Case Study Outlines

Description of the COFASP case studies

Version 5

Case Study Leaders

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Overview

Based on input from the Governing Board meeting in Rome January 2014 the Case Studies have been further developed.

Case study outlines

1.1 Regional similarities and differences in aquaculture

Topic

Aquaculture challenges and research needs

Objectives

Explore similarities and differences that are limiting growth of Mediterranean bass/bream industry and North-Atlantic salmon industry. Addressing both regulatory factors, marked issues, and biological/technological constraints**A description of the intended target group**

Funding agencies - programme owners and programme managers.

A description of who should engage, participate and perform the activities

It is expected that COFASP partners that fund aquaculture research and innovation will participate, as well as funding agencies from other ministries/countries other than the COFASP partners will be invited.

It is also expected to invite a few, key, external stakeholders e.g. European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP), AquaMed and European Aquaculture Society (EAS).

A description of the activities entailed by the case study

The aquaculture industry is organised differently throughout Europe, also the business landscape is structured differently. Together with a focus on different species, there seem to be a great difference in resulting research priorities between regions. However, to develop the aquaculture sector, also the funding agencies need to recognise how the industry is developing and learn from the approaches taken. Also, there will in the coming years be a focus on the research & innovation needs in implementing National Aquaculture strategies. Establishing the national funding priorities could benefit from a greater knowledge and understanding of the industry developments and practices in other regions. Two workshops including visit to industry scale farms (Norway) and small-scale farms (Italy) are foreseen. Focus will be on the on-growing stages. At the beginning of the workshop a "virtual" representative case study farm will be described and through the workshop the participants will identify and rank limitations for further growth. The limitations will not be restricted to biological/technological constraints but include also regulatory and market issues.

Timeline

The activities entailed by the case study

1. Gather and extract already collected data from national, regional and European strategic processes: August – October to December 2014
2. Prepare first workshop: January to March 2015
3. First workshop in Bari, Italy: March/April 2015
4. Preliminary report from first workshop: April 2015
5. Prepare second workshop: May 2015
6. Second workshop in Norway: June 2015
7. Writing final report: June – July 2015

Expected outcome/result

Greater understanding among funding partners of the needs and challenges in the aquaculture sector between the regions. This could lead to inspiration in setting national strategies as well as ease in defining COFASP call topics.

1.2 Coordination of EMFF implementation

Topic

Improving the impact of European maritime and fisheries fund throughout sound collaboration of countries

Objective

Foster the cooperation of Member States in implementing of national EMFF operational programmes and establish collaboration to COFASP and SCAR-Fish - Pilot in Baltic Sea area.

A description of the intended target group

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) is a major financing instrument of the fisheries sector in years 2014-2020. Its total EU budget is 6.4 Billion Euros. The EMFF may support the development of fisheries sector in multiple manners, including direct support to the investments of the fisheries sector, facilitation of innovation, research and environmental projects. Furthermore, the EMFF will finance the implementation of the EU's common fisheries policy (CFP), including data collection and fisheries control.

This case study will map different EMFF relevant financing instruments and their relation to the EMFF. Secondly, the opportunities and best practices of cooperation between Member States and financial instruments will be identified. Baltic Sea region will be used as a pilot area to assess different ways to cooperate under EMFF in bilateral and macro-regional level. Baltic Sea was chosen as a pilot area of this case study given its experience on cooperation under the regionalization of the CFP.

The case study will give recommendations on how to improve the impact of the fund through the cooperation of the different financing instruments and the Member States. These recommendations can be used in preparing bilateral, macro-regional or EU-wide networks in the EMFF implementation. Also, overlapping and synergies of different financial instruments can be better recognized. The opportunities of EMFF can also be better taken into account for example in coming COFASP calls.

A description of who should engage, participate and perform the activities

Interested COFASP partners and managing authorities of EMFF should contribute to the discussion on how to improve impact of the EMFF funding throughout international cooperation and how implementation of national EMFF programmes can be linked/synchronised to COFASP activities/calls.

A description of the activities entailed by the case study

It is the aim to see in which way the coordination and collaboration of the implementation of the EMFF can best be facilitated. Many of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) objectives are cross-country relevant. The EMFF shall contribute to (among others):

- Promoting a sustainable and resource efficient fisheries and aquaculture including related processing
- promoting fisheries and aquaculture which are competitive, economically viable, socially and environmentally sustainable
- support to strengthening technological development, innovation and knowledge transfer
- enhancement of the competitiveness and viability of fisheries and aquaculture enterprises

This case study/work shop will include several or all the following topics:

1. Cooperation in research and development work (including environmental investments). In the future EMFF has very good instruments to finance research and development projects in fisheries and aquaculture. The case study will explore possible improvement in impact of the fund throughout the cooperation. E.g. identify common challenges in Baltic Sea area, analyse possible ways to cooperate (for example joint EMFF projects, sharing responsibility areas).
2. Further strengthen dissemination of best practices and sharing information between Member States in the implementation phase of the fund, taking into account new areas like data collection and control.
3. Discuss the need for a platform - Is a new needed or can existing ones be utilised, e.g. BALTFISH or Baltic Sea rural network?
4. Foresight and evaluation
    - How to make best use of e.g. the current COFASP foresight process at the EU level?
    - How to integrate this work to the implementation of the EMFF in national and Baltic Sea level?
    - How to share information on the development of operational environment?
    - This could help to predict coming challenges and threats. Also, it could be a possibility to address how Member states cooperate, share information or best practices in respect to evaluation.

It is expected to cover the feasibility of having regional fora using the Baltic area as a pilot case, but also discuss the possible need for a pan-European forum.

