



**Questions:  
To what extent can  
the needed advice  
be provided?  
How prepared is the  
management  
system to integrate  
EA?**



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Pulling mechanisms and pushing strategies: How to improve Ecosystem Approach Fisheries Management advice within the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy

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# EU policies framework

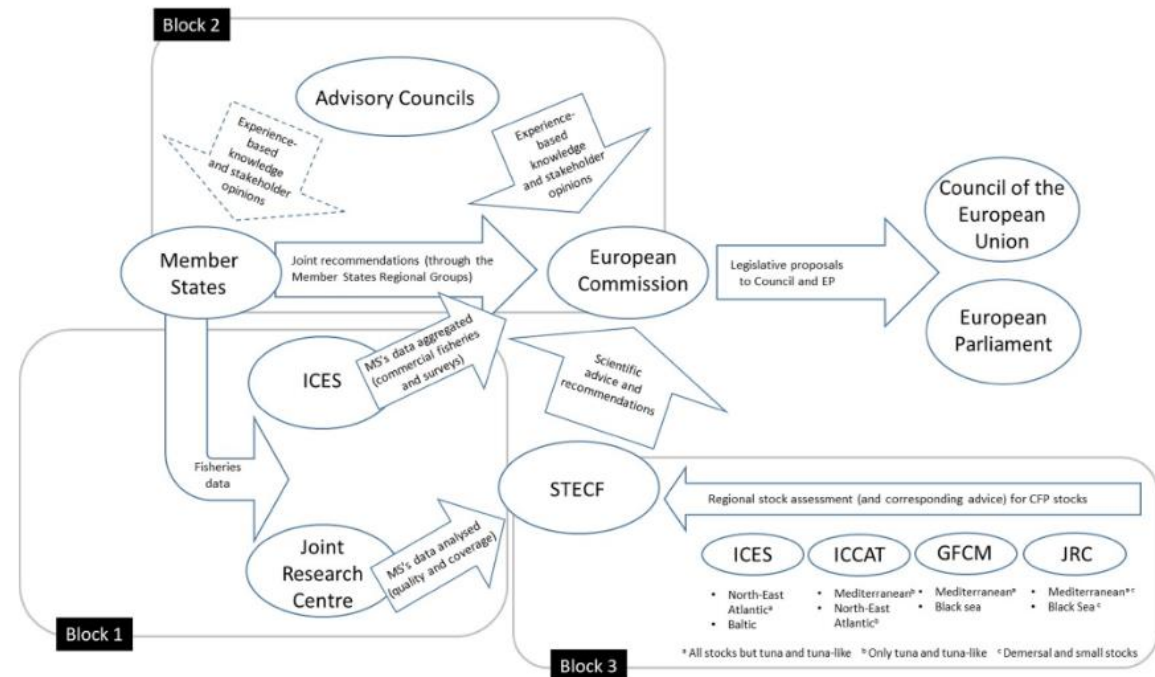


**EU continues advancing towards the goal of managing fisheries under ecosystem approach but its fragmented**

**Limited attention have been paid to the implications for advisory system in support to EA to fisheries management (EAFM)**

- The CFP and MSFD provided the legal setting that triggered requests for EAFM advice (pulling mechanisms).
- The evolution in the provision of advice can be perceived not only in relation to sustainability of the fishing resources, but also in relation to reduce environmental impacts of fishing, while taking economic and social concerns into account

Fig. 1. Elements which form the basis of EAFM advice (text outside the box). Text within the box is the definition of EAFM as provided in the 2013 CFP.



