



AT A GLANCE

TITLE: SOCIOEC – Socio Economic effects of management measures of the future CFP

PROGRAMME: FP7, Cooperation, Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (KBBE)

TOTAL BUDGET: €3,830,000

EC CONTRIBUTION: €2,999,939

DURATION: March 2012 – February 2015

COORDINATOR: Johann Heinrich von Thünen – Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany

CONSORTIUM: 25 partners from 11 countries

WEB: www.socioec.eu

THE CHALLENGE

The new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is set to introduce reforms to the European fishing industry. The CFP, which comes into force in 2013, will probably implement a fisheries management system that will strive to bring the economic realities of the sector back in line with society's long-term interest in healthy seas and thriving fish stocks.

The challenge for the industry is to interpret the overarching EU objectives in local and regional contexts. There is a need to translate EC requirements, consistent with the aims of the new CFP as well as the Marine Strategy Framework (MSFD) and other EU directives, so that they are understandable by the wider stakeholder community and engage their support.

The **SOCIOEC** project aims to develop management measures that will enable stakeholders to agree and comply with new and existing legislation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

SOCIOEC has established a series of objectives:

- Define EU-wide sustainability objectives and, based on these, define operational sustainability objectives through consultation with stakeholders
- Identify the most effective management measures to address structural failings in the current CFP, such as overcapacity; imprecise policy objectives; short-term decision-making focus; insufficient responsibility given to the industry; lack of political will to ensure compliance and poor compliance by the industry
- Determine the social and economic effects of the management measures identified within the **SOCIOEC** project, and assess their potential impact on commercial fish stocks
- Review how EU policy frameworks influence the possibilities for the decentralisation/devolution of the governance of the CFP to stakeholders, and investigate the constraints and opportunities associated with this process



METHODOLOGY

SOCIOEC will address the social and economic complexity of the different European fisheries by dividing the project into fishery-based case studies. Each case study will examine the environmental, social and economic realities of each area and consider how to adopt future EU requirements into management measures suitable to the different fisheries. The project will create a two-way dialogue between researchers and key stakeholders at regional/local and European level through workshops and working groups.

The methodology can be divided in three steps:

1 **SOCIOEC** will propose a number of potential management measures (based on existing, emerging or new approaches) according to a

specified set of objectives that address ecological, economic and social sustainability targets.

2 The project will examine how the governance of such management measures should operate, based on industry perception and compliance. **SOCIOEC** will focus on the interpretation of overarching EU objectives in local and regional contexts.

3 The **SOCIOEC** project will examine the impact of the management measures that emerge from this process, particularly in terms of their economic and social impacts on the industry and the wider community.

RESULTS

SOCIOEC will provide an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to fisheries management. It will provide managers and policy-makers with baseline information about the causes and mechanisms of successes and failures of the fisheries management systems used in the different case study areas. **SOCIOEC** will provide a set of

management measures ranked according to their potential impact at social, economic and ecological level. **SOCIOEC** will work for an sustainable fishing sector by analysing a range of available and emerging management measures to overcome shortcomings in fisheries management that are still unresolved.

PROJECT PARTNERS

BELGIUM

JRC-Joint Research Centre - European Commission (EC-JRC)

DENMARK

Aalborg Universitet (AAU-IFM)

Københavns Universitet (UCPH)

Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DTU Aqua)

A/S Læsø Fiskeindustri (LF)

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