



SEAS AT RISK

for the protection and restoration of the marine environment

Advisory Councils: A cooperation platform for fisheries stakeholders

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Outline

- Regionalisation
 - Implementation of the regionalisation
 - Uptake of advice and external meetings
- Functioning of Advisory Councils
 - Time for respectful discussions
 - Leadership
 - Consensus and minority positions
 - Votes on processes and structures
- Recommendations

Implementation of the regionalisation

- Advice for regional Member States groups
- Adoption of delegated acts by the Co-legislators

Uptake of advice

- Advisory Councils would very much appreciate early involvement in regional groups
- Detrimental
 - Regional MS groups do not invite ACs to relevant meetings
 - Draft documents are not being shared in a timely manner
- Preferred
 - Early invitations
 - Provide documents early to allow for discussions in ACs

Time for respectful discussions

- Technical discussions require time and preparation
- Detrimental
 - Short deadlines by EU entities
 - Proposals tabled shortly before meetings
 - Insufficient time to discuss
 - Accusations against organisations
- Preferred
 - Respect and understanding
 - Documents provided in advance
 - Drafting groups with sufficient time

Leadership

- Leadership is critical to help the dialogue mature for effective discussion and the production of advice
- Detrimental
 - Preventing discussions
 - Personal attacks
- Preferred
 - Impartial, inclusive and transparent chairs
 - Compliance with protocols and rules
 - Action by all members in case of first sign of dysfunction

Consensus and minority positions

- Consensus advice shows EU decision makers the willingness of stakeholders to compromise
- Detrimental
 - Misuse of signatures
 - Dismissing proposals
 - Incomplete minority position in final AC advice
- Preferred
 - Follow the CFP and include the provided minority position
 - Present the different opinions equally

Votes on processes and structures

- Change of rules of procedure can be decided by the majority alone
- Detrimental
 - Changing rules on how advice is presented
 - Accession of new members while neglecting existing rules
- Preferred
 - Changes on processes and structures always need to be agreed by consensus

External presentation of advice

- Representation of ACs advice in external meetings needs to reflect opinion and balance within ACs
- Detrimental
 - Only one person invited to external meetings
 - Providing unapproved documents to decision makers
 - Present a strongly biased view on topics
- Preferred
 - A delegation of three AC representatives
 - Agreement of mandate
 - Present different viewpoints (where they exist)

Recommendations (I)

- Respect and compliance
- Protocols for the development and presentation of advice; standing positions
- Share best practices among ACs for e.g. external meetings, mandates, drafting procedures, meeting calendars; align statutes
- Change leadership, rotating chairs, limited terms
- More chairing positions for the other interest group

Recommendations (II)

- Timely invitation by regional MS group meetings including prior provision of draft documents
- Invite delegations to external meetings
- More transparent MS groups regarding meetings, discussions and publications
- Commission to monitor functioning and interfere when necessary; to scrutinise joint recommendations more to ensure that CFP objectives are achieved
- Self-reflective exercise or an AC performance review including their contribution to the CFP implementation

Thank you



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