

New opportunities offered by the data collection regulation in the fields of biology and economy (Council regulation N° 199/2008/EC)

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THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

- First steps in 1970
- 1983 – Reg. (EEC) No. 170/83
- 1992 – Reg. (EEC) No. 3760/92
- 2002 – Reg. (EC) No. 2371/2002

The major challenge is tackling simultaneously:

- Risk of collapse of some stocks
- Impact on marine ecosystems
- Economic losses for the fishery system
- Halieutic resources supply for the EU markets
- Loss of jobs.

Then, it is essential improving the scientific advice!

How to move on?

Improving the scientific advice means:

- working on reliable and homogenous data sets, collected under a common system
- further develop multidisciplinary competencies within the EC advisory bodies.



But nothing is magic and it was necessary to develop, adopt and enforce a dedicated system: the European Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector.

The Data Collection Regulation: a common tool to better apply the Common Fishery Policy

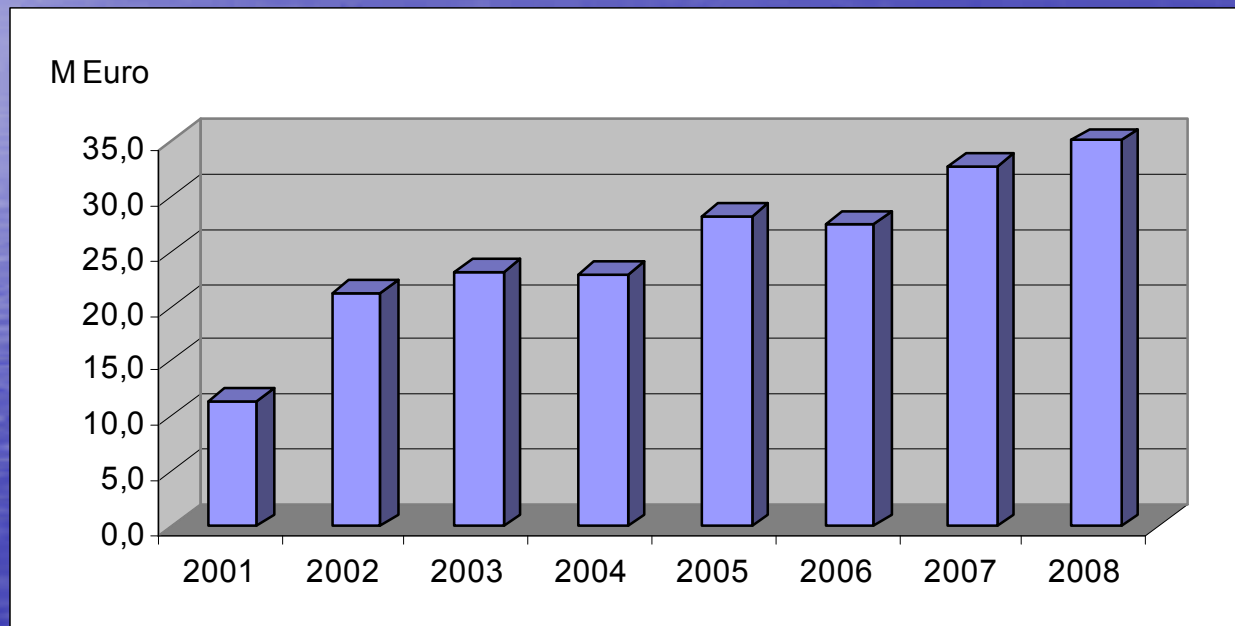
- The DCR (EC Reg. 1563/2000), for the first time, established a common framework to collect the basic data from the fishery sector, with the purpose to provide the necessary information for the fishery biologists and economists. This effort was required to feed the relevant scientific bodies with more homogenous data sets, for providing a better scientific advice to develop the management tools within the CFP.



A constant effort, a strong supporting action

The will and the need to have a common European framework system for the data collection of fishery data was strongly supported since the beginning by the Commission.

A total of about 202 M€ were given to Member States for the NP in the years 2001-2008.



The EC officers provided a continuous assistance to MS to better carry out their duties, while STECF had the role to assess programmes and reports, also suggesting improvements to the system.

Members States invested so far a lot of economic resources and efforts.

