

Regionalisation of the  
Common Fisheries Policy?  
Perspectives, options and  
challenges: voices of  
stakeholders and others

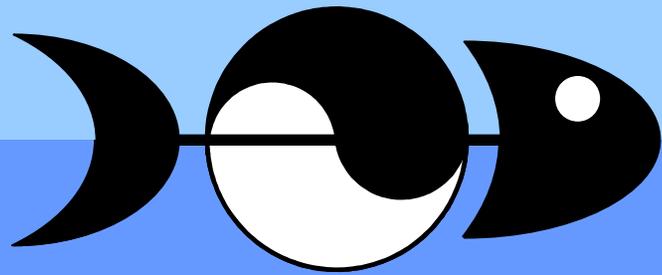


# Making the European Fisheries Ecosystem Plan Operational



NWW RAC Horizontal Working Group meeting on CFP Reform, Dublin

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010

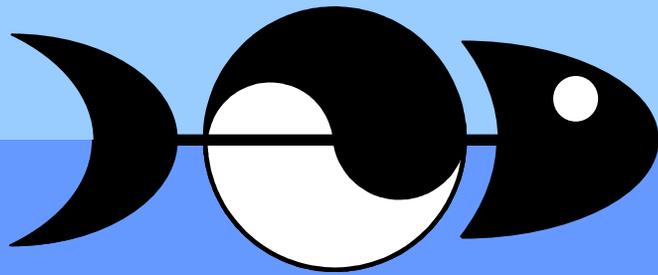


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## REGIONALISATION ?

### Outline

- Consultation methods
- Different models of regionalisation
- Perceptions of models
- Key differences between ‘most feasible’ models
- Key issues for the NWW RAC to consider



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## REGIONALISATION ?

### **‘Consultation’ Methods**

#### **→ Observations**

4 RAC meetings and 5 conferences with regionalisation on the agenda

#### **→ Key-informant interviews**

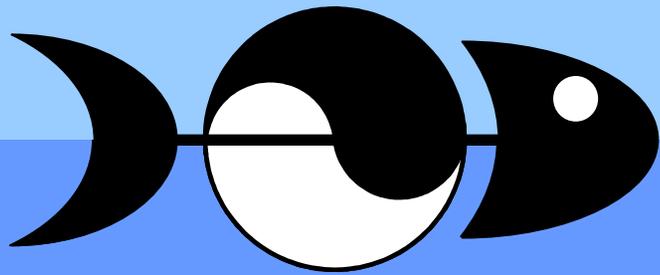
20 interviews: 2 researchers, 5 managers, 3 policy-makers, 10 stakeholders (8 of which were from the fishing industry)

#### **→ Study of Documents**

Relevant documents on CFP reform, incl. selected position papers submitted in connection with the consultation on the 2009 Green Paper

#### **→ Survey**

139 respondents (41%) from a population of 329 participants in selected RAC meetings held in 2009 (Pelagic, North Sea, NWW, SWW)

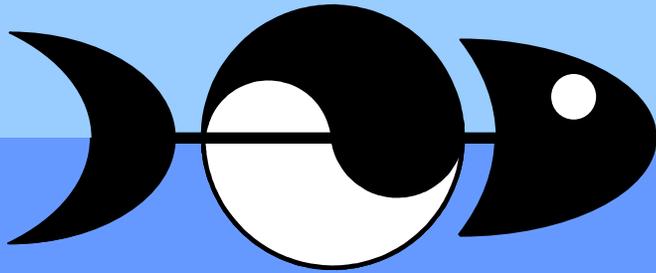


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## REGIONALISATION ?

### **Models of Regionalisation / ‘Archetypes’**

- Nationalisation (not discussed here)
- **Cooperative Member State Councils**
- **Regional Fisheries Management Organisations**
- **Regional Fisheries Co-Management Organisations**
- Regional Marine Management Organisations (not discussed here)



### Cooperative Member State Councils

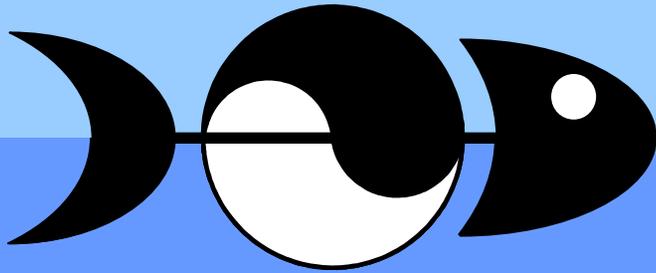
The institutional structure and formal distribution of powers remains largely unchanged. However, the member states with fishing interests in a regional sea area establish mini-councils to deal with fisheries management issues specific to that area. These mini-councils forward their recommendations for formal approval to the overall EU Fisheries Council. The RAC would in most cases advise the mini-council rather than the central EU institutions. The exact extent to which stakeholders' input is given weight in the recommendations of the mini-council is up to that mini-council on a case-by-case basis.

