead of short-term solutions.

Distinguish between:

- i) overarching and normative decisions (objectives and principles)
(WHAT)
- ii) implementing and detailed regulations
(HOW)



Comitology Procedure

- Delegate more of implementation and detailed regulations to the Commission.
- Requires early involvement of concerned Member States.
- Proactive participation by the RAC:s is necessary.
- Cooperation between COM, concerned Member States and RAC:s needs to be developed.



Regionalisation

- Specific regional management implemented through a regional comitology procedure or through regional management by concerned Member States or a combination.
- Regional management may lead to more responsive management of specific fish resources.
- Regional management requires procedures to safeguard conformity with Council decisions.
- Other Member States will have smaller possibilities to influence.
- Problems to handle migratory stocks have to be addressed.



The role of the RAC:s

- Overall good experience so far
- Strengthen consultation role
- More management initiatives
- Specific tasks (e.g. technical) with funding
- Need to revise mandate and structure



Finally:

Fisheries management is complicated and some people try to make it even more complicated.

It can also be made more simple:

”Adopt long-term management based on science and follow it”.

This is now being demonstrated by the cod example in the Baltic.