Timeline

1. Workshop on regional cooperation: March 2015
2. Presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations: May 2015
3. Deliverable report: October 2015

Expected outcome/result

It is expected to come with recommendations for how countries can work together in implementing the EMFF and also how COFASP and coming fisheries ERA-NET's calls and activities can go hand in hand with EMFF implementation. This initial study will focus on Baltic Sea area.

1.3 Regionally-Integrated and Spatially-Explicit Fisheries and Ecosystem Management

Context and objective

The ecosystem approach to fisheries is about balancing the exploitation of resources with the conservation of ecosystem functions, notably those that sustain these resources. Eco-regions and habitats within eco-regions correspond to particular scales at which resource dynamics and ecosystem health can be matched. An ecosystem approach to fisheries thus entails developing spatially-explicit management tools and integrating fisheries and ecosystem objectives regionally within one single management scheme. The objective of the RISE-FEM Case Study of the EraNet COFASP is to link integrated fisheries and ecosystem management together with spatial planning. The Case Study will aim at aggregating within one single framework methodological approaches that are currently used in isolation, namely

- integrated-ecosystem assessment,
- spatially-explicit end-to-end modelling
- GIS-based spatial planning optimization,
- and governance/management scenario testing

as well as at applying these methods to a number of pilot eco-regions. The ultimate goal of the RISE-FEM Case Study is to foster new governance schemes, notably through scenario testing, entailed by the ecosystem approach to fisheries and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MFSD) in particular example eco-regions.

Why organizing an Open Meeting?

The RISE-FEM Case Study is timely as these ideas have been around within the scientific community for a while already. However, linking integrated fisheries and ecosystem management together with spatial planning is challenging both conceptually and methodologically. Therefore, a careful planning of the upstream research needed to reach this objective is required. The RISE-FEM Case Study will aim at producing a Joint Science Programme (JSP) between interested COFASP partners based on a review of the current state-of-the-art in the 4 above mentioned methodological approaches as well as in their coupling. This JSP is meant to contribute to the scientific content of the COFASP 2016 joint funding call in order to generate funds for developing the identified research plan.

We propose to base our state-of-the-art review on a 2-day open meeting gathering scientists in the fields of ecosystem assessment and modelling, spatial planning and governance together with managers and stakeholders. Scientists from COFASP Member States will be welcome, as these will be entitled to apply later to COFASP 2016 joint funding call.

Content and program of the Open Meeting

The meeting will use keynotes, presentations and discussion panels and will result in the elaboration of a JSP defining common methodological approaches to be developed and applied to specific eco-regions. The main philosophy will be to invite expert scientists as speakers asking them to review the state-of-the-art in their field of expertise as well as to identify gaps and needs for future research. An additional day following the workshop will be opened to COFASP partners only, in order to build on the workshop reviews and to draft a Joint Science Programme.

Day 1: Linking ecosystem health assessment over defined habitats and spatial planning across sectors including spatial management of fishing effort

Keynotes on spatial planning, integrated ecosystem assessments, and fishing effort allocation

Presentations on specific case studies and methods

Discussions

Day 2: Governance schemes by eco-regions engaging with all actors including monitoring strategies at different scales addressing different policies

Keynotes on spatially explicit end-to-end modelling, implementing regional governance in coastal areas, marine protected areas, links between policies

Presentations on specific case studies and methods

Discussions

Speakers will be invited to address specific subjects that the COFASP case study partners will define between themselves.

Day 3: COFASP partners only

Drafting of a Joint Science Programme

Outcomes

1. Publishable papers to produce a special issue in a peer-reviewed scientific journal or an ICES Cooperative Research Report.

2. A draft Joint Science Programme between COFASP partners that would contribute to defining the scientific content of COFASP 2016 joint funding call

3. Linkage with ICES Expert Groups

Participants and invited experts

The size of the Open Meeting will be limited 15 to 25 attendees to keep it tractable and to favour exchanges between participants

Scientists:

Scientists from COFASP Member States will be favoured as invited experts. They will have excellence in the topics of the workshop and some will be Chairs of ICES expert groups or work at JRC. Managers and stakeholders will be chosen from the EU Commission, Regional Sea Conventions (OSPAR and Barcelona), EU Regional Advisory Councils, governance boards of marine protected areas. The list of invitees will be agreed among the COFASP partners of the case study.

Timeline

Two full days in April 2015

1.4 Seafood processing – pan-EU challenges

Topic

Seafood processing challenges

Objective

The objective is to focus on cross-cutting Pan European research issues. The broad scope is to focus on sustainability, logistics, optimisation of processes and markets and consumer aspects. Future (regional) research needs will be identified.

A description of the intended target group

COFASP partners -programme owners and programme managers.

A description of who should engage, participate and perform the activities

COFASP partners that fund seafood processing research and innovation will participate. Funding agencies from other ministries/countries other than the COFASP partners will be invited.

It is also expected to invite a few, key external stakeholders e.g. European Fish Processors Association (AIPCE) and representatives from the processing industry.

A description of the activities entailed by the case study

Control of the production process, biological and environmental sustainability is necessary but not sufficient to ensure the economic sustainability of a European seafood production enterprise. The Fisheries and processing face competition in the global marketplace, both for inputs and for outputs. The key challenge is to maximize the yield of catches while minimize energy consumption and optimize all value chain processes. EU seafood often comes from sustainable stocks, is healthy to eat and preliminary studies show that it is associated with comparatively low environmental impact. In an ideal world this would give these products a competitive advantage and higher price in the market, but currently this is not necessarily the case. Therefore it is

necessary to disseminate relevant value chain information to consumers in an innovative way.

Timeline

February 2015: Workshop meeting with key stakeholders in European Seafood Processing with geographical distribution, as well as fair representation of industry activities to confirm identification of future research priorities.