



Fisheries Stakeholders Discuss Maximum Sustainable Yield

Press Release: August 2014

The concept of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for EU fisheries was recently discussed at a series of stakeholder meetings organised by the **Myfish** project. These meetings were an opportunity for fisheries stakeholders to give feedback on their priorities regarding the required trade-offs and their preferences for different implementation options for MSY management.

MSY is the maximum yield that can be derived from a renewable resource over a prolonged period of time. The **Myfish** project is an EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)-funded initiative which aims to provide an operational framework for the implementation of the MSY concept in European waters. The workplan of **Myfish** involves intensive consultations with stakeholders to obtain their input into project work and feedback on project results.

The stakeholder meetings were conducted in each of the project's five case study regions: the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean, the North Sea, Western Waters, and Widely Ranging Fish (covering fish stocks which tend to spread across more than one management area). The objective of the events was to bring together key stakeholders to discuss trade-offs and effective ways in which long-term targets can be established for multi-annual multi-species plans.

The following Myfish case study meetings were organised in collaboration with the Fisheries Advisory Councils:

- Widely Ranging Fish/Pelagic Regional Advisory Council (PRAC) meeting: 6 February 2014, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Western Waters/South Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (SWWRAC) meeting: 11 June 2014 in Paris, France
- Baltic Sea/Baltic Sea Advisory Council (BSAC) meeting: 26 June 2014 in Charlottenlund, Denmark
- North Sea/North Sea Advisory Council demersal working group meeting: 7 July 2014 in Amsterdam

Barrie Deas, chief executive of the UK National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO), who attended the July meeting in Amsterdam, said: "I found the **MyFish** workshop to be at the cutting edge of thinking about how to achieve MSY within the context of biological, economic, social and political realities. A decision support platform such as that being explored and developed by **Myfish** should help fisheries managers and fisheries stakeholders in the advisory councils to understand the implications and consequences of their choices."

The EC's goal is to achieve MSY in the EU by 2015. However, there is currently a lack of common agreement on the interpretation of the "sustainability" and "yield" components of the MSY concept and on the effects that achieving MSY for one stock may have on other stocks and the broader ecosystem, economic system and social system. The **Myfish** project will address these ambiguities by evaluating different MSY objectives, conditional on different kinds of constraints (ecosystem, economic, social) and with different kinds of management measures to achieve the objectives.

More information about the **Myfish** project can be found on its website: www.myfishproject.eu.

For press queries please contact the Project Coordinator, Anna Rindorf (email: ar@aquadtu.dk).

Notes for Editors

DTU-Aqua is the coordinator of this project, with AquaTT as its dissemination partner. The **Myfish** project has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 289257.

DTU-Aqua, the Technical University of Denmark - Institute of Aquatic Resources, provides research, education and advice concerning sustainable exploitation of living marine and fresh water resources. DTU-Aqua conducts research on the interactions between the aquatic environment, productivity and variation in fish stocks, methods for fish stock assessment, development of methods for sustainable fisheries management and stock enhancement. The institute conducts the Danish national monitoring on fish and fisheries for the EU. DTU-Aqua has extensive experience in coordinating and managing scientific programmes, including the coordination of EU framework programmes.

AquaTT is an international foundation which aims to bridge the knowledge gap between the dynamic R&D environments and the progressive commercial sector. AquaTT supports its target audiences through the provision of support services and through participation in, and coordination of EU projects and initiatives, in the area of knowledge management, including customised dissemination, education, training and technology transfer.

Detailed partner profiles are available on request.