Joint Workshop of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and the Pelagic AC

Montra Skaga Hotel
Willemoesvej 1, 9850 Hirtshals
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Advisory Councils on their route towards EAFM in the EU

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INNOVATIVE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
- an Aalborg University Research Centre

who how

Advisory Councils on their route towards EAFM in the EU

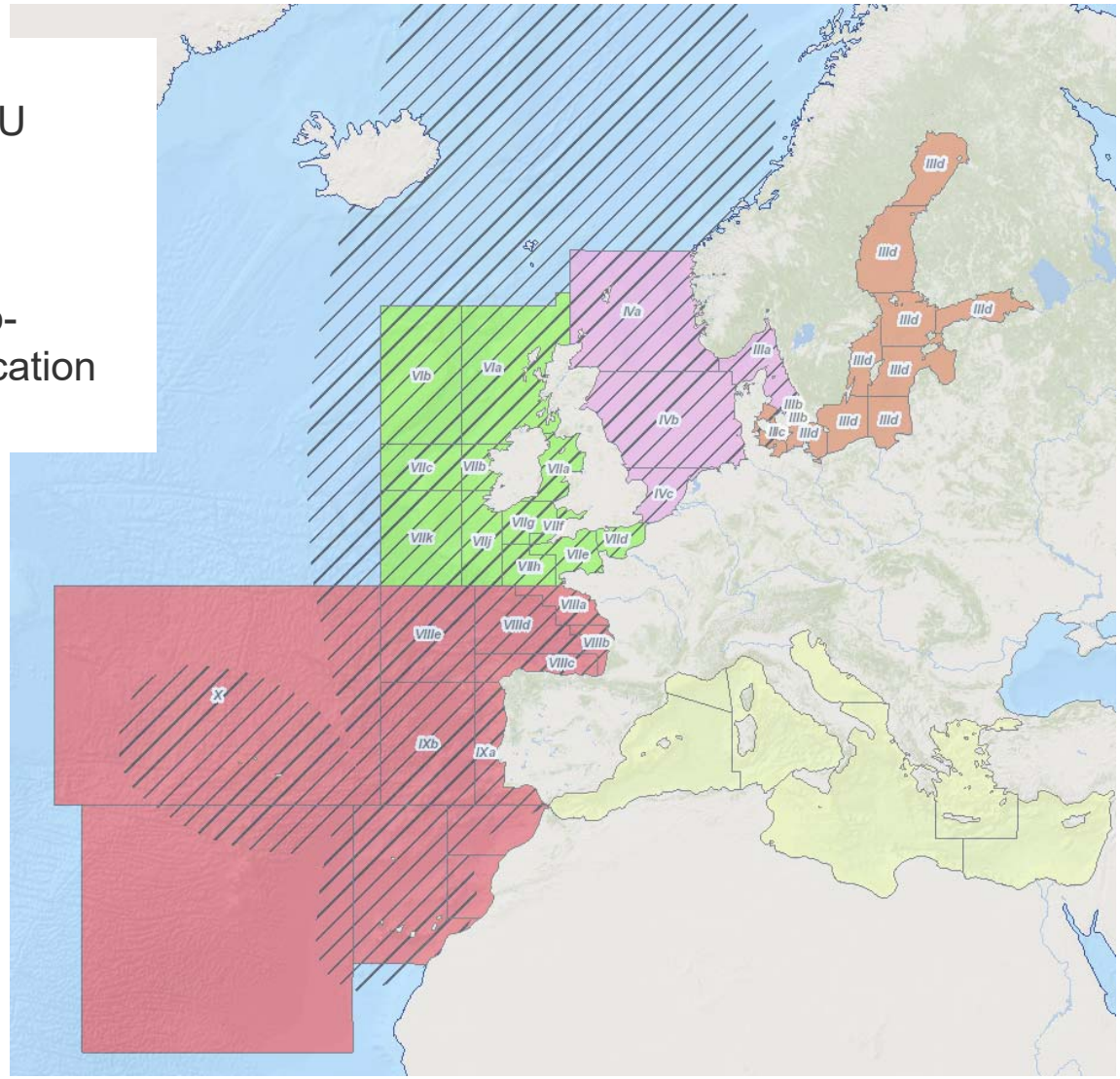
what

who

Advisory Councils

The Advisory Councils (ACs) are **stakeholder-led organisations** that provide the Commission and EU countries (MS) with recommendations on fisheries management matters.

