



MEFEPO - Making the European Fisheries Ecosystem Operational

Project Details

Funding Programme: 7th Framework Programme (FP7)
 Sub-Programme: Cooperation, Theme 2: Food, Agriculture & Fisheries and Biotechnology

Funding Scheme: Small to medium scale collaborative project

Project Duration: 36 months (2008-2011)

Total Project Value: €4.1

EU Grant-Aid: €3m

Funding to Ireland: €214,958

Website: not currently available



Project Description

Since the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy in 2002, significant effort has been devoted to addressing the governance, scientific, social and economic issues required to introduce an ecosystem approach to European marine fisheries. Fisheries management needs to support the 'three pillars of sustainability' (ecological, social and economic). Fisheries Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) were developed to further the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and as a tool to assist managers to consider the ecological, social and economic implications of their decisions.

The core concept of the MEFEPO project is the delivery of an operational framework for three regional sea areas: the North Sea RAC, North-western Waters RAC and South-western RAC (RAC = Regional Advisory Council). MEFEPO will focus on how best to make current institutional frameworks responsive to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management at regional and pan-European levels in accordance with the principles of good governance. This will involve the integration of the considerable body of ecological, fisheries, social and economic research which has been developed in recent years. MEFEPO will also investigate how existing institutional frameworks need to evolve to incorporate this information and develop both dialogue between the disparate groups of marine stakeholders and a decision-making process which integrates a wide range of interests.

Project Partners

| Project Coordinator | University of Liverpool (UK) |
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| Ireland | Marine Institute |
| UK | Centre for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (CEFAS). |
| Portugal | National Institute of Biological Research IMAR-Instituto Do Mar |
| Netherlands | Wageningen IMARES |
| France | Universite de Bretagne Occidentale |
| Norway | Universitetet I Tromso |
| Denmark | Institute for Fisheries Management & Coastal Community Development |
| Spain | Instituto Español de Oceanografia |

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