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CFP reform and RBM

A3 - Structural Policy and Economic Analysis

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The RBM Communication

- Feb 2007 communication
- Opening of a debate on how RBM can be used in fisheries management
- Need for better information on MS systems
- Study launched and completed

- Created plenty of debate
- Take stock, analyse and move forward in relation to CFP reform

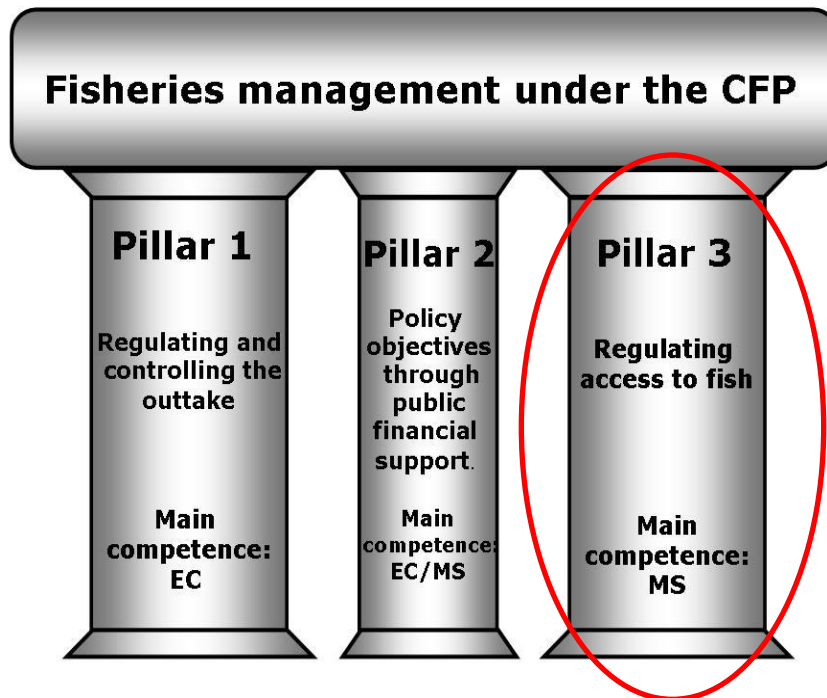


The role of RBM

- RBM encompasses all systems that give rights
- Perhaps what is in most peoples' minds is ITQs (very strong RBM systems)
- Empirical evidence that strong and transferable rights give rise to capacity reduction and economic efficiency (where well designed)
- RBM is only a part of fisheries management - conservation and control must continue and be strengthened!



The role of RBM (2)



Pillar 1: Common community standards and legislations, based on the overarching MSY principle (TAC, effort, technical measures) and new control/enforcement initiatives, aiming at long term sustainability

Pillar 2: Common community standards and legislation (EFF), aiming in particular at stimulating the development of an economically profitable and environmentally sustainable fisheries sector.

Pillar 3: Regulate access to fish, by adjusting fleet capacity to available quotas through access regulation and allocation of rights to individuals. Although the EC sets TACs and national capacity

ceilings, it is up to MS to allocate rights, and develop and implement access regulation.



Why push for RBM?

- Biological overcapacity - 2 or 3 times FMSY
- RBM in the EU have evolved from OA to more and more sophisticated systems - still few strong RBM
- Globally about 15 large fishing nations have RBM with tradable rights - 25% of the global catch
- The EU is falling behind in this development
- CFP needs to move away from command-control?



Industry responsibility

- Strong RBM systems can allow industry to take greater responsibility
- With secure rights, give them choice to find effective solutions and keep them accountable for outcomes
- We can give industry incentives to adapt their capacity with resources, without subsidies
- ...the other option is to use vessel scrapping, using subsidies, and targeting the people with little/no future in the sector



Environmental issues

- RBM cannot assure environmental sustainability alone!
- TACs have to be set correctly and fully enforced
- Technical measures and protective measures for ecosystems will be needed
- Industry is given more operational freedom to catch their share, but within environmental limits
- But, with lower fleet capacity, it would be easier to push forward a more stringent conservation agenda (quota, discards)



The CFP reform

- RBM is still MS competence
- EC could discuss/promote:
 - › Guidance or mandatory standards on RBM design and use
e.g. what happens to passive vessels without quota?
 - › Ways of managing small scale and large scale fleets using strong RBM systems - social sustainability - two tiers?
 - › National, regional or pan-EU approaches?
- RBM role in general Green Paper debates on governance, relative stability, EFF and social role of fisheries
- Parallel initiatives on control, IUU, discards, etc.



Summary



- We have to establish a basic understanding of what RBM is and what we wish to achieve with it
- It is not a panacea to all management problems
- Capacity reduction and greater industry responsibility is needed - RBM is an option
- Design and implementation of RBM is the key - one size does not fit all
- RBM can contribute to a better governance framework - this is what a new CFP must assure!



Thank you for your attention