This may include advice on conservation and socio-economic aspects of management, and on simplification of rules.



Advisory Councils

- Fishing zones limit
- North-western waters Advisory Council
- South-western waters Advisory Council
- North Sea Advisory Council
- Mediterranean Sea Advisory Council
- Baltic Sea Advisory Council
- Long Distance Advisory Council
- Pelagic Advisory Council (blue whiting, mackerel, horse mackerel, herring)

Building blocks of the EU advisory landscape

Ramírez-Monsalve et al *forthcoming*
Carrots or sticks: How to improve EAFM advice within CFP – A policy brief

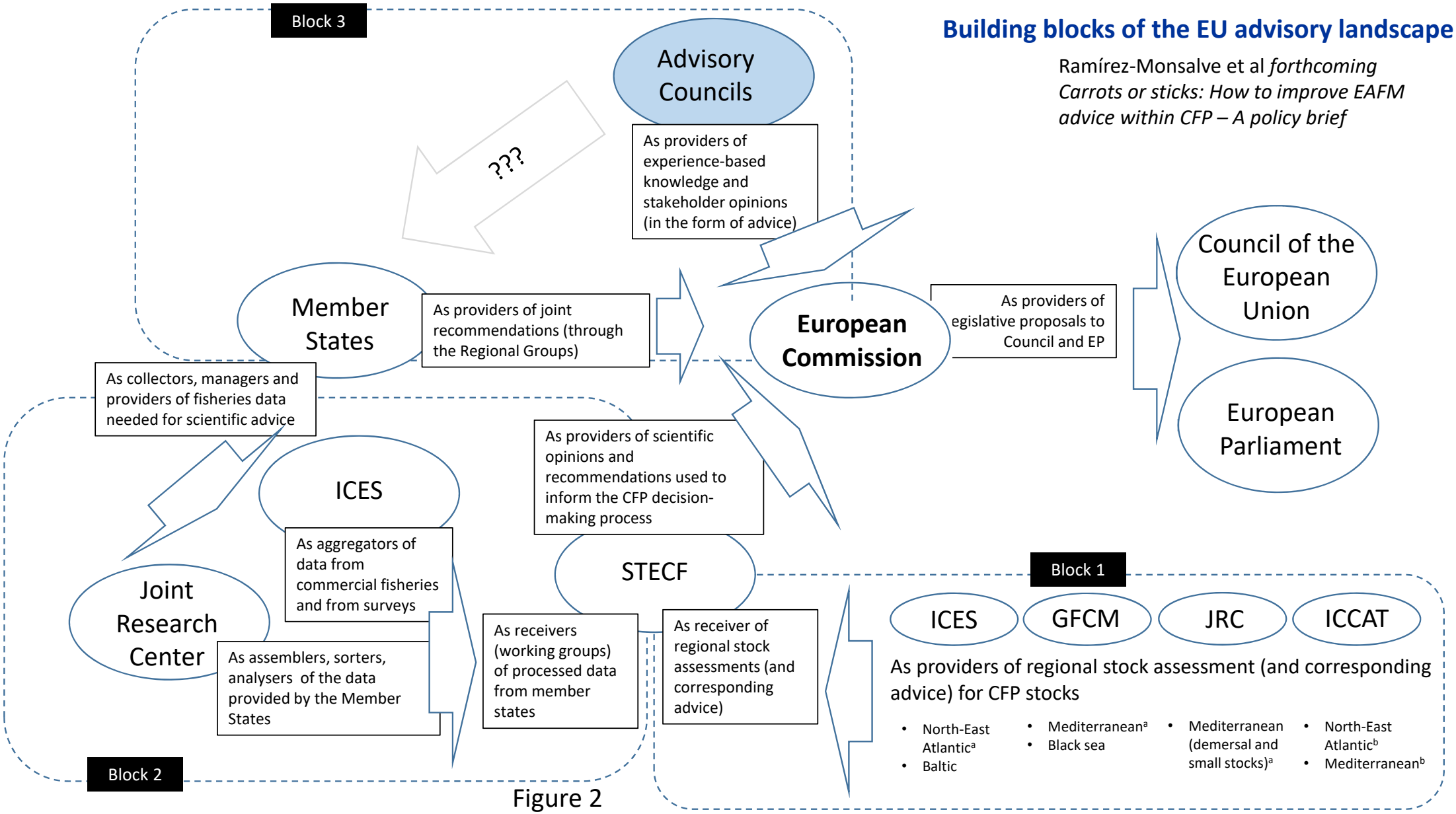


Figure 2

[a] All stocks but tuna and tuna-like [b] Only tuna and tuna-like

Advisory Councils on their route towards

EAFM in the EU

what

Why Not Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management?

