

# **Implementing (International) Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management**

Baltic Coast Dialog – Coastal Biodiversity Management  
Workshop on Ecosystem Based Management

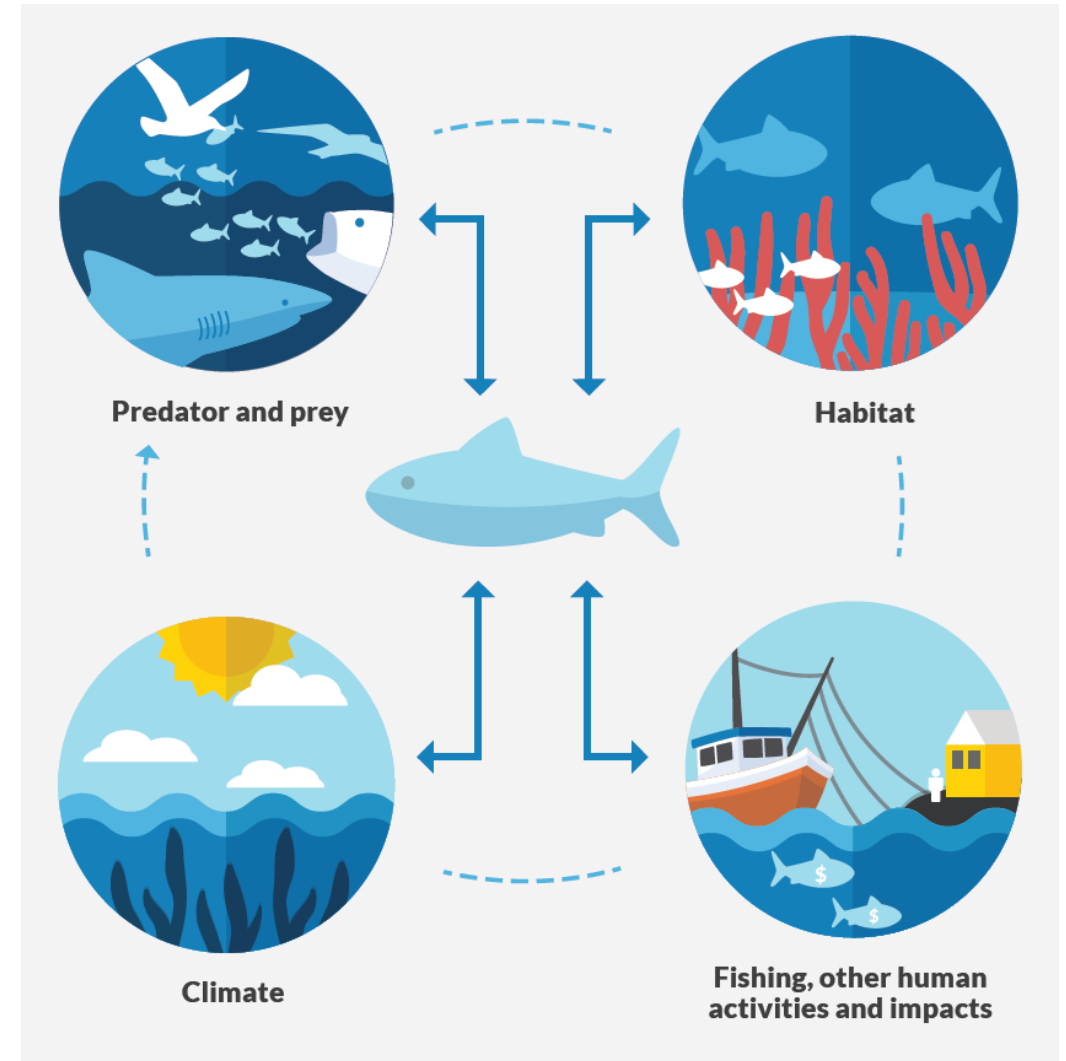
April 3, 2025

Pew

# What is EBFM?

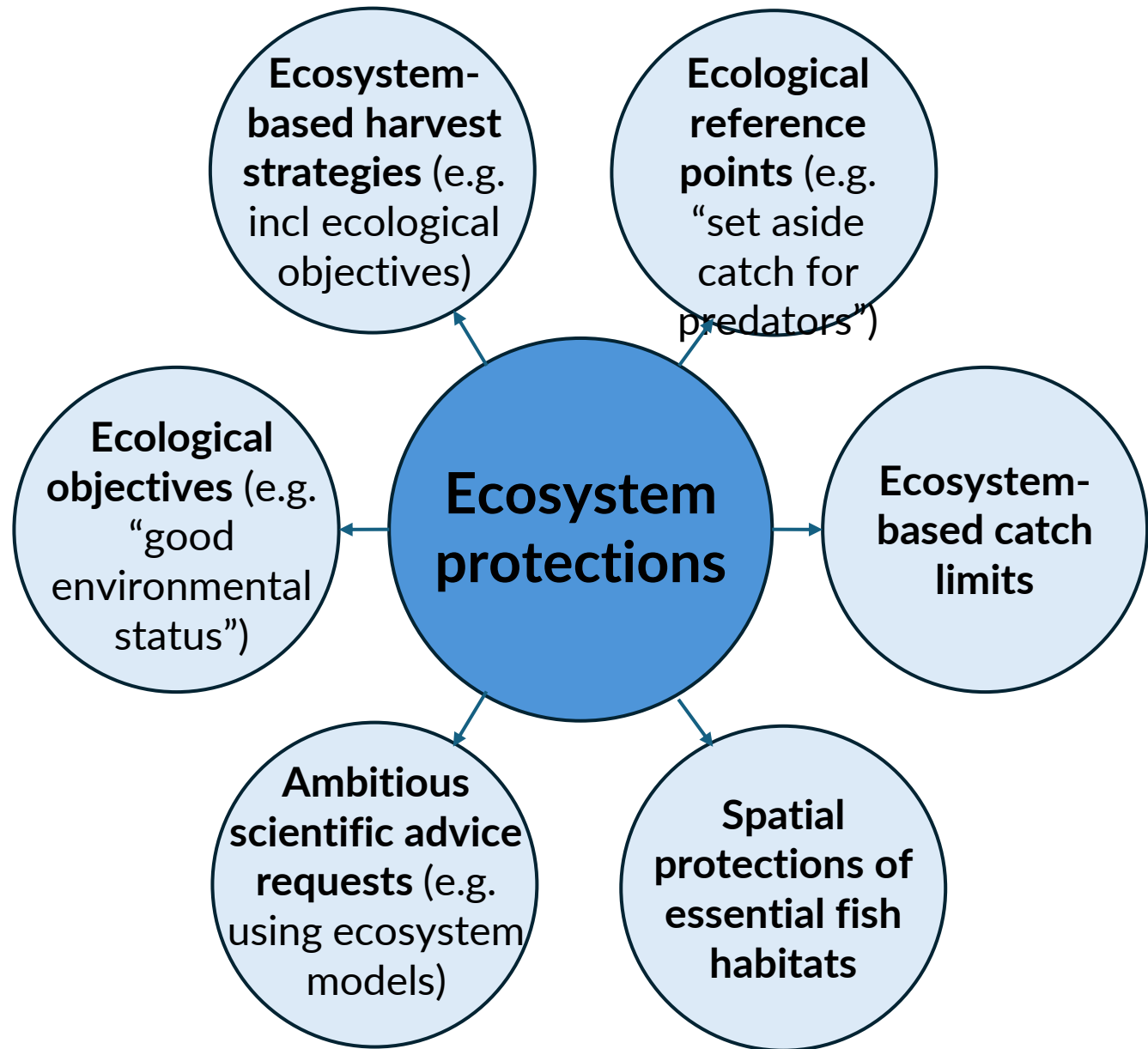
Various definitions exist (incl. FAO, CBD, IUCN etc.), but generally understood to address:

- Incorporating **ecosystem considerations** in fisheries management
- Safeguarding **ecosystem functioning** especially as concerns small pelagic/forage fish
- Moving **beyond single species yield maximisation**, including assessing trade-offs
- **Being adaptive** in order to tackle risks (e.g. climate change)



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## What EBFM measures/ecosystem protections is Pew calling for?