1. Data collection framework (JRC, ICES, STECF)
2. EU advisory landscape related to Acs who provide experienced based knowledge and viewpoints
3. Regional stock assessment and corresponding advice formulated by different scientific bodies for the different regional seas (two sources of technical scientific information and state of exploitation of resources)
4. Limited capacity to provide advices beyond what the « clients » are looking for? (primary ask to assess targeted stocks = single species, distribution of quotas)

***“The findings confirm earlier observations of lack of a formalized process to provide and integrate advice in support of an ecosystem approach into EU fisheries management. Instead of enabling existing capacities to embed ecosystem components (e.g. investments and initiatives made by stakeholders (and authorities) to move to EAFM -pushing strategies), the system relies heavily on mandatory requests from policy makers (pulling mechanisms). Furthermore, social and economic dimensions are the weakest aspects in the advisory process, which hampers the balancing of objectives that represent one of the hallmarks of EAFM. The policy framework has adopted EAFM for European fisheries, but the advisory processes have not yet been adapted to substantially support EAFM.”***

# Block 1 and 2, scientific bodies and ACs



## Issues:

### Boundaries to answer:

As such, STECF responds based on what the ToRs require; ACs and MSRГ respond to what is requested on them within the boundaries of the CFP. Addressing advice requests, however, does not explain the whole picture.

### Legal rush:

In some occasions the rush for answering legal requirements and keeping with the short deadlines might have restrained advisory bodies from identifying other opportunities. Likewise, some actors have been proactive and follow a strategic plan beyond the policy requests of their clients (e. g. ICES), whereas others seem to be responding more on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. STECF), or appear uncertain about what EAFM advice is (e.g. ACs, RFMOs).

**Focus remains mainly on natural resource exploitation, conservation and ecosystem objectives than on the social, and economic objectives which are also part of an EA, and which are described in the 2013 CFP.**

**Despite progress these dimensions are still considered the weakest aspects in the EAFM advisory process, e.g. ACs mostly provide advice on TAC setting and MAPs focussing on science and economics, and social aspects are rarely discussed**

# Regional Sea Conventions & regional orga (block 3)



***Questions, who are RSC? What are their statutes? What is the difference with RFMOs?***

## **Issues:**

RSB/RFMOs: Dichotomy between fisheries and ENV (hope to be improved as the EC is calling for coherence of approaches under the marine strategy framework directives (MSFD))

Efforts has been made at regional level (GFCM, ICCAT) to include EA by creating working group (GFCM SAC Subcommittee on marine environment and ecosystem; ICCAT subcommittee on ecosystem 2005, but a bit patchy without long term vision

***“In addition, the status and trends of selected ecosystem indicators have been described (ICCAT, 2017), and a review of five tuna RFMOs in terms of their application of EAFM took place (SCRS, 2017). However, challenges are perceived that could hamper a more thorough implementation of EAFM in the ICCAT. These relate to understanding the EAFM concept and the requirements for its implementation. Further, the application of EAFM is in ICCATs own words considered to be “patchy” and without a long-term vision”***

# Way forward



## The EU is in transition

1. Advise should give recipients clear path to use it when having an EA/ capacity to operationalise EAFM
2. Formalise process to integrate EAFM into EU policies
3. Consider Socio and economic EA
4. Gradual adjustment and iterative processes such knowledge and experience (other countries USA, Canada, NZ...) could help to adjust to the UE contextual conditions
5. Development in how the advice is requested and what decision-makers may gain from redefining those requests would be a significant step forward (Although scientific bodies have done a great effort in advancing knowledge to deliver integrated advice, it is not so well understood how to make it work for the actual decisions that fisheries managers have to take.)
6. Implementation of EAFM requires transitional periods and innovation within the current setting rather than new decision-making frameworks aiming for accountability and better integration.
7. the advances towards EAFM need to be facilitated through the implementation of initiatives for the main players (pushing strategies), and by creating flexibility in the system and alignment of expectations.
8. as EAFM increases the complexity of management, transparency about the trade- off between different management choices need to be provided and re-sources need to be allocated to this purpose

***“the conventional fisheries decisions concerning healthy commercial fish stocks are expanded to include maintaining biodiversity, ensuring long-term abundance and reproduction of food webs, and ensure sea floor integrity from a science perspective, but this needs to be balanced with consideration of economic and social impacts. For a truly EAFM, as well as fully implemented CFP, social aspects/indicators should be strengthened in fisheries management processes. Several players within the advisory system may produce this kind of advice (e.g. JRC, STECF) but presently there is no EU policy decision to be supported by it”***