## → Cooperative Member State Councils

- \* Only simple, regional politico-administrative structures needed
- \* Empowerment of stakeholders not an explicit aim
- \* RACs to advise regional councils as well as Commission
- \* Incentives for applying off-the-peg, one-size-fits-all management from the EU level is reduced
- \* Modest change from the current system

## → Varieties

- \* Degree of formality of regional councils
- \* Regional councils tasked with coordinating implementation strategies
- \* Level of coordination could in principle be high



### Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

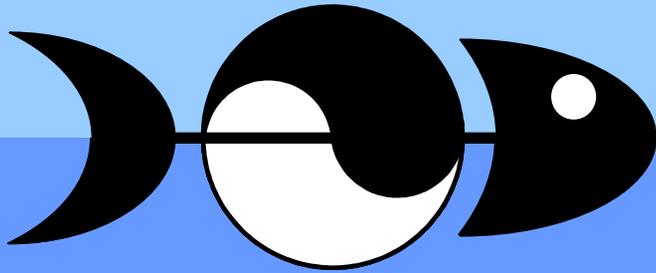
Under this model the member states would be given wide authority for fisheries conservation on the condition that the member states with fishing interests in a regional sea area establish a regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) to deal with fisheries management issues specific to that area. A general framework for regional approaches will be provided by the central EU institutions. The stakeholders' input will continue to be channelled through the RAC. However, the RAC would in most cases advise the RFMO rather than the central EU institutions. The exact extent to which stakeholders' input is given weight in the decision-making process of the RFMO is up to that organisation on a case-by-case basis.

## → Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

- \* Necessitates formal regional organisations
- \* Potential empowerment of regional stakeholders
- \* RACs direct advice to regional organisations rather than to EU level
- \* **Reduced ability and incentive for applying off-the-peg, one-size-fits-all management from the EU, coordinating role for EU maintained**
- \* Significant change from current system

## → Varieties

- \* Varying interpretations of what 'wide authorities' entail



### Regional Fisheries Co-Management Organisations

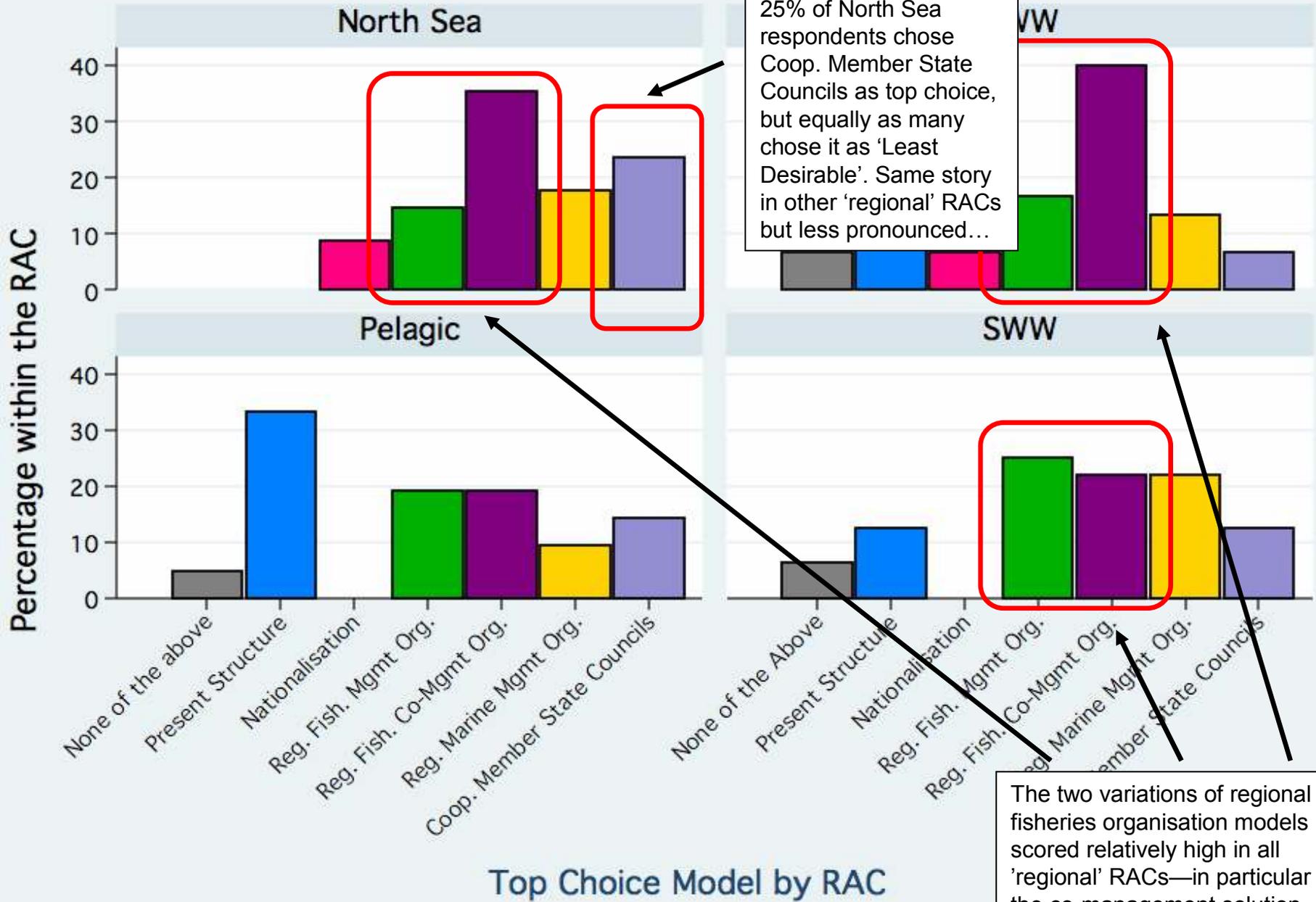
Under this model the member states would be given wide authority for fisheries conservation on the condition that the member states with fishing interests in a regional sea area establish a regional fisheries co-management organisation (RFcoMO) to deal with fisheries management issues specific for that area. A general framework for regional approaches will be provided by the central EU institutions. The RACs would cease to exist; instead stakeholders, scientists and member states' administrators would work together within the RFcoMO to determine the best strategies for their regional area.

