



AT A GLANCE

TITLE: Maximising Yield of Fisheries while Balancing Ecosystem, Economic and Social Concerns

PROGRAMME: FP7, Cooperation, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology

INSTRUMENT: Collaborative project

TOTAL BUDGET: €6,513,288.34

EC CONTRIBUTION: €4,999,999.00

DURATION: March 2012 – February 2016 (48 months)

COORDINATOR: National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Technical University of Denmark (DTU Aqua), Denmark

CONSORTIUM: 31 partners from 12 countries

WEB: www.myfishproject.eu

THE CHALLENGE

The Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) concept was proposed as the basis for managing fish stocks by the 2009 Green Paper on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). 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 by 2015.

Achieving this goal presents a considerable challenge as four important questions are yet unanswered:

- How do we account for the impact that maximising yield of one stock will have on other stocks?
- How do we balance potentially conflicting goals in terms of ecosystem, economic and social objectives to ensure that fisheries are sustainable?
- How do we consider variability and trends in environmental, economic and social conditions?
- How should MSY-management be implemented to be acceptable, operational and efficient?

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To answer these questions, the **Myfish** project aims to provide an operational framework for the implementation of the MSY concept in European waters.

The project will:

- 1) Provide definitions of relevant measures to maximise collaboration between fisheries scientists, economists, social scientists and stakeholders.
- 2) Provide conditions which should be fulfilled to ensure “sustainability” through maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES) and avoiding economically and socially unacceptable situations.
- 3) Provide tools and measures which are capable of “maximising” the relevant yield measures, taking variability, risk and sustainability into account.

Each fishery and ecosystem will have its own special dynamics, needs and knowledge base. To account for this, **Myfish** will:

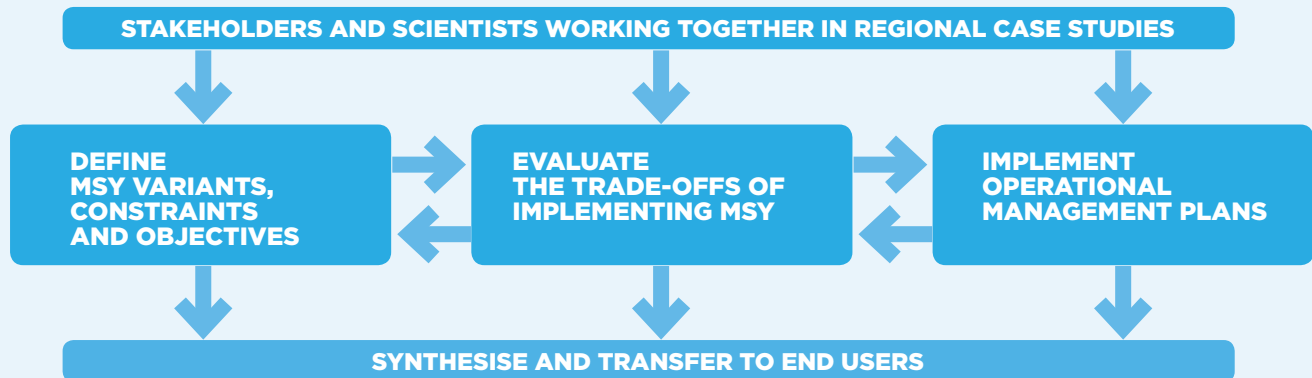
- 4) Provide an operational framework to allow the implementation of MSY management in all European waters with detailed impact assessment for a range of fisheries.



METHODOLOGY

Myfish aims to integrate the MSY concept with the overarching principles of the CFP – the precautionary and the ecosystem approach. The project will achieve this by addressing fisheries in all European open waters and integrating all stakeholders throughout the project. Existing ecosystem and fisheries models will be modified

to perform maximisation of stakeholder approved yield measures while ensuring acceptable impact levels on ecosystem, economic and social aspects. The effects of changes in environment, economy and society on MSY variants will be analysed and used to develop procedures that render the MSY approach robust to such changes.



RESULTS

- 1 Myfish** will develop new indicators to define MSY.
- 2 Myfish** will develop an interactive Decision Support Table to help stakeholders assess the effects of different management strategies on yield, the ecosystem and economic and social aspects.
- 3 Myfish** will work towards defining long-term operational management plans and transfer the results and lesson learnt to the stakeholders and scientific communities targeted.

PROJECT PARTNERS

BELGIUM

Joint Research Center – Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen

DENMARK

National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Technical University of Denmark

Institute of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen

Innovative Fisheries Management – Aalborg University

KARBAK ApS

FRANCE

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GREECE

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

IRELAND

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AquaTT UETP Ltd

Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd

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AquaMarine Advisers

UNITED KINGDOM

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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