What's in an Acronym?

EAFM

- **Evolutionary** approach that systematically incorporates ecosystem considerations into the current management paradigm

EBFM

- **Revolutionary** top down approach seeking to achieve certain ecosystem level outcomes or states

MID-ATLANTIC

MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

Dr. Christopher Moore
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

July 12, 2016

(13) An ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management needs to be implemented, environmental impacts of fishing activities should be limited and unwanted catches should be avoided and reduced as far as possible.

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
(Regulation 1380/2013)

(8) By applying an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities while enabling a sustainable use of marine goods and services, priority should be given to achieving or maintaining good environmental status in the Community's marine environment, to continuing its protection and preservation, and to preventing subsequent deterioration.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
(Directive 2008/56/EC)

~~EAFM~~ in the EU

Ecosystem-Based Approach to Fisheries Management

- Set of rules for managing a common resources (fish as jurisdiction of the EC) (and managing European fishing fleet; conserving (commercial) fish stocks, minimize impacts of fishing activities on marine ecosystems)
- First introduced in the 70s, went through successive updates (latest in force since Jan 2014)

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
(Regulation 1380/2013)

- Framework for protecting the European marine environment (sustainable use of marine goods + environmental protection)
- Achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of EU waters by 2020 ; GES is reached when 11 descriptors do not significantly deviate from the undisturbed state (descriptors describe natural environment and pressures related to it)

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
(Directive 2008/56/EC)

This is how the marine environment will look like when GES has been achieved*

D1. Biodiversity is maintained

D2. Non-indigenous species do not adversely alter the ecosystem

D3. The population of commercial fish species is healthy

D4. Elements of food webs ensure long-term abundance and reproduction

D5. Eutrophication is minimised

D6. The sea floor integrity ensures functioning of the ecosystem

D7. Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions does not adversely affect the ecosystem

D8. Concentrations of contaminants give no effects

D9. Contaminants in seafood are below safe levels

D10. Marine litter does not cause harm

D11. Introduction of energy (including underwater noise) does not adversely affect the ecosystem

*Good Ecological Status

*"Environmental status of marine waters where these provides ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive (*MSFD, 2008/56/EC art 3)*"*

GES is reached when 11 descriptors do not significantly deviate from the undisturbed state

Advisory Councils on their route towards

EAFM in the EU

what

Ecosystem Approach

An integrated approach to managing fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries

Manage the use of natural resources, taking account of fishing and other human activities

Preserving both the biological wealth and the biological processes necessary to safeguard the composition, structure and functioning of the habitats of the ecosystem affected

Taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties regarding biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems

Consideration of collective pressures

Management of human activities

Sustainable use

Achievement of good environmental status (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)

Regionalization

Stewardship for future generations

Trade-offs

Optimization of benefits among diverse societal goals

ICES CIEM

ICES AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Common Fisheries Policy
Reg. 1380/2013 art 4(9))

Ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management means:

An integrated approach to managing fisheries
within ecologically meaningful boundaries
which seeks to manage the use of natural resources,
taking account of fishing and other human activities
while preserving both the biological wealth and the biological processes
necessary to safeguard the composition, structure and functioning of the habitats
of the ecosystem affected,
by taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties
regarding biotic, abiotic and human components of ecosystems

Common Fisheries Policy Reg. 1380/2013 art 4(9))

What is EAFM?

MAFMC Definition:

- An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management recognizes the biological, economic, social, and physical interactions among the components of ecosystems and attempts to achieve optimum yield taking those interactions into account.