## → Regional Fisheries Co-Management Organisations

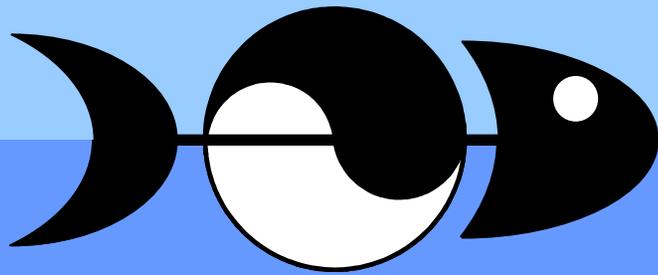
- \* Necessitates formal regional organisations
- \* **High likelihood for significant empowerment of stakeholders**
- \* RACs cease to exist, stakeholders participate in the regional org.
- \* Reduced ability and incentive for applying off-the-peg, one-size-fits-all management from the EU, coordinating role for EU maintained
- \* Drastic change from current system

## → Varieties

- \* Varying interpretations of what 'wide authorities' entail
- \* RACs to continue or be integrated?
- \* Balance between stakeholders?



## TOP CHOICE MODELS



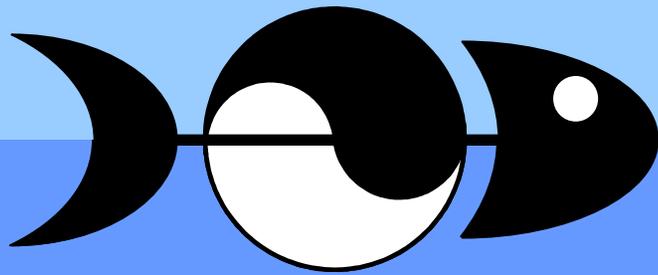
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## REGIONALISATION ?

