

Confronting the implementation of marine ecosystem-based management within the European Common Fisheries Policy Reform

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Abstract

In this work we confront, by reviewing the literature, the definition of ecosystem-based management provided in the proposal for reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) with the specific measures foreseen in it. These are: the sustainability objectives, the maximum sustainable yield target, the discard ban, transferable fishing concessions and regionalization. By analyzing the proposal of reform of the CFP by means of the ecosystem-based management framework, we conclude that there is a lack of social instruments to deal with the social sustainability objective while economic and ecological sustainability can be simultaneously achieved with the specific measures considered in the proposal. We also conclude that individually analysed, the specific measures could further the ecosystem based management implementation, although not all the observed or analysed consequences of the implementation of these measures move in this direction. In that sense we conclude that the success of the ecosystem based management depends much more on the specific implementation as well as on the accompanying incentives (structural funds).