MID-ATLANTIC

how

Advisory Councils on their route towards EAFM in the EU

MareFrame

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 613571

http://mareframe-fp7.org

- First plan adopted (2016): Baltic sea (cod, herring, sprat); “role model”
- Commission proposals for: demersal fish stocks in the North Sea (2016); small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic (2017); demersal stocks in the Western Mediterranean (2018); fish stocks in western waters (2018)

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
(Regulation 1380/2013)

Instruments within the CFP interpreted as “operationalizing EAFM”:

- Multi Annual Multi Species Management Plans*
- Landing Obligation
- Technical Measures

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
(Directive 2008/56/EC)

Four of the 11 descriptors are important in relation to EAFM:
D1 (Biodiversity); D3 (Commercial species); D4 (Food webs) and D6 (Sea-floor processes)

how

Advisory Councils on their route towards EAFM in the EU

Advisory Council's role/capacity in providing advice in terms of an EAFM

2014

What type of advice could we provide? What is EAFM?

We don't have resources; how could we do this; who is going to do it??

There are other priorities; it will not come to the top of the list

No awareness among the members; scepticism

☹ Overwhelming topic

☹ Additional to the day-to-day

☺ Improved and sustained communication with scientific community

☺ Potential for regionalization in cooperation with MSRGs*

*Member States Regional Groups

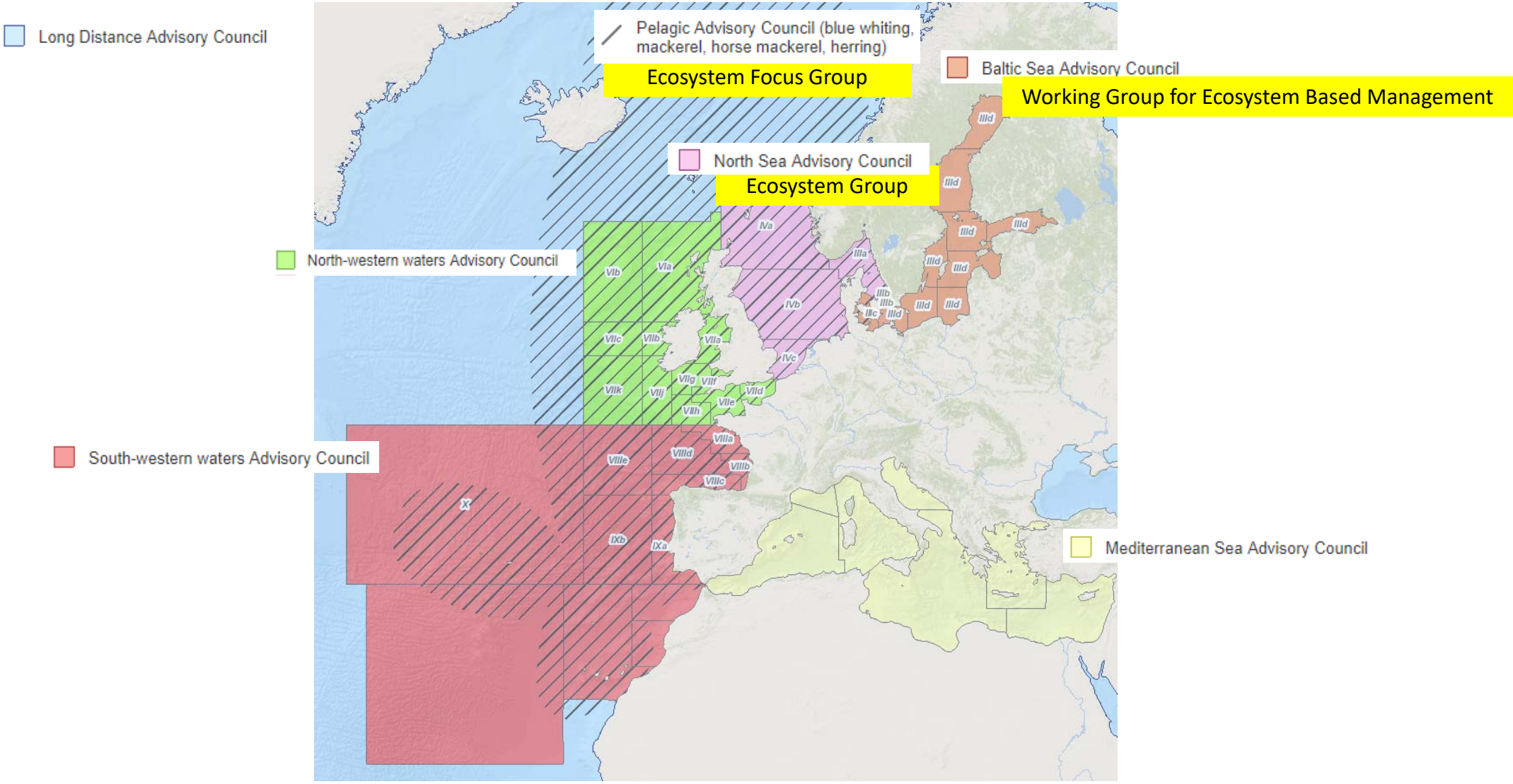
Advisory Council's role/capacity in providing advice in terms of an EAFM

