



Report from the Ecosystem Focus Group

Structure and Status of the Report

Executive Committee, 8 October 2015, Edinburgh, UK



Structure of the presentation

1. How this report came about – the initial Terms of Reference
2. The goal of the report
3. The current structure of the report
 - The introduction
 - The chapters
 - The annex
4. Future use and work on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management



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The initial Terms of Reference

1. People, planet, profit: humans as part of the ecosystem
2. How can GES of food webs be assessed and what is the position and significance of the PELAGIC AC stocks in food webs?
3. Are (pelagic) stocks vulnerable to deterioration of essential habitats?
4. How to set reference points in a multispecies/ecosystem context?
5. What is the basis of the value for natural mortality?
6. What are the effects of density dependency on the pelagic stocks in the North Sea and North Western Waters?
7. Bycatch of sharks, cetaceans and seabirds



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The goal of the report

1. Help the PelAC to develop a strategic approach for EAFM implementation
2. Use the report as mapping exercise:
 - a. Identify practical factors for developing multi-species management
 - b. Identify the most relevant issues for EAFM that need to be addressed
 - c. Create a document that will not just end up sitting on a shelf...



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The current structure of the report

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Descriptor 1: Biodiversity
- 3) Descriptor 3: Commercial Fish stocks
- 4) Descriptor 4: Food Webs
- 5) Spatial Management & Deterioration of Habitats
- 6) Conclusions
- 7) Annex



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The current structure of the report

1. The Introduction
 - Why apply an Ecosystem based management (EBM) and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management (EAFM)
 - What are different definitions of EBM/EAFM and which to choose
→ Decision: FAO is most comprehensive and includes humans best
 - Where is EBM/EAFM featured in the relevant legislations
→ What are the difficulties with how it is featured?
 - How do MSFD & CFP deal with EBM/EAFM?
 - How is EAFM operationalised in the EU
 - What are the challenges in the implementation of EAFM in the EU?



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The current structure of the report

1) The Introduction

- Operational Fisheries management
- Conclusions



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The current structure of the report

2) Descriptor 1: Biodiversity and how it is affected by pelagic fisheries

- Monitoring bycatch in pelagic fisheries, review of the Data Collection Framework
- ETP Bycatch in trawl Fisheries
- MSC Standard 2.0 as sustainability threshold

3) Descriptor 3: Commercial Fish stocks and reference points within EAFM

- Natural Mortality
- Reference Points in a multi-species context
- Density Dependency



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The current structure of the report

4) Descriptor 4: Food Webs

- What needs to be taken into account in pelagic fisheries
- how to proceed assessing GES of food webs
- Trophic guilds (i.e. any group of species that exploit the same resources)
- Forage fish management

5) Spatial Management & Deterioration of Habitats

- How does the deterioration of habitats affect pelagic fisheries
- How are habitat considerations being applied in management

6) Conclusions

- Regionalisation and PeAC involvement
- Past and current work of the PeAC on EAFM



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The current structure of the report

The Annex

- Reference points by stock and year
- Excerpts from MSC assessment reports on bycatch
- A list of seasonal and spatial closures
- List of MareFrame models with some explanations on how this could be used for solving management tradeoffs and questions.



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The way forward

- This report is only the first step of identifying and raising the relevant issues

→ It is not set in stone, but a living document

- Goal: go back to it and continue working on the issues

- First step in future:

→ Focus on the issues we can all agree on and take these further



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Thank you for your help getting there!



Special thanks to Paulina Ramirez/University Aalborg for valuable input.

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