

# Advice and Research: A Management Perspective

Presented by Josephine Kelly,  
Principal Officer, Seafood Policy and Development



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## *Fishing is an important resource for the State*

- Irish waters are some of the most productive and biologically sensitive marine areas in the EU.
- The seafood industry is worth over €700m to the Irish economy annually, providing jobs for 12,000 people, many in coastal areas outside the most developed regions of the country.
- Scientific research and advice provided by the Marine Institute plays a key part in managing this important national resource.



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## *Good science is vital for fisheries management*

- Credible and reliable scientific advice provides an accurate picture of important fisheries (briefings, MI Stockbook).
- Reliable science means policy decisions can be taken on a sound basis, achieving the proper balance between conservation and exploitation of fish stocks (TAC & Quota Regulation).
- Good science also allows the State to effectively defend its interests during fisheries negotiations (the BSA, redistribution of TAC areas).
- Technical knowledge from scientific research and expertise facilitates the proper implementation of EU directives (cod effort pilot management scheme).



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## *Successfully working with others*

- In past, there has been friction and distrust between science and fishing industry, but that situation has improved in recent years.
- Today there is greater industry participation in the scientific advice process, better utilisation of stakeholder knowledge and greater transparency around the development of advice.
- Science teams still manage to present complex scientific information in a way that is understandable!



## ***Vital role – annual advice cycle for fish stocks***

- MI gathers data on fisheries for the annual ICES advice process.
- MI participates in ICES' work to generate scientific advice for the following fishing year (most stocks in July, the rest later).
- The MI publishes its stock book in the autumn, providing digest of the advice on stocks important to Ireland.
- EU Commission publishes its TAC proposal in autumn – MI helps interpret new measures proposed.
- MI takes part in the development of national position on proposals in run up to Fisheries Council in December.
- MI assists at December Fisheries Council negotiations.



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## *Other important work for stock management*

- Research on management issues (BSA, TAC areas, fishing effort management).
- Key publications (annual Stockbook, Atlas of Commercial Fisheries).
- Participate in Minister's Sea Fisheries Consultative Council.
- Take part in the Technical Working Group to implement Habitats and Birds Directives.
- Recently collaborated with BIM to produce and publish the first inshore stock book for Ireland.



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## *Going forward – what's next?*

- Further develop data on key fish stocks to improve understanding and management.
- Continue work with coastal communities to identify suitable marine protected areas to allow the regeneration of stocks and the conservation of wildlife.
- Continue working with industry to further develop the spirit of mutual cooperation and harness industry's valuable knowledge in scientific advice.
- Provide research expertise for Ireland's engagement with Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- Further develop Ireland's reputation as a Centre of Excellence for Marine Research.



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## *In Conclusion*

- Linking scientific advice, research and industry is critical
- We will need a new type of advice in the future that is much broader than just “fisheries advice “
- That broader advice must be informed by relevant and credible research
- The results of this research must be communicated in a simple and understandable way
- Stakeholders must be involved in the advice - research linkage process
- The ultimate goal is sustainable fisheries from a healthy ecosystem
- We must all work together in order to meet the great challenges we face



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