

## **The GAP 2 Project - A Briefing note for Regional Advisory Councils**

### **Bridging the gap between science, stakeholders and policy makers. Phase 2 - Integration of evidence-based knowledge and its application to science and management of fisheries and the marine environment**

#### **What is GAP2 about?**

GAP2 is about making a difference to an issue of significance to the whole of society; the health of the marine environment and the sustainability of fisheries upon which marine-based economies depend for food, income and livelihoods.

By supporting participation in joint research activities and connecting these to policy, GAP2 builds on the dialogue and relationships built between scientists and fishermen during GAP1. This will be achieved by using experiences from GAP1 and 2 to promote and facilitate the uptake of shared knowledge into the Regional Advisory Councils, and then to help apply the knowledge upwards into the development and implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

GAP1 succeeded in facilitating collaborative working relationships and understanding the social behaviours and conditions conducive to success<sup>1</sup>. The resulting lessons have been summarised in a Good Practice Guide and Code of Conduct which have been used to develop a strategy for GAP2.

The GAP approach to scientific research is to work in partnership with stakeholders in developing and planning ideas, undertaking the research and communicating the outcomes. Through the course of the work, the project will demonstrate and reflect upon the value of working together on issues of shared interest. In addition, strengthening global networks and undertaking exchange activities will contribute to establishing good practice on participatory approaches in relevant to EU fisheries governance.

#### **How can the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) engage and benefit from the GAP2 project?**

With extensive knowledge of the policy landscape, and being a key influence on EU and national policy, the RACs are the connection that enables the outcomes of participatory research to become useful for policy makers and stakeholders alike.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information please see the GAP1 web site [www.gap1.eu](http://www.gap1.eu) (GAP2 website soon to be launched)

Five of the seven RACs are partners in GAP2 and are therefore ideally positioned to provide a platform for participatory approaches to research and management.

With the Marine Strategy Framework Directive aspiring to reach Good Environmental Status by 2020 and the increasing pressure to deliver sustainable fisheries management there is a need for a shared understanding of how science and applied knowledge can support a strengthened fisheries management regime.

As partners in GAP2 and members of the project Steering Committee, the RACs play a vital role in 3 key areas:

- Promoting and facilitating a participatory approach to research and management and the uptake of outcomes from specific regional research actions (13 regional case-studies).
- Providing a focal point for discussion on the role of stakeholders in research and the relationships among science-stakeholders and policy makers in regional governance under a reformed CFP.
- Engaging in the debate, illuminating issues relating to the CFP and MSFD objectives and their integration.

Consistency of representation by the RACs will be critical in maximising the outcomes of GAP2. It is important that those representing each RAC are knowledgeable about the project to enable us to effectively garner experiences during the 4 year project.

## GAP2 Workshops

During 2011-2015, a series of workshops will aim to engage RAC members on the role of stakeholder research, thus aiming to strengthen the relationship between scientists, industry, policy makers and other stakeholders. These workshops will be organised by WWF, the Centre for Marine Policy and CEFAS. As partners in the GAP2 project, the RAC representatives will be fully reimbursed for travel and accommodation costs for attending the workshops and meetings.

WWF-UK will be the lead convener, using their stakeholder outreach and engagement expertise together with knowledge and experience of working with policy makers and the fishing industry, specifically on participatory approaches to sustainable marine resource management.

### **Stage 1 – influencing stakeholder engagement in the CFP**

Drawing upon the lessons learnt from GAP1 the objective of the first series of workshops will be to encourage communication and explore the values that promote co-operation, consultation and dialogue between the different actors. These workshops provide the opportunity for participants to openly discuss new ideas and insights into the issues whilst listening to the perspectives of others.

Understanding the need to minimise demands on RAC members' time, the first series of workshops will be held on the back of RAC/RMO meetings over the next 12 months.

These workshops will examine:

- Why stakeholder input into the development of policies that affect them is more important than ever.
- An introduction to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), examining its relevance to stakeholders.
- The role that the CFP has to play, introducing aspects of its integration with the MSFD.
- The role of RACs and RMOs and how can they promote scientific and stakeholder input into the implementation of these policies?

