

# Fisheries management in the Baltic Sea – applying best practices

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# Outline

- The European Fisheries Policy
- The Best Practice Project: aim, methodology and outcomes
- Can Best practices be applied to the Baltic Sea?

# European fish stocks

- 80% of EU stocks overfished (global average 25%)
- 30% outside safe biological limits
- Catches dominated by young fish - 93% of North Sea cod caught are immature



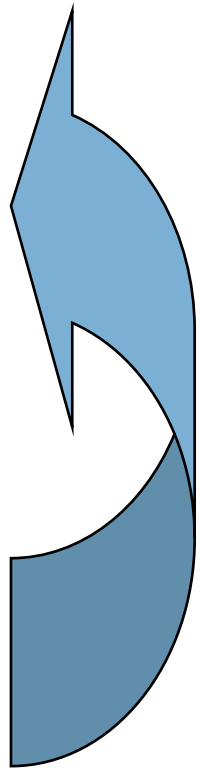
**Poor economic performance, low resilience to external pressures**

Adapted from Degnbol, 2009



# Negative social-ecological feed-backs:

- Technological development produce overcapacity - subsidies aggravate it
- Stocks are fished down and produce less
- Less fish available to catch
- Poor economic efficiency
- Increasing illegal catches
- Deteriorating legitimacy in scientific advice
- Political pressures for subsidies and higher quotas



Adapted from Degnbol, 2009

# How did we get there?

- Objectives: broad and un-prioritized
- Decision: no transparency, weak link to advice
- Scientific advice: little transparency/legitimacy
- Ecosystem dynamics underestimated
- Centralized top-down management
- Overcapacity, poorly defined rights
- Weak, incoherent enforcement
- Overload

# CFP reform processes

The CFP reform in 2002: Development of Regional Advisory Council

CFP reform 2009-2012: Can a transition to “adaptive co-management” become a reality?

Can a “Best practice” – project contribute to the discussion?

# The “Best Practice project”

- Baltic Sea 2020, Baltic Nest Institute, Stockholm Resilience Center
- A project with six phases:
  - Rapid assessment
  - International science workshop
  - Case studies
  - Synthesis 1
  - International stakeholder workshop
  - Synthesis/recommendations.

# Evidence

- Ecosystem-organized science (Norway)
- Independent peer-review (US, Canada)
- Strategic socio-economic assessments (US)
- High reliance on technology and observers (all three countries)
- Collaborative research projects generate trust and knowledge (all three)



# Decision

- Regionalization with participation (US and Canada)
- Clear objectives (US)
- Clear guidelines for implementation (US)
- Clear division of responsibility (Norway, US)
- Transparent decision-making processes (all, especially US)



# Compliance

- Discard bans with additional regulations (Norway, some Canadian)
- Industry incentives facilitate compliance (limited access, certification)
- Strong, coherent enforcement (Norway, Canada)
- Excess capacity: working scrapping program and “no subsidies” (Norway)
- Substantial participation and empowerment (all)



# How could Best practices be applied?

- Operational objectives and guidelines
- Transparency
- PA and reversal of burden of proof
- Rights with associated obligations
- Accountability and penalties
- Regionalization and co-management



# Can we start with the Baltic Sea?

- Long history of stakeholder dialogue
- Growing culture of dialogue in RAC
- Strong demands for policy integration in environmental directives
- Cod stock show signs of improvements
- Strong scientific capacity
- 90% of territory within the Community



# A Baltic pilot to facilitate the transition?

- Develop vision, translate to operational objectives, identify management options
- Analyze incentives of options (evidence, decision making and compliance)
- Analyze options in terms of biological, economic, social impacts
- Design enforcement plans
- Design processes to ensure legitimacy of preferred option
- Implement, monitor and adapt

# Conclusion

- The European Fisheries Policy is complex and not working optimally
- The fundamental problems are increasingly recognized
- The reform process is a window of opportunity
- A large-scale European transition can likely benefit from Baltic Sea “diffusion of innovation”



# Best practice process outcomes

- Report and presentation in Brussels ([www.stockholmresilience.org](http://www.stockholmresilience.org) or [www.balticsea2020.org](http://www.balticsea2020.org))
- Stakeholder dialogue – mobilize support for the Baltic Sea as a pilot area for developing operational experiences with adaptive co-management