2014	2017
	Still the case…
What type of advice could we provide? What is EAFM?	What is this? is it to close fishing grounds?
We don't have resources; how could we do this; who is going to do it??	Lack of resources (time wise: no time to reflect)
There are other priorities; it will not come to the top of the list	Landing obligation; technical regulations; MAMSP; BREXIT…
No awareness among the members; scepticism	Yet another thing to find consensus about…

Advisory Council's role/capacity in providing advice in terms of an EAFM

	2014	2017
	Still the case… but slowly getting into EA	
What type of advice could we provide? What is EAFM?	What is this? is it to close fishing grounds?	
We don't have resources; how could we do this; who is going to do it??	Lack of resources (time wise: no time to reflect)	Sub-groups within the ACs looking into EA-related topics; Seminars with external participants; Learning from other cases
There are other priorities; it will not come to the top of the list	Landing obligation; technical regulations; MAMSP; BREXIT…	There will always be other priorities…
No awareness among the members; scepticism	Yet another thing to find consensus about…	Members are (not consciously) thinking about it; "Penny has dropped"; understand the need of having a holistic approach

Sub-groups within the ACs looking into EA-related topics (as published in their web pages – May 2018)



Pelagic AC

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About the Pelagic

The Pelagic AC prepares and
It covers the pelagic stocks of
under Dutch law) was inaugura
The work is furthermore done
regions covered by the Pelagic

General Assembly (GA)

The members of the GA are re
catching sub sector (ship owne
Other stakeholders represente

Executive Committee (ExCom)

The ExCom is tasked with form
University of Aalborg. 60% of t

Working Groups (WGs)

Most practical work is done by

Working Group I is dealing wi

- Atlanto-Scandian Herring
- North Sea Autumn Spawn
- Western Baltic Spring Spa
- North Sea Horse Mackere
- Blue Whiting

Working Group II is dealing w

Ecosystem Focus Group

Meetings

- BSAC meetings
- External events

BSAC Members

- General Assembly 2018-2019
- Executive Committee 2018-2021

BSAC Working groups

- Demersal fisheries
- Pelagic fisheries
- Fisheries for salmon and sea trout
- Working group for ecosystem based management

BSAC Resources

- BSAC Statements and recommendations
- Documents section

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The Baltic Sea Ac

Welcome to the homepage of the

The BSAC was created in 2006.
Commission and Member States

North Sea Advisory Council

HOME ABOUT LANDING OBLIGATION FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Chairmen Of The Working Groups

Demersal

Barrie Deas

Skagerrak & Kattegat

Kenn Skau Fischer

Ecosystem

Euan Dunn

Advisory Council's role/capacity in providing advice in terms of an EAFM

	2014	2017
	Still the case…	but slowly getting into EA
What type of advice could we provide? What is EAFM?	What is this? is it to close fishing grounds?	Realising: we have been working on it: (i) Following CFP/MSFD "recipes"; (ii) Additional initiatives
We don't have resources; how could we do this; who is going to do it??	Lack of resources (time wise: no time to reflect)	Sub-groups within the ACs looking into EA-related topics; Seminars with external participants; Learning from other cases; ["Master plan" or ad-hoc?]
There are other priorities; it will not come to the top of the list	Landing obligation; technical regulations; MAMSP; BREXIT…	There will always be other priorities…
No awareness among the members; scepticism	Yet another thing to find consensus about…	Members are (not consciously) thinking about it; "Penny has dropped"; understand the need of having a holistic approach

