

Deepsea Fisheries:  
Reflection on the views of the Regional Advisory  
Councils

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WORKSHOP ON DEEPSEA  
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# Fishing resources: a “common good”



Source: DG MARE Website – Fisheries – Regional Advisory Councils

# What are the RACs?

\*Legal basis: Arts. 31 and 32 of the EC Reg. 2371/2002

\*Mission: Ensure a wide participation of the interested parties ("stakeholders") in all stages of fishery management policies, from conception to implementation (Article 2.2.c of CFP Regulation)

\*Key words: Legitimacy, governance, transparency, "level playing field" in the decision making process

# Why were the RACs created in the last CFP Reform?

## BEFORE 2002

Non-structured consultation in highly technical legislative procedures

Advisory bodies: Community Institutions (ESC, CoR)

Bodies dependent on the EC functionally and financially (ACFA, STECF)

Horizontal / Cross-cutting issues dealt with only

## AFTER 2002

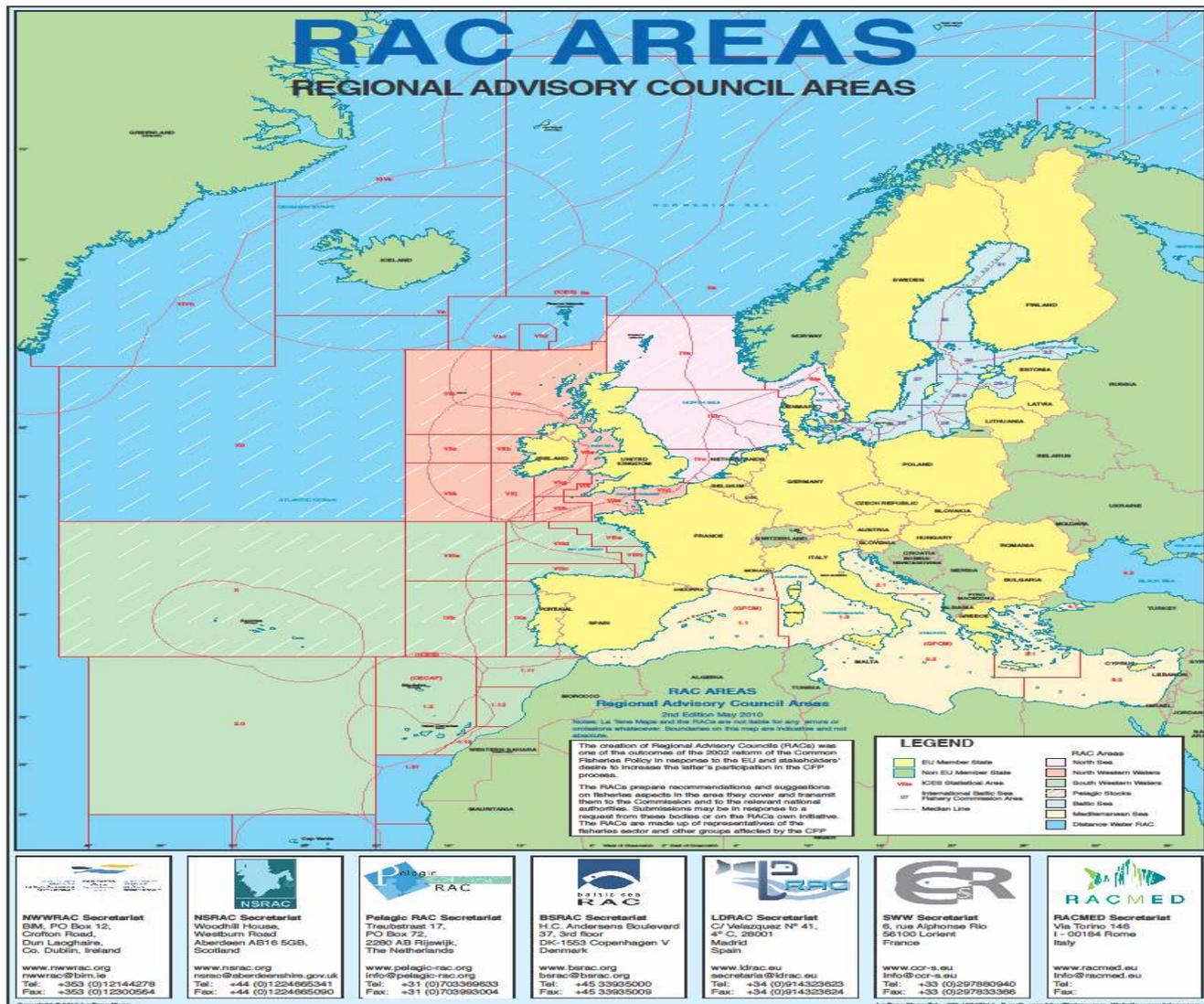
More transparent legislative procedures with structured consultation

Stakeholder-led bodies (2/3 industry, 1/3 other interest groups)

Functional and financial autonomy

Regional approach by fisheries (fleets, areas, species...)

# Geographic distribution of RACs



# Deepsea Consultation: Introduction

## **OBJECT**

Lesson in how NOT to conduct good governance by the Commission – RAC proposals neither properly evaluated nor incorporated

# Deepsea advices by the RACs: Historical background

- \* 4 Relevant RACs attempted to engage from the start
  - \* North Sea (II-IV)
  - \* North Western Waters (VI-VII)
  - \* South Western Waters (VIII-IX)
  - \* Long Distance Fleet (international waters)
- \* 12 RAC communications of advice since 2006
- \* Last meeting: Joint RAC Focus Group in November 2012 – working up a discussion paper that was sent to EU institutions (EP Fisheries Committee-Council-Commission) in February 2013

# (Deficit of) consultation to Stakeholders (RACs): Chronology

- \* 2007

EC Communication on review of Access Regime (EC Reg. 2347/2002)

- \* December 2009

EC Consultation “non” Paper, providing *inter alia* 3 policy options. Not sent to LDRAC; SWW & NWWRAC’s responses within agreed deadline. Silence from EC.

- \* July 2012

Proposal for a Regulation tabled, with a very short summary of (MS and RACs) responses

# Outcomes of consultation: perspective from 4 RACs

- \* The 4 RACs concerned fundamentally disagree with the consultation process – clearly insufficient – as it departs from good governance; and sets unfortunate precedent for a reformed (decentralised) CFP
- \* Impact assessment – simplistic approach: main reason of management option selected seems to be the reduced cost and ease of compliance aspects; no detailed justification or evidence for policy choice vis-à-vis other ones proposed.

# Strategic Vision: a joint vision to deepsea management

- \* Collaboration between scientists, fishermen and stakeholders is essential for long-term sustainable exploitation of the stocks
- \* EC Proposal released before conclusions of DEEPFISHMAN were available; other EU projects (e.g. CORALFISH...) have not been duly taken into account as well.

# Specific Comments to EC Proposal of Regulation

- \* Definition of deep-sea fisheries (by species and depth)
- \* Fishing Permits – licensing system
- \* Bottom Trawls and Bottom Set Gillnets

# Main conclusions

- \*Protection need to be clearly recognised
- \*Catches must be managed
- \*The Proposal does not meet the aim

# Thank you for your attention

For more information :

[www.nwwrac.org](http://www.nwwrac.org)

[www.ccr-s.eu](http://www.ccr-s.eu)

[www.ldrac.eu](http://www.ldrac.eu)