# Acknowledgements

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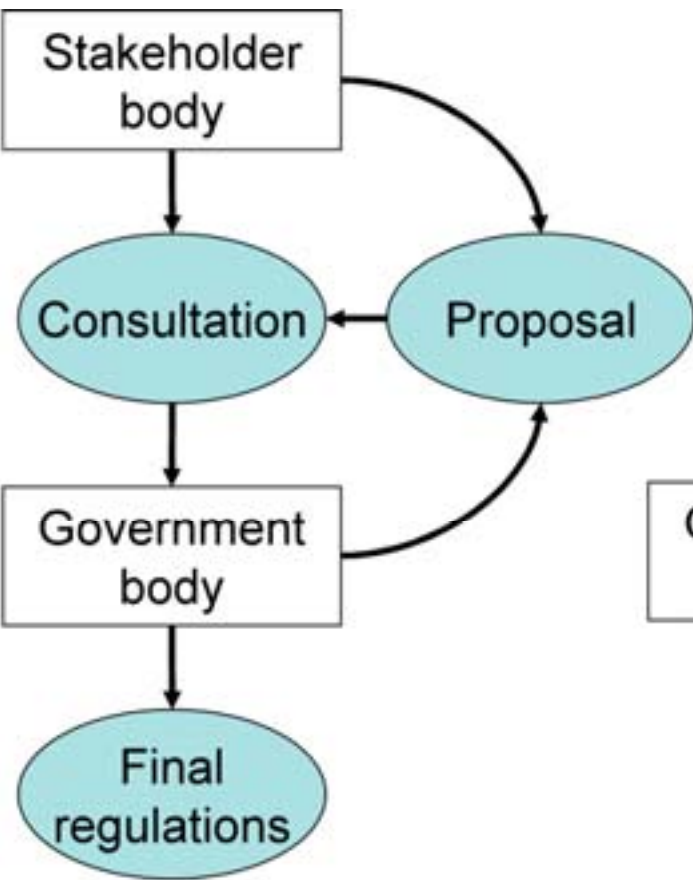


# What is Best practice?

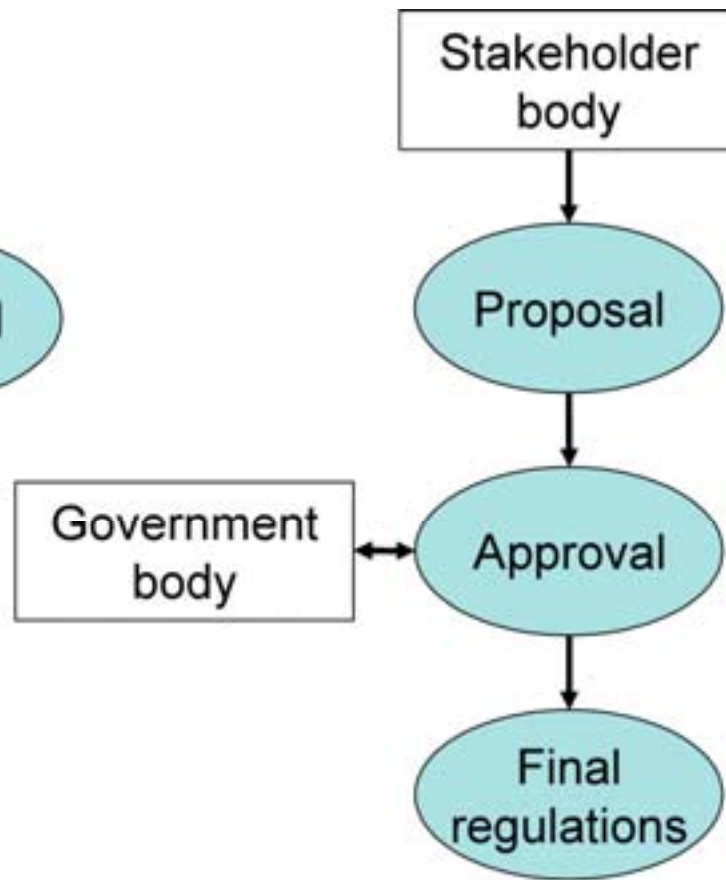
We define 'best practices' as examples that create incentives which support long-term sustainability.

We recognise the importance of historical and contextual nature of fisheries management - best practices may therefore depend on ecological, economic and social conditions

# Norway



# USA



# Canada