CFP/MSFD "recipes"

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)
(Regulation 1380/2013)

Instruments within the CFP interpreted as "operationalizing EAFM":

- Multi Annual Multi Species Management Plans
- Landing Obligation
- Technical Measures

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
(Directive 2008/56/EC)

Four of the 11 descriptors are important in relation to EAFM:
D1 (Biodiversity); D3 (Commercial species); D4 (Food webs) and D6 (Sea-floor processes)

(ii) Additional initiatives

"Implement an EAFM to ensure negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem are minimized"
(CFP art 2(3))

"it [CFP] has as a main objective ensuring that fishing activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term by means of the implementation of the EAFM"

Quetglas, A et al (2017)

- Participating in projects (f.e ghost net retrieval)
- Mapping spawning grounds together with gravel extraction industry
- Assessment of wind farm zones
- Studies on effects of climate change on migration routes

Ecosystem / environment issues

Ecosystem based work

Ecosystem / N2000 issues

Focus group

Environmental effects and aspects of fisheries

"Ecosystem based management"

Aim

Deal with interactions between fisheries management and environmental conservation objectives

Goal

Broaden the scope of discussion in the BSAC by bringing topics for EBM to the table

Priority issues

- Management of fisheries in MPA
- Implementation of MSFD in the Baltic
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Marine litter

- Advantages in establishing a Focus Group rather than integrating this work into the existing framework
- Space ("enough time") for discussing issues –meetings as an additional ½ day to ExCom
- *"Keeping the workload to the minimum"*

Ecosystem based management Focus Group

- ToR: adopted by ExCom on January 2017

- 1st meeting: March 2017

  - Marine Protected Areas (MPA)
  - Impact of seals on small scale fisheries (damage caused by seals to gear/catch)

- Report to the Demersal/Pelagic WG (but it is the ExCom competence to agree on any advice from the subgroups)

- Advice to be sent to the EC / MSs

- BSAC should have a clear position in order to advise MS on how best to establish, manage, evaluate MPA in the Baltic
- Draft a text to develop BSAC views and advice to MS
- Proactive application (extend invitation to address individual proposals for MPAs)

Forum

For exchange of information on current impact and existing management practices within the MS

For open discussion and study of alternatives to solve the problem

- For invited guests to share their knowledge

"EBM is a process
A balancing act between human activities and environmental impacts
requiring a step-by-step approach"

Ecosystem Focus Group

- Established in March 2015
- ToR drafted (fall 2016); updated (spring 2017)

Set to become more involved in EAFM

Working with issues identified by the members as important when moving towards ecosystem advice (f.e moving from single to multi-species management)

- Interactions in the pelagic complex (food web interactions)
- Setting of reference point in multispecies management plans
- Effects of density dependency

