EU FP7 project DEEPFISHMAN
Management and monitoring of deep-sea fisheries and stocks

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Introduction

DEEPFISHMAN is a research project funded by the European Union FP7. Its main focus will be on developing a range of strategy options for the exploitation of deep-water species in NE Atlantic.
DEEPFISHMAN relies upon interdisciplinary research from fishery science, ecology and socio-economy. It will establish strong involvement of stakeholders in the definition of monitoring and management frameworks for deepwater fisheries. It comprises thirteen partners from nine countries.

Objectives

1. To identify and develop new and more effective monitoring and assessment methods, reference points, control rules and management framework to be used in the short term
2. To develop a long-term monitoring and management framework in which additional data needs will be specified in order to fill current information gaps to achieve reliable long-term management requirements

The project will define a prototype ecosystem based management framework for deep-water fisheries in the NE Atlantic as an alternative to the current stock-based management regime

Background

Deepwater fisheries in the NE Atlantic are comprised of longstanding artisanal fisheries off the Azores and off Portugal and more recent time high-seas trawl/long line fishing. Deepwater fisheries pose particular difficulties for management. There are few independent surveys carried out, life history characteristics of deep sea fishes makes them difficult to assess and many of these fisheries are predominantly in international waters.
Most deep-water fish species are long-lived, slow growing and have a low reproductive capacity. They are adapted to live in an ecosystem of low energy turnover in which major environmental changes occur infrequently (ICES, 2001). These ecosystems, including deep-water fishery resources, are vulnerable and are considered in need of protection (OSPAR, 2000). Almost all deep-water fisheries in the NE Atlantic were, until 2003 unregulated. Current EU management measures comprise biennial TACs EC, 2002b, 2004, 2006), a vessel licensing scheme with aggregate power and capacity regulations and fishing effort regulations.
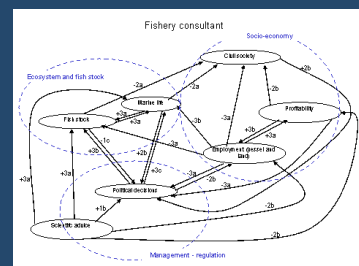
Progress

Reviews on existing management and monitoring framework for deep-water fisheries/stocks have been completed. These create the backbone for the forthcoming examination and analysis. The socio-economic profiles and the impact of management strategies are being examined for selected stocks. The results of this work will be used for development of monitoring and management framework for deep-water fisheries which will incorporate an ecosystem approach to management.
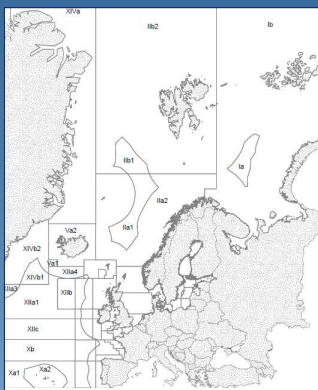
ICES new subareas and divisions defined in 2003 to deal with deepwater fisheries issues

Stakeholder involvement

Several approaches are used to integrate view from stakeholders. Several stakeholder workshops have been held and questionnaires were distributed. Cognitive maps were used to identify how stakeholders perceive the current management framework.

Further information

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WIKI site:
http://deepfishman.hafro.is/doku.php

References

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OSPAR, 2000. Quality Status Report 2000 for the North-East Atlantic. Chapter 6, overall assessment, 19pp. Available at http://www.ospar.org

DEEPFISHMAN Partners

IFREMER, France   IMPERIAL, UK   MI, Ireland   IPIMAR, Portugal

Cefas, Uk   NatMIRC, Namibia   HCMR, Greece   IMR, Norway

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