# NEAFC/Coastal States

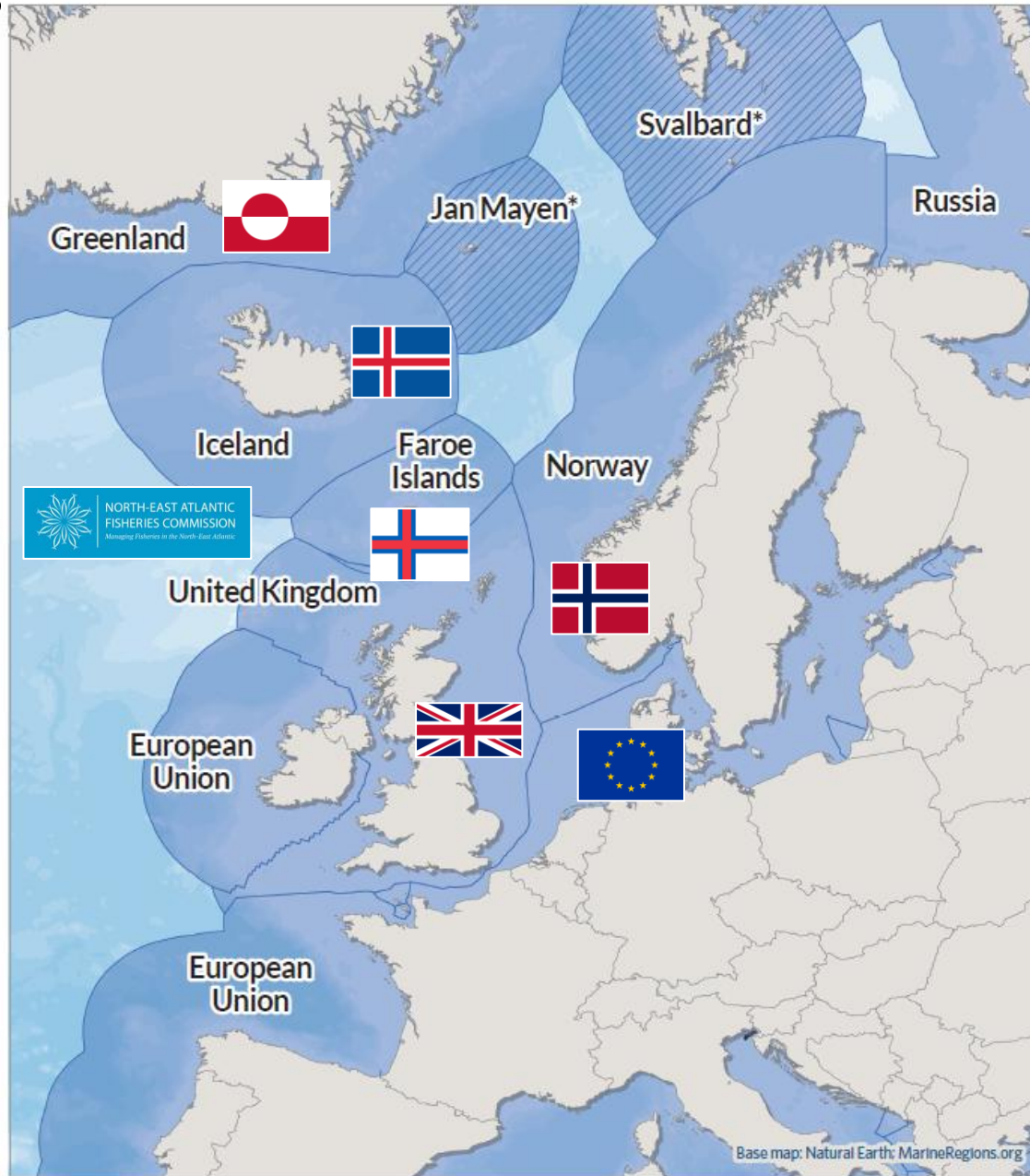
Blue whiting  
5.9 MMT  
(SSB)



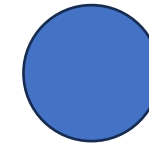
Herring\*  
2.9 MMT



Mackerel  
2.7 MMT



# EU/UK/Norway



North Sea forage  
fish complex  
1.8 MMT

Herring\*\*



Sandeel



Sprat



Norway pout



## OSPAR

(marine environment treaty\*\*\*)

