

NGO responsibilities within a reformed CFP

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Together for birds and people

Outline of key e-NGO roles

- **Ensure Marine Strategy Framework Directive promotes making an ecosystem approach operational**
- **Ensure this link through creating regional ecosystem plans and by building into Long Term Management Plans (LTMPs)**
- **Ensure appropriate regionalised delivery and its resourcing**

Marine Strategy Framework Directive



MSFD – the CFP's new policy context

- **CFP objectives:** *'The long term ecological sustainability of fisheries must be the first priority because... healthy fish stocks and healthy marine ecosystems are a sine qua non for an economically and socially healthy fisheries sector'* [DG Mare 'Reflections' Working Doc 2008]
- The MSFD represents a legally-binding framework for meeting this pre-condition
- The CFP's challenge is therefore how best it can help deliver Good Environmental Status under the MSFD

Put policy into practice – operationalise an ecosystem-based approach

- Art 2.1 of Basic Reg: *'It [the Community] shall aim at progressive implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management'*.
- Has failed to drive fundamental change; instead, delivery has been reactive, piecemeal, and incoherent, including by the RACs.

Step 1: Regional Ecosystem Plans



Amend the Basic Regulation

- *E.g.: 'An ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management shall be implemented in the form of a regional ecosystem plan for each of the four marine regions specified in the Marine Strategy Directive'.*
- **Already a precedent in the US Fisheries Ecosystem Plans (e.g. Chesapeake Bay), also scoped for North Sea**
- **Would comply with Declaration of North Sea Ministerial Conf (2006): 'request that the competent authorities, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, and especially the NSRAC, develop a fisheries ecosystem plan for the North Sea based on scientific advice from ICES and national science bodies, adopt it at the latest by 2010 and implement it immediately thereafter.'**

Step 2: Long Term Management Plans



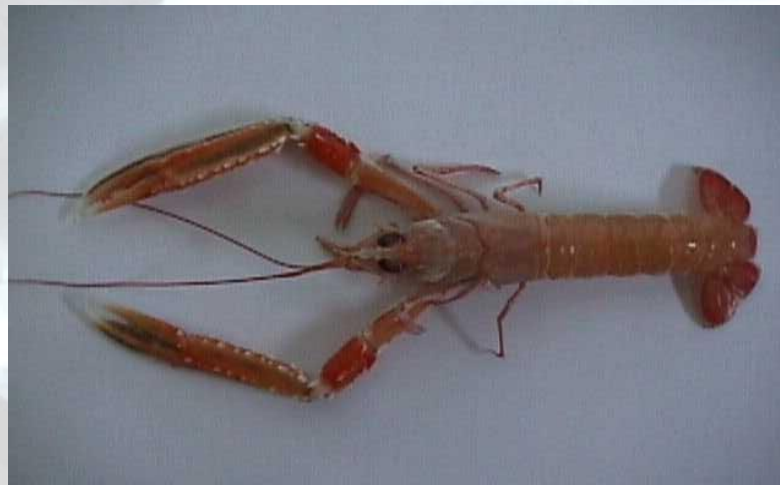
Implement ecologically sounds LTMPs

- We can no longer live with Art 6: 'The Council shall adopt management plans as far as necessary...'
- No fishery should be targeted in EU waters unless or until it is the subject of a Long Term Management Plan.
- LTMPs should be agreed within a specific timeframe (deadline 2015?) and should comply with a basic set of requirements laid out in the Regulation, including ecosystem-based approach. Coherence between LTMPs will also need to be addressed at marine region level.

