



Climate action and fisheries in the EU



Outline

- **Climate action in the EU**
- **Issues for EU fisheries management**
- **EU funded research and studies**



Climate Action in the EU (1)

- **Climate action – cross-sectoral policy portfolio at the top of the political agenda**
- **Appointment of European Commissioner for climate action in the new Commission (Feb 2010)**
- **Setting up a Directorate General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), a Unit on adaptation**

- **Commissioners' Group on Climate Change – first meeting on 2nd June**

- **Establishment of an Interservice Group on Adaptation to Climate Change to 'work towards a better understanding of the integration of adaptation policy into policy areas'**

- http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction/index_en.htm



Climate Action in the EU (2)

- **2009 EU White Paper (action planning document) on climate change paves the way for a comprehensive adaptation strategy for the EU, giving special attention to the maritime dimension, including fisheries; a flexible framework to evolve**
- **Phase 1 (2009-2012) will focus on four pillars of action:**
 1. building a solid knowledge base on the impact of climate change; Clearing House Mechanism
 2. integrating adaptation into EU key policy areas i.e. 'mainstreaming': CFP reform, MSFD, aquaculture
 3. employing a combination of policy instruments (Impact and Adaptation Steering Group, long term management plans, financing) and
 4. stepping up international cooperation on adaptation.
- **Phase 1 will prepare a comprehensive EU adaptation strategy to be implemented during phase 2, commencing in 2013**



Climate Action in the EU (3)

- **To ensure that adaptation in coastal and marine areas is taken into account in the framework of the Integrated Maritime Policy, in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and in the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**
- **The EU Cohesion Policy provides financial tools to act against climate change. The European Fisheries Fund may be used to help coastal communities and local enterprises to adapt to change**
- **The White Paper identifies the need to develop strategies and cost estimates for adaptative actions so that they might be taken into account in future financial decisions**



Issues for EU fisheries management

- **Maintain (or restore) the productivity of the marine ecosystem for fisheries**
 - Climate change is an added stress on marine ecosystems and fish stocks on top of fisheries. Climate change therefore makes the need to reduce fishing pressure even more urgent; however, difficult to disentangle climate impacts from fisheries impacts
- **Ensure that adequate measures will be taken as changes appear**
 - Management framework which is responsive and responsible as changes appear, i.e. outcomes of our current management is not as predictable as we think.
 - Reference points will need to be adapted as productivity of fisheries resources changes
 - Decision-making should be adapted (scientific input and framework)



Issues for EU fisheries management (2)

- **Prepare response to distribution issues**
 - Close any legal loopholes to prevent emergence of IUU fisheries
 - Distribution of existing fishing opportunities upon shifts in the geographical range of fish stocks: best agreed when rules for redistribution (or not) have been set beforehand in relevant fora
 - 'new' stocks require early measures to be taken to manage emerging fisheries and prevent development of IUU fisheries – it is difficult to reverse overfishing
 - Agreed rules need to be in place for distribution of access to 'new' stocks
- **Positive and negative impacts on industrial fisheries expected:**
 - Changes in productivity and seasonality will affect the exploitation of marine living resources



EU funded research projects and studies

- **RECLAIM - REsolving CLimAtic IMPacts on Fisheries – ongoing**
 - www.climateandfish.eu
 - Compilation of long-term data sets to relate patterns of change in marine systems/fisheries to climate variability
 - Critically assess our ability to forecast effects of climate change on future productivity and distribution
 - Provide set of hypotheses and research needs for future EU funded marine fisheries/climate research
- **The Economics of Climate Change Adaptation in EU Coastal Areas - 2009**
 - http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/climate_change_en.html
- **Climate Change and European Fisheries – European Parliament commissioned study**



Thank you

Dr Pavlina Nikolova
European Commission
Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Rue Joseph II 99, Brussels 1000, Belgium
tel. +32 2 29 65543

e-mail: pavlina.nikolova@ec.europa.eu

