



Policy, Science and scientific symposium, 3-4 May 2010

Topic 2: Preserving life

Session 15: Towards a new governance of marine spatial planning: adequacy of sustainable fisheries management tools for marine protected areas

The “Grenelle of the environment” is a French broad consultation aimed to identify new actions to ensure sustainable development. The “Grenelle of the sea” extends this approach, with special attention to oceans areas and coastal activities. The method is based on a dialogue involving the government, NGOs, local authorities, private sector and workers representatives. The consultation objective is to develop commitments on the need to improve the marine and coastal trades. Specific commitments were made on the establishment of marine protected areas for the preservation of fish stocks and the development of a methodological framework to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) as a tool to protect species or habitats.

At European level, the 2002 Common Fishery Policy (CFP) reform set up regional consultative committees that are consensus-building bodies composed of professionals, NGOs and other stakeholders which are setting up a new form of governance. They constitute an interesting platform providing a link between local fishing initiatives and the European Commission. The shortcomings of the CFP have shown that fishing management should be shared with all the stakeholders.

Integrated Exploitation and Management Units place fishermen at the management centre and broaden consensus building around coherent fishing grounds with fishing industry parties as well as others. Consensus building provides the opportunity to develop careful management at local level within the CFP general framework. Co-management implies restricting access and regulating the types of fishing techniques and gear used to capture fish – to ensure the sustainability of the activity – and reorganizing the fishing sector around products according to grounds. It also enhances fish resources value to the maximum. This type of local initiatives would allow breaking with interventionist, paternalistic public policies based on production subsidies and unilateral decision-making. Practical Methods Applications exists on the Mediterranean Sea.

The interest of Integrated Exploitation and Management Units for MPA which constitute an integrated approach of conservation involving the participation of professionals and users of the sea should be promote at international level.

In the same perspective, the panel will suggest to better integrate these approaches with the tools developed by RFMOs and regional agreements as well as national and international management strategies.

Objectives:

Promote the forms of new governance of the French public consultation the Grenelle of the sea and the regional consultative committees.

Promote the Integrated Exploitation and Management Units:

- Setting up a new form of governance: to develop a consensus building around coherent fishing grounds which involves all the stakeholders concerned by the exploitation of marine resources.
- To enhance the value of fishing: identify the commercial circuits of giving maximum value to fishing grounds.
- To establish a shared diagnosis on the state of fisheries by developing indicators and coordinated work
- To promote a sustainable fishing by effort rather than by quantity, the fishermen will change roles-from that of producer to harvester.
- To exercise strict control: avoid that the wrongdoings of a few destroy the efforts of many.

Assure the adequacy of sustainable fisheries management tools like IEMU for marine protected areas, which are a useful tool to develop coherent strategies to manage natural resources including fisheries.

Recommend the reorganization between the various institutions of governance implicated in the establishment of MPAs to improve better the protection of marine biodiversity and endangered species such as bluefin tuna.

Promote the integration between national, regional and international tools for marine resources protection