A progressive involvement, setting up the European common data network on fisheries

Member State	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Belgium							
Cyprus							
Denmark							
Estonia							
Finland							
France							
Germany							
Greece							
Ireland							
Italy							
Latvia							
Lithuania							
Malta							
Netherlands							
Poland							
Portugal							
Slovenia							
Spain							
Sweden							
United Kingdom							

The first round of the EC Data Collection framework

- The practical enforcement of the DCR had at least a couple of important steps.
- At the beginning, it was necessary to convince in practice all MS about the relevance of this regulation. The first three years were a sort of preliminary test, reducing the problems year after year.
- The fleet segmentation initially adopted (by main licence and boat size), together with the stock-based approach, showed problems in describing the most complex fleets.
- The strong need of a multidisciplinary approach to better assess and manage the fishery sector was and is a constant issue.

Building the interconnection about biology and economy.

- Since the first steps, the objective was to strictly link the economy and the biology within the fishery sector, refining the sampling schemes according to the bilateral needs.
- In this way, the link was always clear, either at the national or at the Community level.
- The new STECF has a more balanced composition and STECF/SGRN was able to help the Commission to better follow the DCR enforcement, by checking both the socio-economic and biological needs.

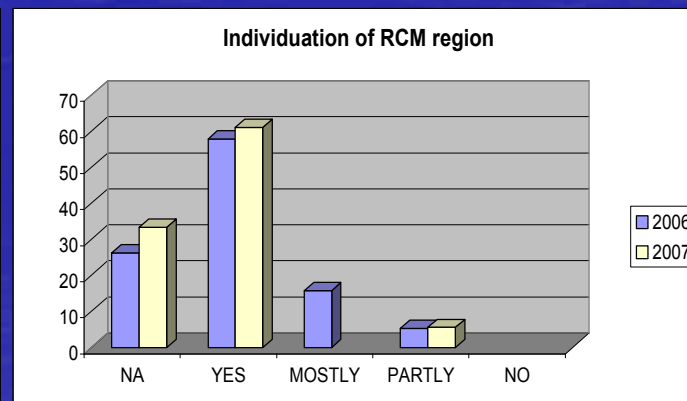
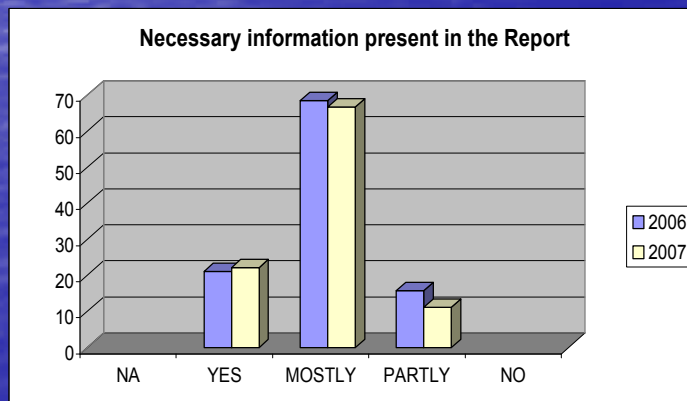
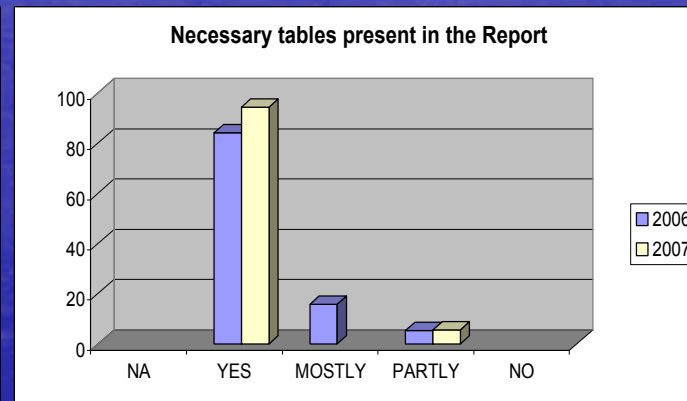
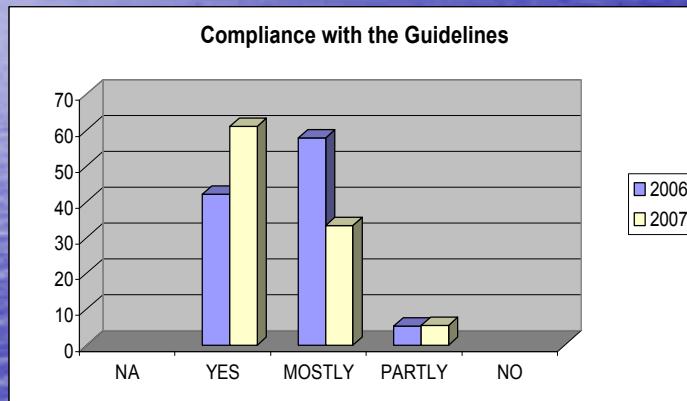


Setting up the bridge between researchers and fishermen.