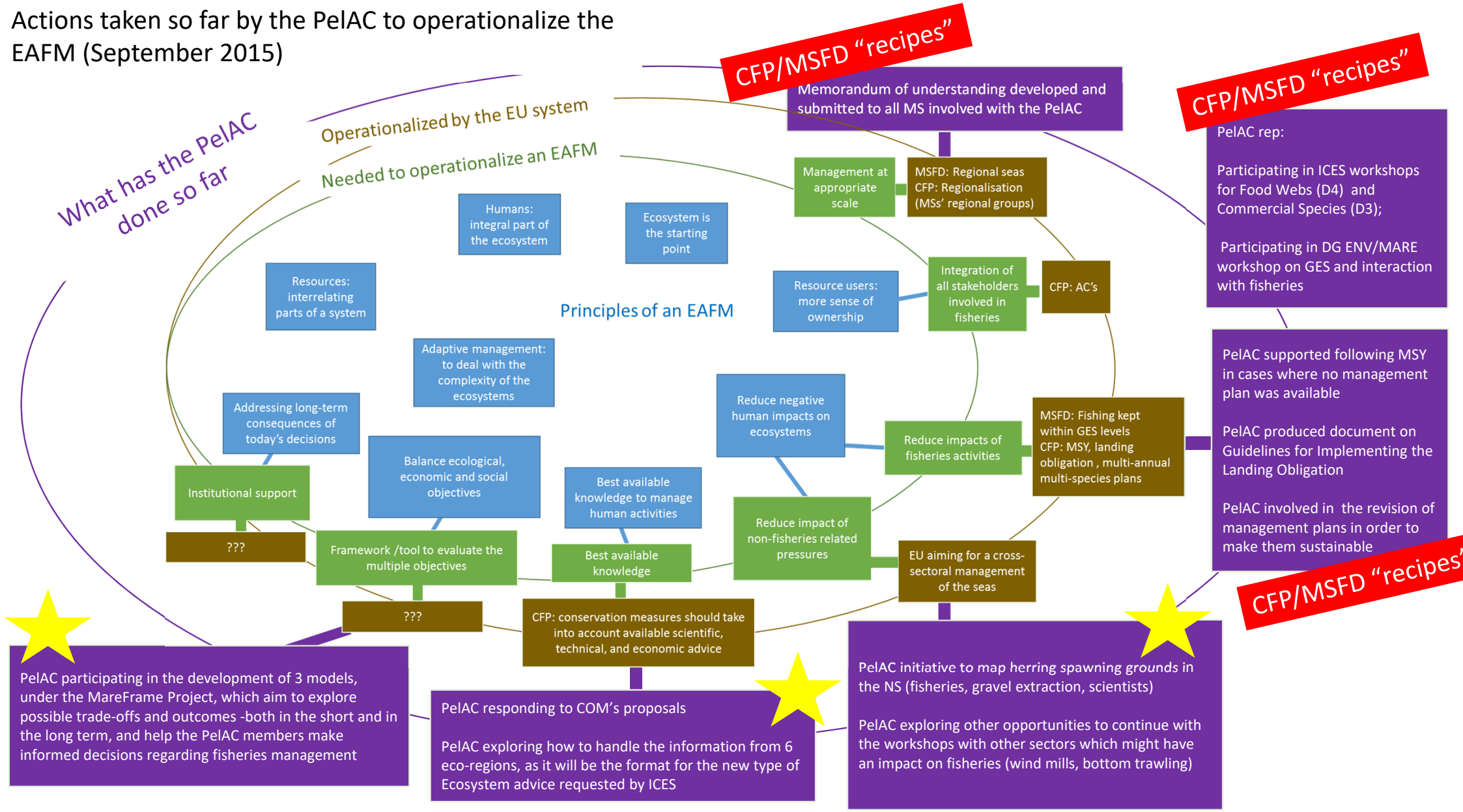
Other identified priorities:

- Adaptation to climate change

Provide a general overview of what EAFM means; how it could be implemented in a step-wise approach; challenges to implement EAFM;

"EA is not a one-size-fits all
Break it down into smaller units than can be dealt with more easily"

Actions taken so far by the PelAC to operationalize the EAFM (September 2015)



ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEWS

Ecosystem overviews

These overviews provide a description of the ecosystems, identify the main human pressures, and explain how these affect key ecosystem components.

Choose your ecoregion to see the overview:

- **Barents Sea**
- **Bay of Biscay and the Iberian coast**
- **Celtic Seas**
- **Greater North Sea**
- **Icelandic Waters**
- **Norwegian Sea**

