

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

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JOINT NWWRAC-SWWRAC-LDRAC
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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

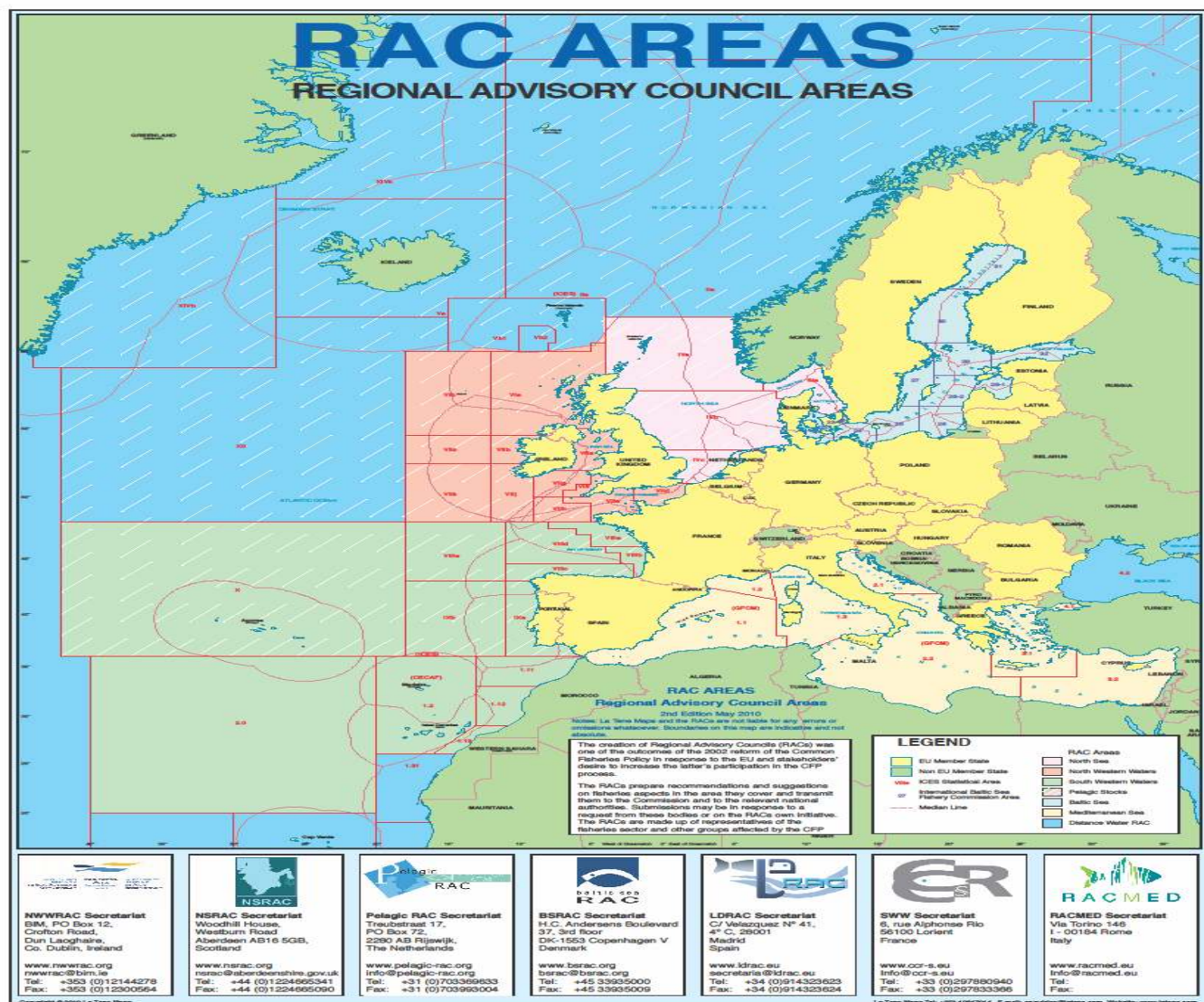
More transparent legislative procedures with structured consultation

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 & NWWWRAC’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

www.ccr-s.eu

www.ldrac.eu