Good environmental status for:

Food webs



Seabirds

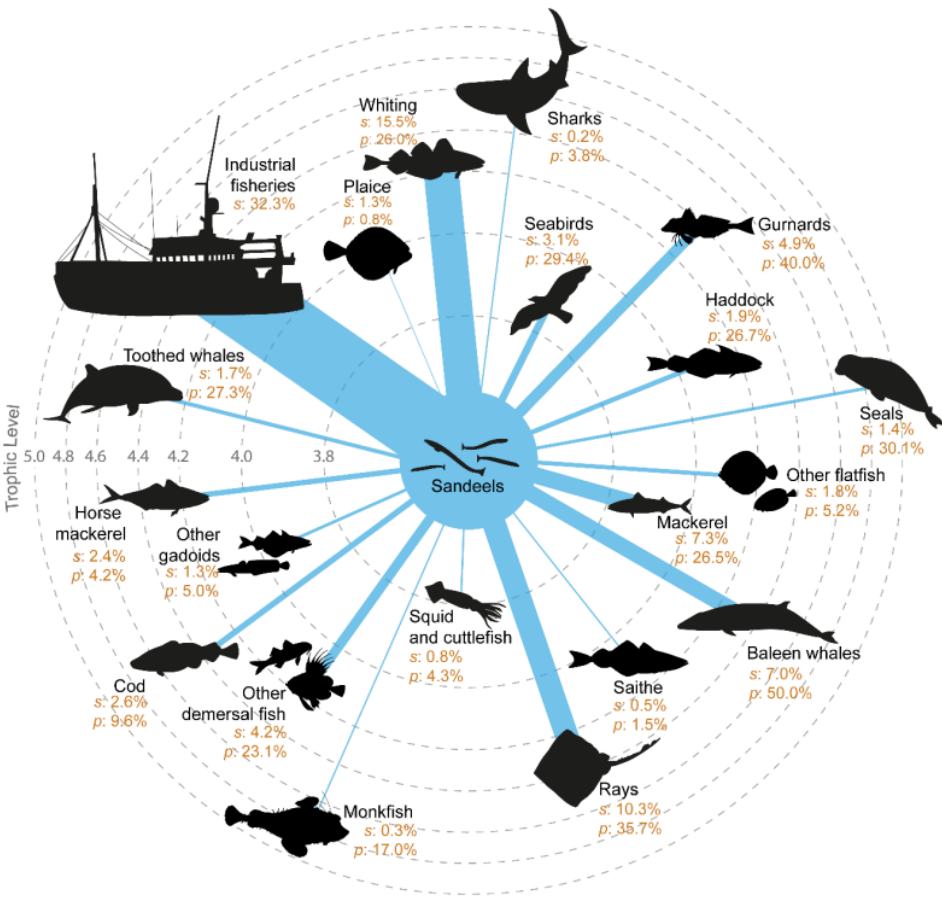


Fish communities

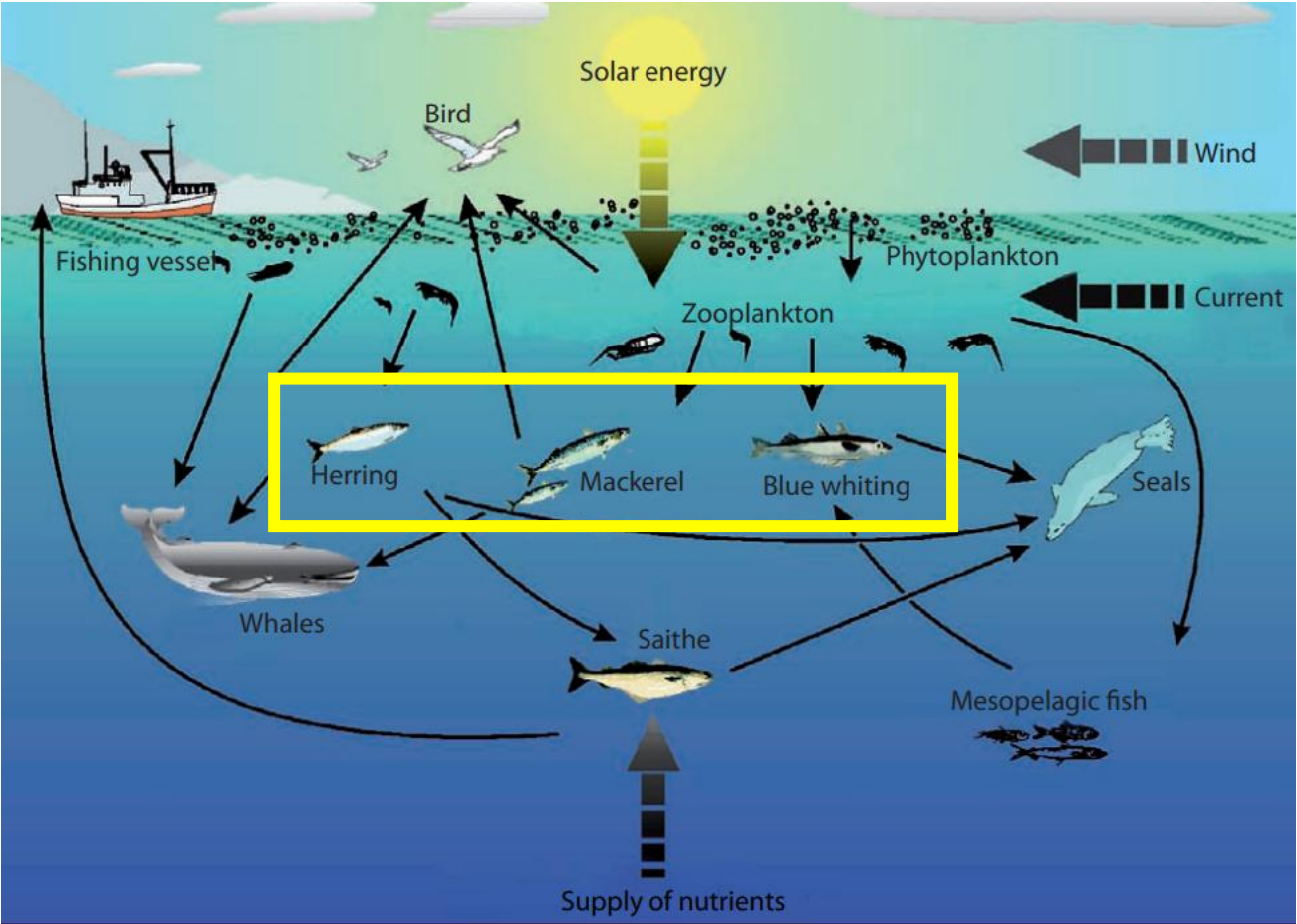


\*Norwegian spring-spawning \*\*North Sea autumn-spawning \*\*\*All NEAFC parties except Russia

# Sandeel and North Sea food web



# Norwegian Sea/lower Arctic food web





## Key actions in support of EBFM implementation

**Publishing decision support tools**  
Developed series of “issue briefs”  
explaining EBFM tools

**Participating in scientific advice processes**  
Have commissioned reference point study  
and contributed to multiple ICES WG/ADG

