



What?	Summary of the meeting with the Advisory Councils June 10 th 2014, Brussels
What for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To know how advice is generated nowadays within the ACs - To explore alternatives for the ACs to become involved in advice related to the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management
Actions for ACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To use the support material (short presentation) for raising awareness - To make comments, suggestions and questions before September 1st.
How are we going to use the results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selecting feasible options for the ACs to have a say in the environmental issues concerning fisheries. - Continuing the debate with the main players in the advice process (European Commission, STECF, ICES, etc.). - Preparing forthcoming reports on how to improve the advice process in Europe by the next December. - Learning by doing on how best to use the knowledge and capabilities of the ACs and how best to return useful outputs.

Summary of the meeting

1. General framework

- European Marine Management is undergoing a transition towards and Ecosystem-based approach.
- The playing field for the ACs and the management decisions is expanding, combining new policies as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
- The ACs have the opportunity to explore how they may contribute to the advice process.

2. Main findings on current advice

- Day to day operation include response to consultations and proposals on policy that need to be developed.
- Agenda is already full with landing obligations and other policy drivers (e.g. Maximum Sustainable Yield)
- Good level of representation and participation in all the ACs, although there are some “silent players” (those who attend the meetings but do not interact).
- The renewed CFP has improved the role of the ACs.
- The lack of resources is undermining further ACs contribution for sustainable fisheries management.
- Relationships with:
 - a) Scientist: mutual respect and good understanding; but differences in interpretations and some difficulties to understand management tools or technical measures. Having the same people at the ACs meeting presenting the advice is clearly an asset.
 - ICES: excellent relationship, active engagement and joint efforts; but limited resources may restrict further progress.
 - STECF: possibility to participate as observers; but engagement is rather “restrictive” having room for improvement in terms of access, clear rules for interaction and consideration of travel restrictions.
 - b) European Commission
 - DG-MARE: supportive actions and smooth informal communication; but slow formal processes and unclear messages.
 - DG-ENV: increasing due to the ecosystem approach and mare planning; but limited.



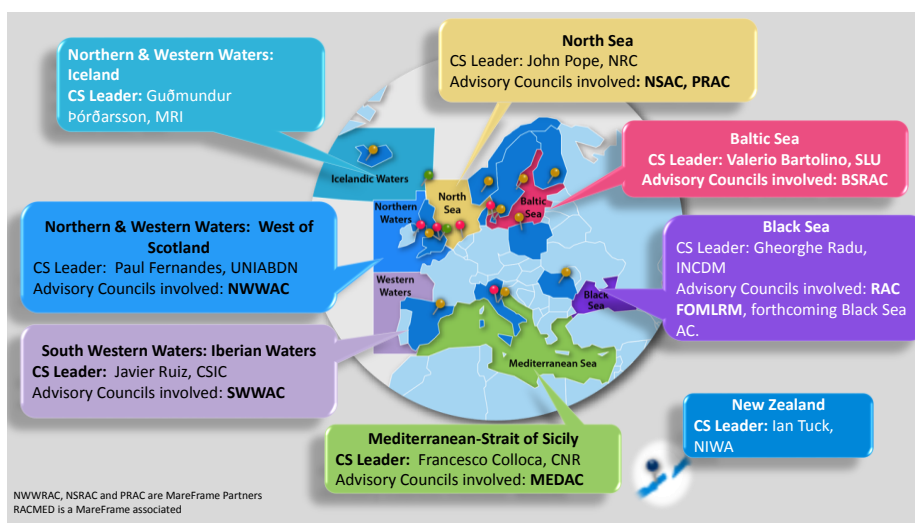


c) Member States

- Improved with the frame of regionalization and joint recommendations; but processes require time to provide a proper advice and a more transparent interaction.

3. Main findings on getting involve in advice related to the Ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

- Scepticism about advices, further on topics different that fish exploitation.
- Current topics need additional efforts unavailable in the frame of the ACs
- Other players from the marine and maritime sector have large resources to influence the process.
- There is a lack of regional frameworks and forums for managing the marine ecosystems.
- Some information is not available but could be obtained (e.g. alternatives should try to build on existing information, optimizing sources and efforts)
- Some challenges regarding MSFD descriptors remain unsolved, e.g. who is going to get data for non-commercial species.
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- Some ACs have already started to explore ideas and ways to deal with EAFM, using different approaches (working group, desk study to set the framework, etc.).
- Agreement on:
 - o Sharing findings among ACs as a result of their individual efforts
 - o Debate on alternatives using the material provided by MareFrame
 - o Considering this meeting as a first step in the process of improving fisheries advice in the European Union.



FAQs

Where can I get more information?

- At the MareFrame Website www.mareframe-fp7.org
- Getting in touch with the Case Study leader
- Getting in touch with the Advisory Council Secretariats
- Following us on twitter #MareFrame <https://twitter.com/hashtag/MareFrame>
- Following us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MareFrame>