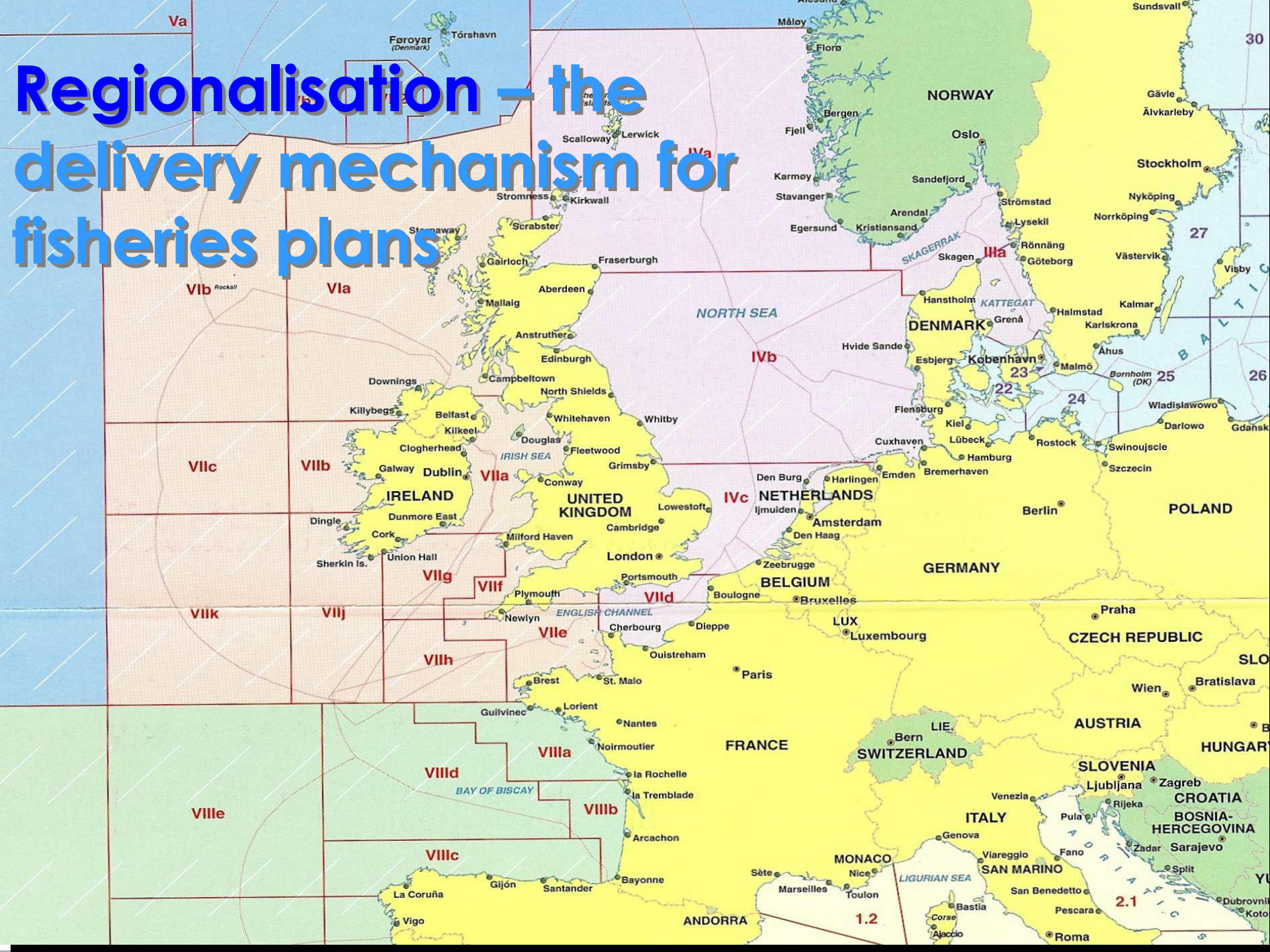
RACs showing the way.....

“Any LTMP must consider ecological, as well as social and economic objectives. In particular, the plan must address the complexity of natural ecological processes and adopt an adaptive management plan in the face of uncertainty.”

[NSRAC draft LTMP for Nephrops, September 09]



Regionalisation – the delivery mechanism for fisheries plans



A stakeholder-inclusive forum

- Regional management bodies are the right place to develop and adopt LTMPs
- These bodies should be a wide, co-management mix of fishers, scientists, NGOs and other stakeholders, led by Member States
- The RACs will continue to have an advisory role in the short term but may evolve towards being absorbed by the new regional bodies

Resourcing the new bodies

- The US Regional Councils are intensely demanding of stakeholders' time and resources
- Comparable EU bodies will severely strain the capacity of NGOs who are already stretched to meet the demands of the RACs
- The NGOs may need financial support from Member States in order to fulfil their role (cf Fisheries Secretariat (FISH)).

And finally.....

Both the NGOs and the fishing sector share a common commitment to Long Term Management Plans and regionalisation

So while their maps for finding these key routes to CFP reform may differ, they are agreed on the general direction of travel



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With thanks to my fellow environmental NGOs