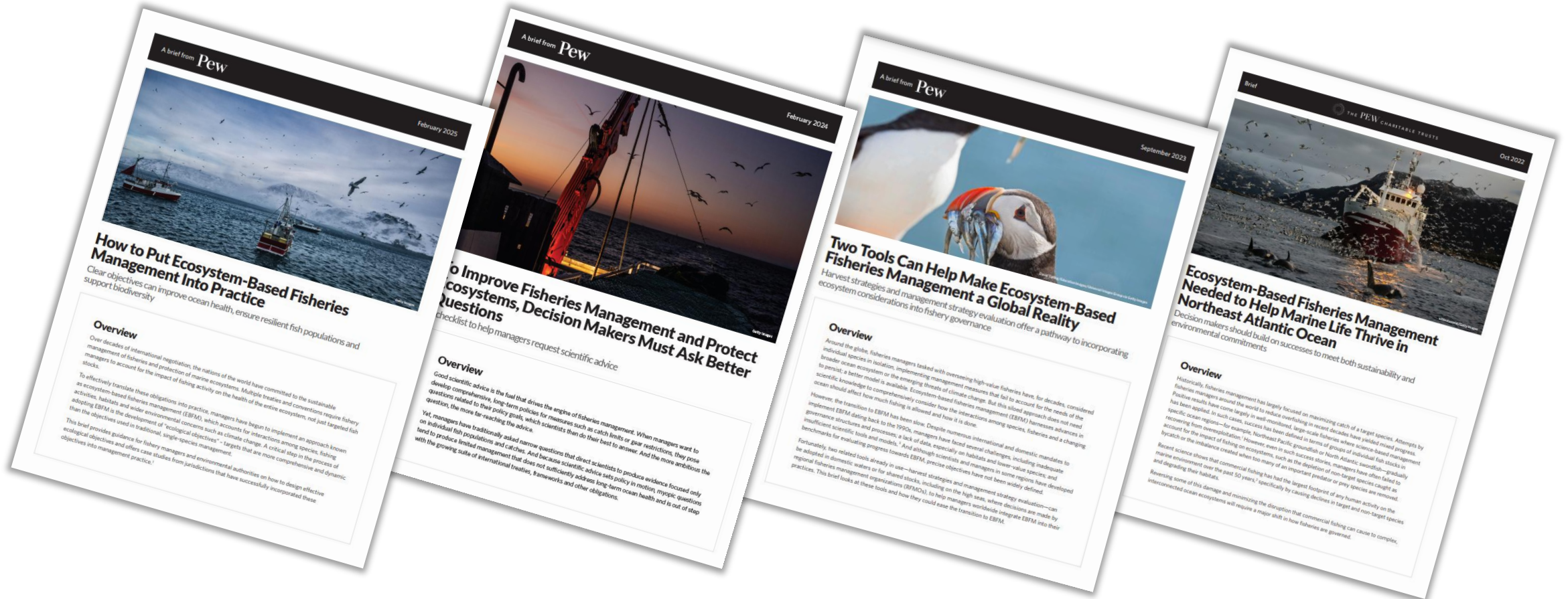
**Sharing targeted advocacy at key moments**  
Stock/process-focussed recommendations  
sent to all parties in advance of  
negotiations

**Increasing management transparency**  
Pushed for observer access to committees,  
WGs, advice fora, compliance fora etc.

