



Implementing MSY: What Can the EU Learn from its Neighbours?

Press Release: December 2013

Three case studies investigating various aspects of sound governance with regards to sustainable fisheries management from which the EU can potentially learn have recently been published by the **Myfish** project.

The **Myfish** project aims to provide an operational framework for the implementation of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) concept in European waters. As part of the project, a review of existing and proposed MSY variants, constraints and management measures outside EU borders was carried out by **Myfish** project partners from AquaMarine Advisers (Sweden) and Innovative Fisheries Management (Aalborg University, Denmark).

The case studies focused on three fisheries: *The Fisheries Governance System for the Australian Northern Prawn Fishery under the Australian Fisheries Management Authority: Objective Setting and Implementation*; *The Faroe Islands' Fisheries Governance System: Objective Setting and Implementation*; and *The Fisheries Governance System for Alaska Pollock under the North Pacific Management Council: Objective Setting and Implementation*. The case study summaries are available to download from the **Myfish** website: www.myfishproject.eu.

Maria Hadjimichael from Innovative Fisheries Management said: "We deemed it important to understand the governance of these fisheries and the trade-offs that were made in their management, particularly regarding the different constraints relevant to the **Myfish** project (ecosystem, economic and social). We identified decision-making structures which allow for wider stakeholder participation and policies that oblige that scientific advice is followed. We also identified measures which threaten the social fabric over individual economic performance. Such issues need to be fed back to the EU and should be kept in mind in fisheries management decisions."

Chris Hopkins from AquaMarine Adviser said: "We wanted to discover best practices and lessons learned with respect to MSY variants, objective-setting and implementation processes, including strengths and weaknesses concerning the overall governance system. We believe that these case studies provide us with very worthwhile insights concerning governance which can be fed back to **Myfish** and its stakeholders."

The partners first produced a desk-top study on each fishery's management and overall governance from the available literature, and then interviewed involved stakeholders, including the fishing industry, NGOs, fishery managers and scientists.

MSY is the maximum yield that can be derived from a renewable resource over a prolonged period of time. The 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, along with the detailed accessible summaries of the case studies, on the **Myfish** website (www.myfishproject.eu). Interested persons may request copies of the full reports from the lead author(s), subject to agreeing that the full report will not be posted publicly thereafter without the permission of the authors.

You can also keep up to date with the progress of **Myfish** by registering to receive regular updates on the "Influence **Myfish**!" page on the project website.

If you would like to arrange an interview with the **Myfish** project team, please contact the Project Coordinator, Anna Rindorf (email: ar@aquu.dtu.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 in 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.