The final of this first series of workshops will involve key decision makers towards creating a series of recommendations for strengthening scientific and multi-stakeholder engagement in regional CFP decision making and implementation.

### **Stage 2 – linking the CFP with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

The second stage of this part of the project will look at clarifying the connection between the MSFD and the implementation of a reformed CFP. A series of 3 regional workshops covering i) North Sea and NW waters ii) Mediterranean and SW waters iii) the Baltic will create opportunities for facilitated dialogue on how to fully embed applied research into decision making processes to support integration of the MSFD and CFP. A final workshop with key European environmental and fisheries decision makers and other key stakeholders will be held to finalise recommendations for integrated research mechanisms and approaches.

Participants at the workshops will include representatives from each of the following RACs:

- [Baltic Sea;](#)
- [Mediterranean Sea;](#)
- [North Sea;](#)
- [North-western waters;](#)
- [South-western waters;](#)
- [Pelagic stocks;](#)
- [High seas/long distance fleet.](#)

In addition, key stakeholders will be invited from:

- The EU Commission
- Academic and research institutions
- Fisheries and marine scientists
- NGOs including experts in participatory engagement
- Fishermen and fishermen's' organisations/co-operatives
- National or regional Ministries

## The GAP2 project details

**Duration:** 4 years, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

**Budget:** €7.6 million

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**Consortium:** 37 partners, from 11 different European countries, who work in regional and national government research agencies and fisheries organisations, universities, civil society organisations and media organisations.

**Case studies being undertaken with the GAP2 project in RAC jurisdictions include:**

<b>RAC</b>	<b>GAP2 Case Study</b>
North Sea RAC	<p>No.3. Climate change effect on the inshore and Wadden Sea brown shrimp fishery (AWI with Cooperative of Neuharlingersiel and Association of small deep-sea - and inshore fishery within the national fishery association Weser-Ems e.V, Lower Saxony, Germany)</p> <p>No. 4. Management plans for herring in ICES IIIa and adjacent areas; perceptions of stocks and fisheries. (DTU-Aqua in association Jakfish)</p> <p>No. 12. Collaborative discard sampling in the Dutch flatfish fisheries (Josien Steenbergen, Imares with Dutch Fish product board (PVis))</p> <p>No. 13. Long term management plans and the ecosystem approach in the North Sea (Steven Mackinson, Cefas with NSRAC)</p>
Baltic Sea RAC	No. 11. Mapping Baltic Fisheries in support of Marine Spatial Planning (Robert Aps, Utartu with Estonian Fishermen Association)
Pelagic RAC	No. 4. Management plans for herring in ICES IIIa and adjacent areas; perceptions of stocks and fisheries. (DTU-Aqua in association Jakfish)
High Seas / LDRAC	No.7. Conservation and management issues of tuna fisheries around FADs. (Laurent Dagon IRD, Gala Moreno Azti with Orthongel and Anabac)
Med RAC	<p>No. 8. Spatio-temporal distribution of fishing effort and biological resources in the Northern Adriatic Sea: towards the identification of fish habitats and management proposals in the framework of a participatory approach (Sasa Raicevich, ISPRA and Simone Serra, Unimar and others)</p> <p>No. 9. Management of the trawl industry in the Maltese 25nm Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ). Leyla Knittweis (MCFS) with Maltese fishers cooperatives</p> <p>No. 10. Ecological impact and alternative management strategies for the NW Mediterranean red shrimp (<i>Aristeus antennatus</i>) fishery (Joan Baptista with Regional Federation of Fishermen Organisations of Girona)</p>
SWWRAC	No.2. Mapping habitats and fishing grounds in coastal ecosystems of Galicia (Juan Freire UDC with Federación Galega de Confrarías de Pescadores)
NWWRAC	No.1. Sustainability of brown crab stocks - with studies on behaviour and migrations (Paul Hart University of Leicester with Cornish Fishermen’s Association, South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen Association LTD)