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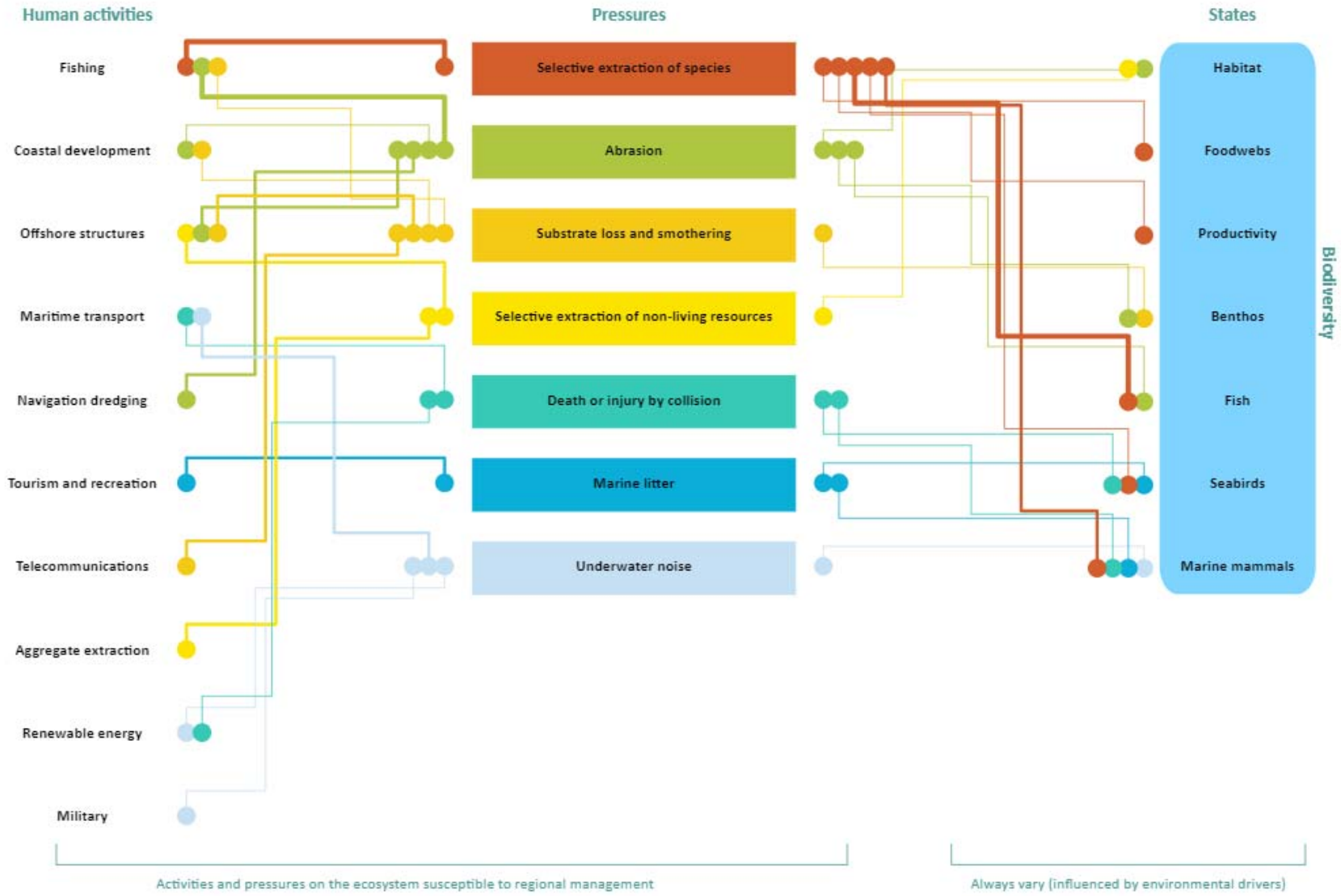
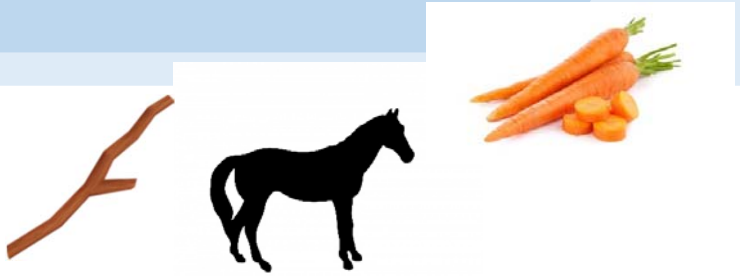
GREATER NORTH SEA ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEW



Advisory Council's role/capacity in providing advice in terms of an EAFM

2014	2017
What type of advice could we provide? What is EAFM?	Still the case… but slowly getting into EA
We don't have resources; how could we do this; who is going to do it??	☹ CFP/MSFD "recipes": Boxed(?) (i) type of advice, (ii) where advice is provided
There are other priorities; it will not come to the top of the list	☺ Additional initiatives: small concrete steps on topics where members know –and agree it matters; practical experimentation
No awareness among the members; scepticism	☺/☹ finding motivators for exploring "carrots" (and not concentrating only on "sticks")

"it [CFP] has as a main objective ensuring that fishing activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term by means of the implementation of the EAFM"
Quetglas, A et al (2017)



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