	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations model	Regional Fisheries Co-management Organisations model	Cooperative Member State Councils model
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Structured according to ecosystems</li> <li>* Facilitates tailor-made management</li> <li>* Robust (institutionalised structure)</li> <li>* Clear distinction between those governing and those being governed</li> <li>* Transparent distribution of authority</li> <li>* Delivers break with centralised management</li> <li>* Offers flexibility <i>vis-à-vis</i> stakeholder participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Structured according to ecosystems</li> <li>* Facilitates tailor-made management</li> <li>* Robust (institutionalised structure)</li> <li>* Transparent distribution of authority</li> <li>* Delivers break with centralised management</li> <li>* Enhances stakeholder participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Structured according to ecosystems</li> <li>* Facilitates tailor-made management</li> <li>* Clear distinction between those governing and those being governed</li> <li>* Institutionally flexible and adaptive</li> <li>* Legally unproblematic</li> </ul>

### STRENGTHS OF MODELS





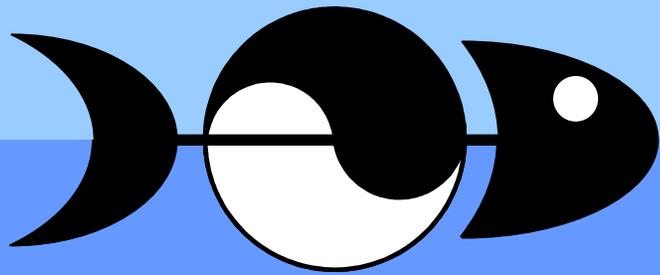
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## REGIONALISATION ?

	Regional Fisheries Management Organisations model	Regional Fisheries Co-management Organisations model	Cooperative Member State Councils model
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Legally challenging</li> <li>* Does not enhance stakeholder participation <i>per se</i></li> <li>* Institutionally static</li> <li>* Risk of agency drift</li> <li>* Issue of how to deal with 3<sup>rd</sup> countries is contentious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Legally challenging</li> <li>* Enhances stakeholder participation even if stakeholders are not ready</li> <li>* Some stakeholders might potentially feel left out</li> <li>* Blurring between those governing and those being governed (risk of 'regulatory capture')</li> <li>* Institutionally static</li> <li>* Risk of agency drift</li> <li>* Issue of how to deal with 3<sup>rd</sup> countries is contentious</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Institutionally weak (based on "soft law")</li> <li>* Does not enhance stakeholder participation <i>per se</i></li> <li>* Distribution of authority potentially non-transparent</li> <li>* No guarantee for break with centralised management</li> </ul>

### WEAKNESSES OF MODELS



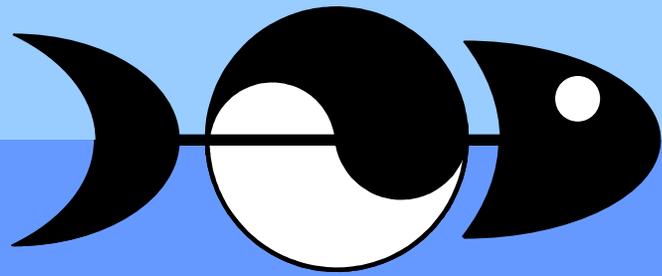


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## REGIONALISATION ?

### Tying Things Together...

- \* Stakeholders are looking in the direction of a formalised regional organisation model, whereas many member states seem to lean towards the more pragmatic cooperative solution...**
- \* The Regional Fisheries Management Organisation model can in principle be structured as to allow varying degrees of stakeholder involvement, incl. co-management.**
- \* Likely there is a need for the development of one framework for regionalisation, within which the different regions can develop their own individual approach to regionalisation...**



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## REGIONALISATION ?

### For the Working Group to consider

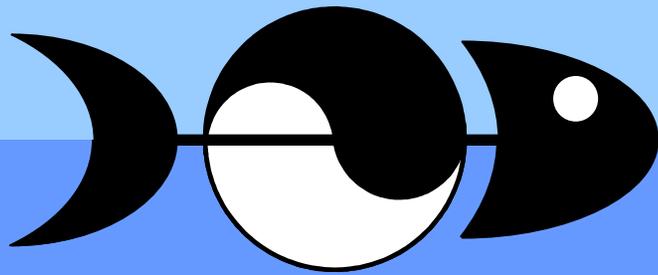
- \* Informal or legally grounded regional decision-making?
- \* Regionalisation to entail true co-management or not?
- \* What authorities / decisions to be placed at regional level?

**and you have already a solid base to start from in the NWW Green Paper position...**

**3 KEY QUESTIONS...**



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## REGIONALISATION ?

### About **MEFEPO**

To support the transition towards an ecosystem approach to the management of European marine fisheries by developing operational strategies for the implementation of an ecosystem approach in three regions (NS, NWW, SWW), and identify how the overarching institutional framework needs to be modified to support these strategies.

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**Ten partners from eight European countries**

**Coordinator: University of Liverpool**

**Duration: September 2008 → August 2011**

**More: [www.liv.ac.uk/mefepo/](http://www.liv.ac.uk/mefepo/)**



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