

Stakeholders' perspective and role under the reformed CFP

Scientific and Technical Seminar on small Pelagic Fishes in the Adriatic Sea

European Commission – DG MARE

Brussels



18 September 2015

Stakeholders' role in the past

- ACFA;
- other ad hoc Committees on specific issues or geographic areas, such as the Mediterranean one



Made up of national fisheries and aquaculture organizations from the various MS selected and qualified by the EU or International organizations (Europêche, COGECA etc.)



- Considerable direct participation of national organisations, but pure expression of specific national problems, often reported as trade union motions
- The EC was not obliged to respond or take the position expressed in consideration

Limited influence on the decision making process and high dissatisfaction on both sides

«Bonino» Reform

- Access to ACFA given only to International and European Organisations



More restricted participation



No change in the way the consultation worked: various national lobbies continued to apply pressure to Ministers at the Council level

Limited influence and DG MARE mistrust towards contributions that asked for consideration of the specific nature of the different basins (i.e. exemptions, adaptation to local conditions)

New Developments

Lisbon Treaty
(2007)

- **Co-decision** between the European Parliament and the Council

Council Regulation
199/2008

- Establishing a standardized **data collection**, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice

Council Decision
2004/585

- Establishing **Regional Advisory Councils**

Co-decision procedure

➤ Brought about:



The end of complaints about the lack of democracy in the decision-making process



The opening of a new framework for lobbies to apply pressure to the EP

➤ Reg. 199/2008:



The end to the doubts and accusations on scientific research that produced catastrophic diagnoses on the state of resources

Council Decision 2004/585

➤ Creation of the RACs



Reduced the importance of the central advisory system (ACFA)



Made possible dealing with specific problems in seas that are too dissimilar to be governed by the same rules (e.g the Baltic and the Mediterranean)



Brought the national organisations of individual Member States back into the picture

CFP REFORM - EC Reg. 1380/2013 art.43 – 45, Annex III; Delegated Act 2015/242 on the functioning of the ACs



Enhancement of the AC's – boosting stakeholders' participation in the decision-making process by obliging the EC to consult the ACs and provide them with answers (positive and/or negative)



Public consultation – any European citizen or organization can express its position on the various issues raised by the EC, bringing their opinion to public attention before proceeding with the formulation of proposals to co-legislators (European Council and Parliament)

Enhancement of the ACs

➤ Main effects:

➔ Abolition of the central advisory system (ACFA)

➔ The strengthening of specific Advisory Councils

➔ Change in their composition (60-40%) and their “mission”

CFP Reform – new roles and functions for the stakeholders

RACS

Councils that expressed opinions and positions in reaction to EC proposals

Promoters, catalysts and facilitators on joint proposals from the MS

«**Technical advice**» bodies
for the Commission and MS

Regionalization



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Management plans on discards

First time in the history of the EU decision-making process and first tangible example of how stakeholders, through the ACs have made proposals to the MS that in turn submitted to the EC (with no modification in some cases), which adopted them directly

MEDAC

**Catalyst,
promoter
and
facilitator**

Multi-annual Management Plans

ACs are asked to provide the EC with technical elements to put in the proposal the EC has to submit to the European Parliament and Council for approval

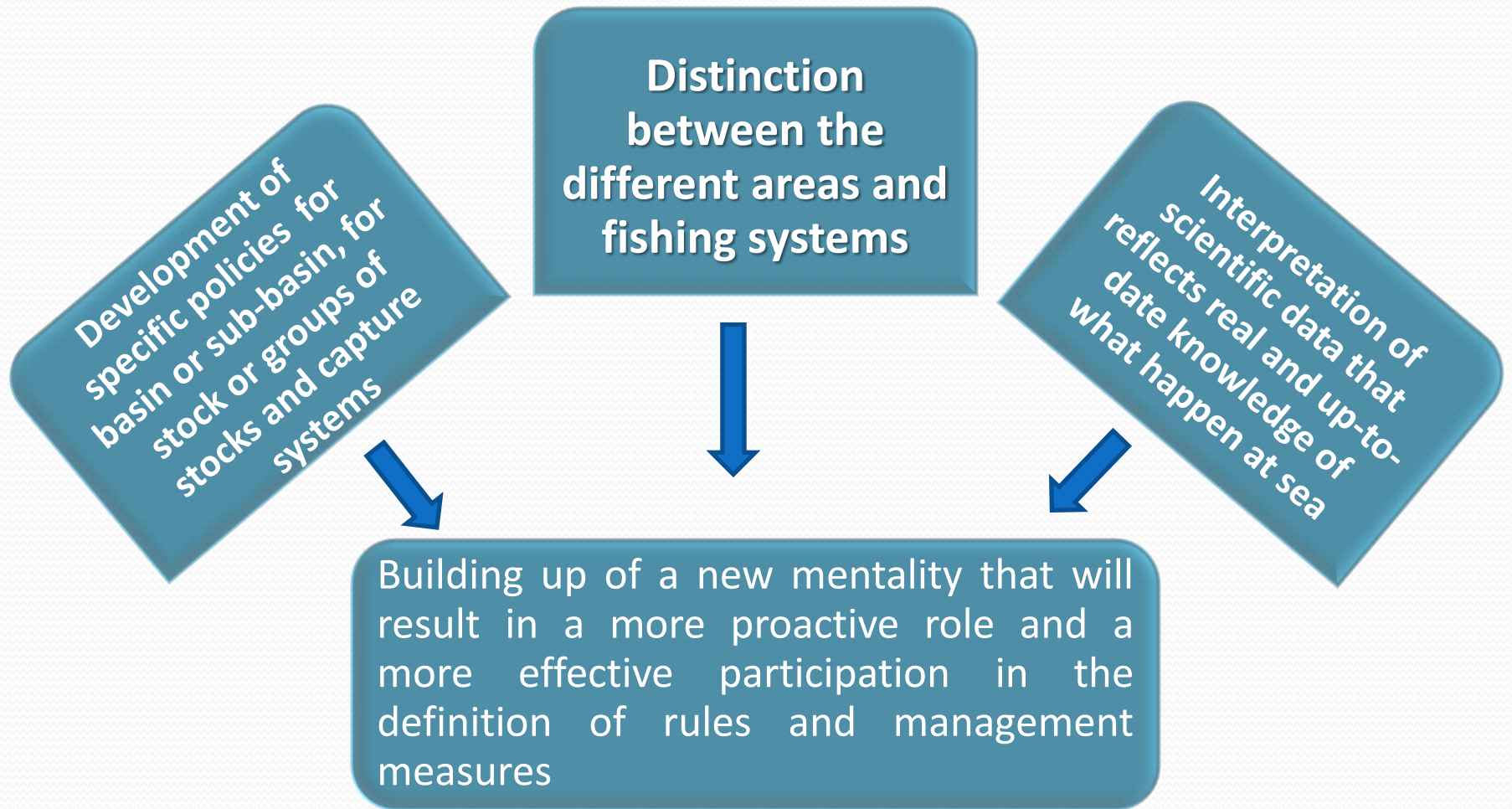
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**Technical
advice
(opinions)**

Potential Pitfalls

- Legacy of the past: the procedures, terms and ways in which stakeholders and the EC have interacted in the past
- Defense of individual positions and needs through simple statements
- Mistrust towards scientific data and diagnoses
- Conservative or defensive attitudes – representing the feelings of a sector that is in deep crisis
- Unilateral EC measures without any consultation with stakeholders

Possible Solutions



Thanks for your attention!



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