

# Long-term Management Plans

A RAC Perspective

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- National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
- North West RAC
- North Sea RAC
- Pelagic RAC
- Long Distance RAC



# Political Driver: Maximum Sustainable Yield

- World Summit for Sustainable Development
- Johannesburg 2004
- MSY by 2015
- A Political Commitment

# The Challenge for RACs

- To advance meaningful, inclusive, well-grounded, long-term management plans
- To balance long term objectives with short term viability
- To facilitate a move away from crisis management

# Challenge for RACs 2

- To achieve a high degree of stability
- To achieve a high long term yield
- To develop LTMPs within the three pillars of sustainability:  
environmental, economic, social

# The Edinburgh Workshop

- Preliminary discussions in Autumn 2005: Schipol
- Edinburgh Workshop March 2006
- NSRAC
- Scientists, Fishing Industry, NGOs, Fisheries Managers, European Commission, Norway

# Edinburgh Conclusions

- MSY concept has its limitations
- Not least its limited relevance in mixed fisheries
- But there is merit in striving for high yield, stability and sustainability
- Poor institutional arrangements are perhaps the principal reason why the last 20 years have not delivered the fisheries that we desire

# Edinburgh Conclusions 2

- Prioritising one of the components of sustainability (biological, economic, social/institutional) is a recipe for failure
- An exclusively biological focus is one of the primary reasons why the CFP has often failed to achieve its objectives over the last 20 years



# Edinburgh Conclusions 3

- Precise destination is less important than moving in the right direction



# Edinburgh 4 – A major theme

## Collaboration

- Collation of fisheries data
- Design of measures
- Agreement on direction of travel
- Successful implementation requires “buy-in”
- Buy-in requires participation

# Edinburgh 5

- One size fits all: convenient for bureaucrats – but a recipe for failure
- A fishery by fishery approach
- Different routes to high and stable yield
- Menu: TACs, technical measures, capacity reduction, discard reduction, effort control

# Long-term management plans

- Defining objectives is the easy part
- Effective implementation is the greater challenge
- Establishing plans requires trade offs of various kinds
- Stakeholders involvement is critical
- Ways of handling risk and uncertainty are required

# LTMPs Cont.

- Providing a range of options with their consequences are the key
- Different role for scientists
- Beyond biological in scope
- A framework for development is required

# Long term management plans: Life after Edinburgh

- NWWRAC Working Groups

Irish Sea

Celtic Sea

West of Scotland

Channel

Defining our fisheries/Data issues/  
CEFAS project/ Discussion of models

# Life after Edinburgh

- North Sea Development Groups

Cod/haddock/whiting

Nephrops

Flatfish

Saithe

Monkfish

Defining fisheries, preliminary stakeholder engagement, data issues, investigation of models

# Some Issues Arising From Preliminary Work

- Some fisheries easier than others
- Different routes to MSY
- Weak data
- Distractions /More immediate concerns
- No clear framework
- Engagement with scientists
- Engagement with stakeholders



# An initiative stalled

- Good start
- Subsequent progress disappointing
- Key issues: Science and stakeholders

# Role of Science – a choice

1. Scientists provide the numbers; managers do the rest
2. Scientists contribute ideas on how to achieve objectives
3. Scientists make an effort to understand the patterns of fishing in specific fisheries and the fishing strategies that underpin them

# RACs and Science

- Well grounded LTMPs require access to science
- Understanding of the state of the stocks
- Stock trends
- Understanding of fishing patterns
- Options for stock development
- Options for content of a LTMP

# RACs and Science 2

- Commission has made it clear that it will not “pay twice” for science
- The alternative is to channel requests for advice through the MOU

# Memoranda of Understanding

- Requests to ICES via the Commission
- Key to funding
- RACs need to frame requests in the most useful way
- Specialist support in framing requests
- Role for Regulatory Impact Assessments ? The evaluation of options?

# Stakeholder involvement

- RACs hold a pivotal position
- Provide a forum for the dialogue that is a precondition for successful implementation of LTMPs
- Composition: international, range of stakeholders.

# Stakeholders - an issue of scale

- Good governance requires participation
- RACs are at a regional scale
- Fisheries are at a more local scale
- A need to engage with those directly involved in the fisheries
- A question of resources – a critical question.

# Conclusions

- LTMPs are important
- They offer an opportunity to move away from crisis management
- There is a political imperative to develop them



# Conclusions 2

- The Edinburgh Workshop provides a useful checklist of issues to consider when developing LTMPs
- RACs are well placed to develop LTMPs as advice to the Commission
- Two problems have stalled progress in the NWWRAC and the NSRAC

# Conclusions 3

- Access to Science
- Resources to provide meaningful participation at fishery level

# Circumnavigating the barriers

- RACs and ICES should collaborate on framing requests for scientific work that would provide the underpinning for LTMPs
- A focus on providing the fishing industry with options that will deliver LTMPs at some proxy of MSY

# Circumnavigating the barriers 2

- Funding of stakeholder engagement at fishery level
- European Fisheries Fund?
- EC Research programme (tenders)?
- Inter Reg?
- Alternatives?

# LTMPs

- Are the future
- We need to invest time and resources in making them work

Thank you.

