

# Industry Responsibilities within a Reformed CFP

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# Affiliations

- National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
- ACFA EU Fisheries Advisory Committee
- Europeche
- North Sea RAC
- NWWRAC
- Long Distance RAC

# The Unreformed CFP

- Centralised command and control
- Top down
- One-size-fits-all
- Blunt general measures, undermined by derogations
- Inflexible: implementation failures
- Unresponsive
- Highly prescriptive micro-management
- Economic incentives are often not aligned with management objectives



# Unreformed CFP

- Characterised by repeated implementation failures
- Delivered much less than was hoped for and anticipated
- Technical measures, TACs, MAGP, discard reduction, data, etc

# A decentralised CFP: three levels of responsibility

- European Institutions
- Regional Management Bodies
- Bespoke Industry Fishing Plans



# European Institutions

- Commission, Council, European Parliament
- Broad Principles and Standards
- Oversight and ultimate responsibility
- But no role in designing and applying prescriptive detailed rules

# Regional Management Bodies

- Would deal with regional issues only
- Scale: sea basin
- Decisions closer to the fisheries
- Adaptive and Responsive management



# Composition

- Member state fisheries managers
  - Fishing industry representatives
  - NGO representatives
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- Supported by fisheries scientists



# Regional Management Bodies Responsibilities

- TAC levels
- Multi-annual fisheries plans
- Technical measures
- Discard policy
- Implementation of environmental policy
- Audit and oversight of fishing industry fishing plans
- Coordination

# Regional “Management” Bodies

- Legal/ constitutional constraints
- Commission’s sole right of initiative
- Decision making authority: Council and member states (Parliament)
- Pragmatic solutions:
- Responsibility devolved to relevant member states who then jointly agree to “cooperative administration”
- *De facto* management responsibility within a formal structure



# How to improve the CFP?

- Move away from micro-management?
- Simplify the CFP without reinforcing the broad brush approach?
- Transfer responsibility to the fishing industry?
- Move management close as possible to the fishery?



# Fishing Plan

- Self-defined fisheries group
- Producer organisations well placed
- Multi-annual plan 3 to 5 years
- Developed with scientific input
- Define how the vessels in the group will fish sustainably over the period
- Gear design/ selectivity
- Discard reduction strategy
- Conformity with broad standards and principles

# Approval and Audit

- Industry fisheries plans would require approval by the authorities
- Plans would be subject to periodic audit
- Industry organisations would be responsible for demonstrating that they are operating in conformity with the terms of their own plans
- Reversing the burden of proof



# An end to micromanagement

- Vessels subject to fishing plans would not be subject to the micro-management system
- technical rules incorporated into plan
- control rules “ “ “
- Monitoring and documentation “ “ “
- Incentive to take responsibility
- Align economic incentives with management objectives



# Big Bang

- Attractions
- A clean break
- Fear of chaos: both fisheries managers and fishing industry

# An incremental and staged approach

- Huge cultural change for fishermen, fisheries managers, fisheries enforcement bodies and scientists
- Not all industry organisations will have the capacity to prepare their own plans at the outset
- Key is to provide industry bodies with the option to elect to submit a plan and escape micromanagement



# Inside the plan

- Cooperation
- Collaboration
- Self-regulation
- Self -discipline
- Peer group pressure
- Adaptive
- Responsive
- Capacity reduction?



# Not entirely speculative

- Spencer Gulf prawn fishery in South Australia
- Canadian experience
- Possible for industry groups to take on specific areas of responsibility on the way to full self-regulation

# Pitfalls and problems

- Retention of detailed control at the centre
- Transparency across plans
- Tailored measures Vs consistency across different areas – divergence
- Commission's sole right of initiative
- Highly migratory species
- New science
- Role of RACs
- Relative stability
- Third countries – shared stocks



# Dealing with realities

- Retention of centralised control: potential to undermine devolution
- Transparency: Good communications; not a reason for inertia; learn through best practice
- Consistency across CFP vs tailored measures: trans-boundary issues – Inter-RAC
- New science: innovation and audit and assessment
- RACs? Regional and European Advice
- Relative Stability: Compatible with status quo or change
- Shared Stocks: a political reality

# Industry responsibilities within a reformed CFP

- European level : advice through RACs
- Co-responsibility on regional “management” bodies
- RACs would work closely with regional managers
- Development and implementation of bespoke industry fishing plans





Thank You