

## Workshop on the Regionalisation of the Common Fisheries Policy – Options for Reform

Date of workshop:	Tuesday, 03 July 2018, 10.00-17.00
Location:	Information Office of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern at the European Union 80, Boulevard Saint Michel, 1040 Brussels

### Background

Regionalisation has been promoted under previous CFP reforms and is perceived to be a cornerstone for tackling basic problems of EU fisheries governance. Regionalisation has three dimensions to it: the shifting of responsibility to the fishing industry (“moving out”), the shifting of decision-making from the EU level to the regional sea level (“moving down”), and the creation of appropriate institutions and decision-making processes at the regional sea level.

Regarding the moving out of fisheries governance, there is broad agreement that the fisheries industry could take over more responsibility in fisheries governance to increase effectiveness and legitimacy. How this responsibility could be developed is less clear. The spectrum stretches from increased involvement and power in fisheries decision-making bodies and institutions to reversing the burden of proof in terms of compliance and monitoring and increased contributions regarding data collection and research.

With respect to moving down, many aspects are not decided at the best suited levels. This has led to decision-making processes which are lengthy and remote from those being addressed. Decision-making processes have contributed to the continuously increasing density and complexity of fisheries legislation which again is associated with problems in enforcement and control and prevents innovative fisheries practices. The question is which level is appropriate for which type of decision.

Regional groups, advisory councils, and the opportunity for the EC to adopt delegated and implementing acts have facilitated regionalisation. These institutions are not well matured yet which for instance becomes apparent in a lack of transparency of the regional groups, in a lack of collaboration with ACs, and in the partial competences of these groups in terms of fisheries management. How these institutions and decision-making organs should be further developed raises questions of their composition and legitimacy. Should for instance regional groups and ACs be resolved into one body, similar to regional councils in the US? It further raises the question of competences. Should for instance regional bodies be extended to “marine resources” councils with responsibility for the implementation of the IMP?

This one-day workshop is designed to provide a forum for discussing pragmatic as well as ambitious regionalisation approaches to inform the upcoming CFP reform process. It is part of the [CFP Governance Project](#), funded by the Thünen Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries and the Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries, in which recommendations for the reform of the CFP are being developed.

### Objectives and Content of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to explore regionalisation options to “future proof” the CFP and to explore the implications of these options. Three questions will guide the workshop:

1. What should be decided by whom – what should be regulated by the public sector, what should be in the responsibility of the industry (“moving out”)?
2. What should be regulated at which level – EU, regional, national, or local (“moving down”)?
3. Which institutions and processes are required at the regional sea level?

The input of workshop participants is key in order to identify and prioritise reform options and their impacts for different stakeholder groups and regions. Based on the input we will develop two regionalisation models for the CFP which will be disseminated through a policy brief as well as a scientific paper.

The workshop is divided into three parts. In the first part we will briefly present the status quo of the CFP's regionalisation as a basis for the following sessions of the workshop. In the second part, regionalisation options or elements of such options will be discussed along the three guiding questions. We will consider options which represent gradual changes to the CFP but also options which introduce more fundamental changes. In the third part, we identify potential positive and negative, intended as well as unintended impacts of the options using a results-chain-analysis (RCA).

## Agenda

Time	What?	
10:00	Arrival – coffee available	
10:30 – 11:00	Welcome and introductory round of participants and introduction to the workshop	Thünen Institute & participants
11:00 – 11:30	<b>CFP regionalisation – status quo</b> Brief presentation and short discussion/questions	Thünen Institute
11:30 – 12:15	<b>Regionalisation options (I) – Who?</b> Brief input and breakout groups: “What should be decided by whom – public or private sector?”	Thünen Institute & participants
12:15 – 13:00	<b>Regionalisation options (II) – Where?</b> Brief input and breakout groups: “What should be regulated where – at which level?” (EU, regional, national, local)	Thünen Institute & participants
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 -14:15	<b>Regionalisation options (I+II)</b> Plenary: Brief inputs from group work and joint discussion	Plenary
14:15 – 15:00	<b>Regionalisation options (III) – Institutions &amp; Processes</b> 1) Brief input: “institutions and processes needed” 2) Plenary: Brief inputs from group work and joint discussion	Thünen Institute & participants
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:45	<b>Results-chain analysis – Implications of regionalisation options</b> 1) Brief input and exercise RCA: What are the implications/ impacts of the policy options identified 2) Plenary: Brief inputs from breakout groups and discussion on impacts of policy options	Thünen Institute & participants
16:45 – 17:00	<b>Closing round</b> Observations and feedback, outlook and next steps	Plenary