- Since the beginning, it was clear to everybody that a more strict cooperation between the scientists and the fishery sector was needed.
- Landing data were also improved by observer's data, requiring a clear effort from researchers, fishers and fishmongers to work together, with the purpose to provide reliable data on catches for the common interest.
- Economists had the opportunity to get detailed data to feed the system, and the respect of privacy rules was appreciated by the sector.

The first round: an exercise which had a constant growth in terms of quality and quantity of data.

- After the general enforcement of the precision levels, quality improved a lot since 2005 and the data become finally more useful.



A lot of improvements, but some difficulties were still there.

The first period of the DCR was able to provide a large amount of data but, at the same time, to put into evidence limits, problems and difficulties.

- The false perception by some MS that the collection was not a well established obligation and that it had to be adjusted according to the level of contribution by the EC created problems in some areas, while the insufficient clarity of some administrative rules (along with national problems in some MS) added troubles to the system.**
- The initial segmentation of the fleets and the stock-based approach were clear limits for having a focused analysis of the fisheries.**
- The necessary provision to have international coordination for the scientific surveys is facing problems in some areas.**
- The reliability of the data collected is sometimes an issue.**

A lot of improvements, but some difficulties were still there.

- **The initial limit to use the data only for 20 days added difficulties for the scientific bodies who have to work on these data.**
- **Immediately incorporate in the DCR NPs new mandatory rules established by RFMOs is a problem already difficult to solve in practice.**
- **The need to explicitly refer about catches in distant waters, in areas regulated by RFMOs or bilateral agreements, also providing the data, is still quite relevant.**
- **The common provision to allow the observers on board is still insufficient and there are well-known problems at various national levels, together with the lack of a proper financial support in several cases.**

Of course, putting scientific observers on board to improve the data quality is not always possible!



In other cases, more clear rules and provisions might help a lot!

A further step: the new framework for the collection, management and use of data.

Most of the previous limits have been successfully overcome by the new regulation (EC Reg. 199/2008 and EC Reg. 655/2008)

- The segmentation is now by métier (which is also a challenge!) against the previous stock-based sampling. Multi-gear and multi-species fisheries can be better assessed.**
- The data collection and the assessments will be organised by region.**
- The aquaculture finally entered into the framework.**
- The fishing industry and processing are now fully incorporated in the framework, closing the circle.**
- The data (including VMS ones) will be available to the scientific community, the rules of confidentiality being respected**

and also....

- **Several elements, quite useful to initiate the process of the ecosystem approach, are now into the system, along with the provision to take into account Natura 2000, even if this section will require several additional steps and many future efforts.**
- **The biological and economic data, when relevant, have strict links; transversal variables are established and bio-economic models are now normal tools for the STECF, with the purpose to provide a more precise advice.**
- **The Commission's advisory bodies for the consultation are now STECF, ACFA and RACs.**

but

everyone should bear in mind that
scientifically sound assessment and
proper management decisions must be
based on reliable data!



The Regional approach with a strong co-ordination

- The Regional approach is one of the most important changes in the new DCR.
- It provides not only the logical geographic framework for the collection, but also the step-by-step procedure to set-up internationally agreed efforts to provide data which are more useful for the management and for the better understanding of the evolution of the various stocks or fisheries.
- The role of RCMs will be enhanced and reinforced and the Commission will play a support role for both MS and third countries, with the purpose to better coordinate the national programmes, and implement the collection, management and use of data in the same region.
- A strong programming action is now well set, where adjustments can be done with the purpose to properly fit the NP within the regional international framework, also taking into account the various needs of the RFMOs.

Of course, nothing is perfect!

- The Data Collection Regulation is always in progress, moving towards new challenges and trying to find solutions for the many complex situation already existing in the fisheries.
- Progressively increasing the quality and the validation of the data is another goal



The support for the international framework context

- There is a part of the new Regulation which seems maybe minor, but it is, on the contrary, quite important in terms of the international approach for the management of fishery resources.
- It concerns the new provision to agree about a list of international meetings, organised by RFMOs and international organisations, where the EC is contracting party or observer and where MS have a specific interest to participate.
- Now, the EC is able to provide an economic support to some scientists, with the purpose to have always a good team of scientists at each meeting.

There is a clear distinction
between exploitation and
sustainable management:
the future!



**The goal is not only the enforcement
of the Common Fisheries Policy!**

**The sustainable management and use
of halieutic resources along with the
environmental protection means
having valuable proteins, fishers and
economy for a long time.**

It is the future we all like!