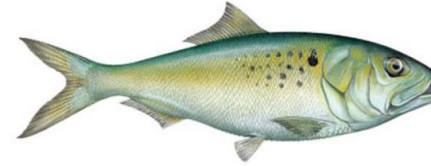
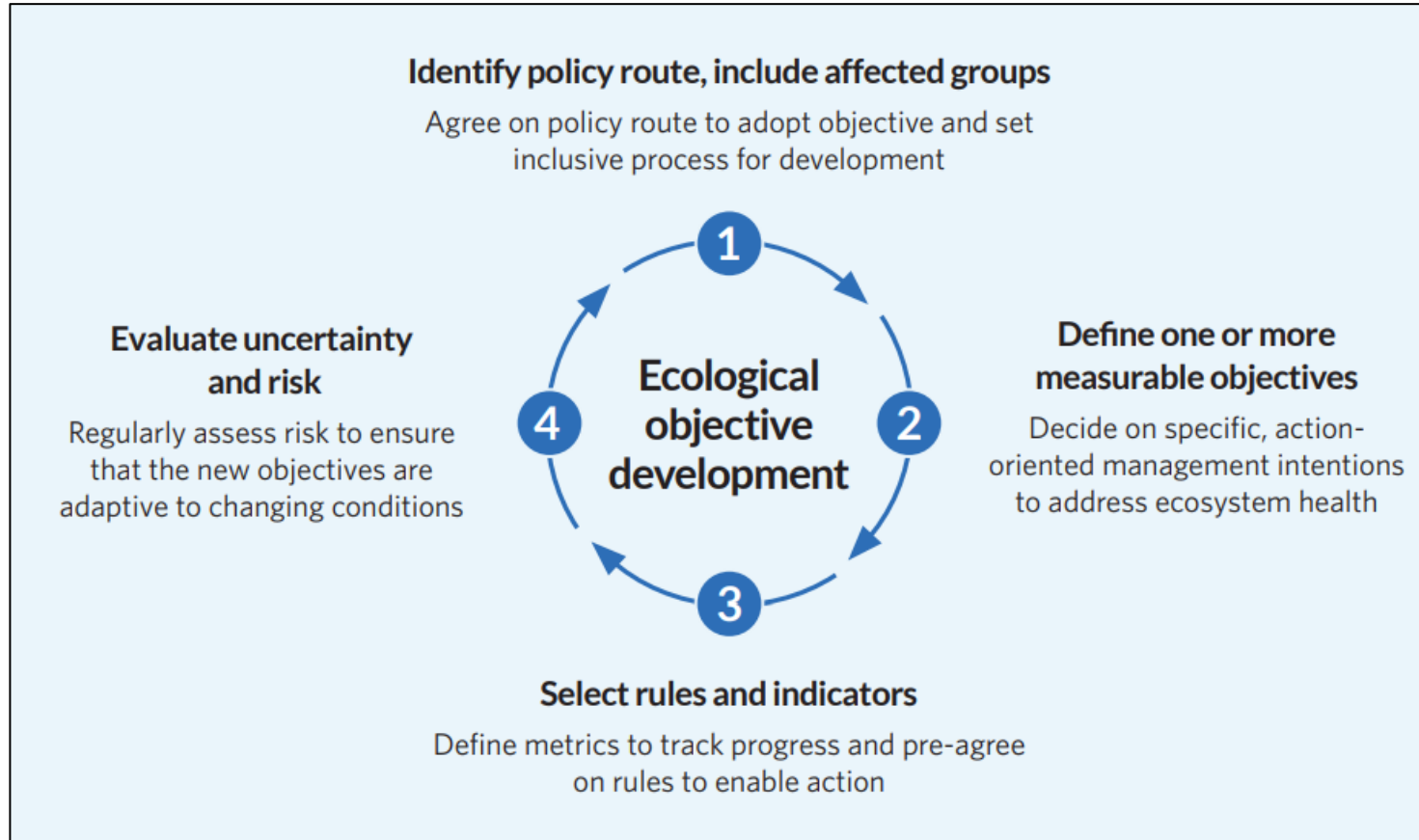
**Building trust with managers**  
Liaising in advance of negotiations with  
fisheries & environmental managers

**Convening stakeholders**  
EBFM focussed events in UK and Iceland;  
NEAFC side event in 2024

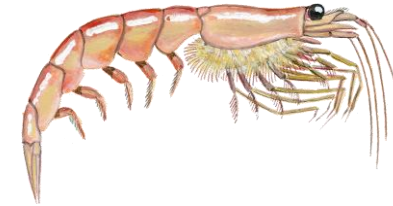
# An EBFM “toolkit” for managers



# Ecological objectives: EBFM building blocks



**Menhaden, US:**  
“Maintain...stock at levels which... support predators”



**Krill, Antarctic:**  
“Harvesting shall... [maintain] ecological relationships”



**Tuna/dolphin, Pacific:**  
“Reduce dolphin mortalities...to levels approaching zero”



## Ask better questions: An advice request checklist

### Stage 1. *Preparation*

- ✓ Identify lead forum
- ✓ Document process openly
- ✓ Liaise multilaterally
- ✓ Include stakeholders

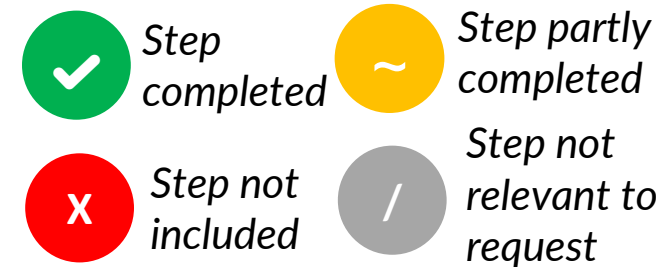
### Stage 2. *Initiation*

- ✓ Identify policy obligations
- ✓ Define focal elements

### Stage 3. *Formulation*

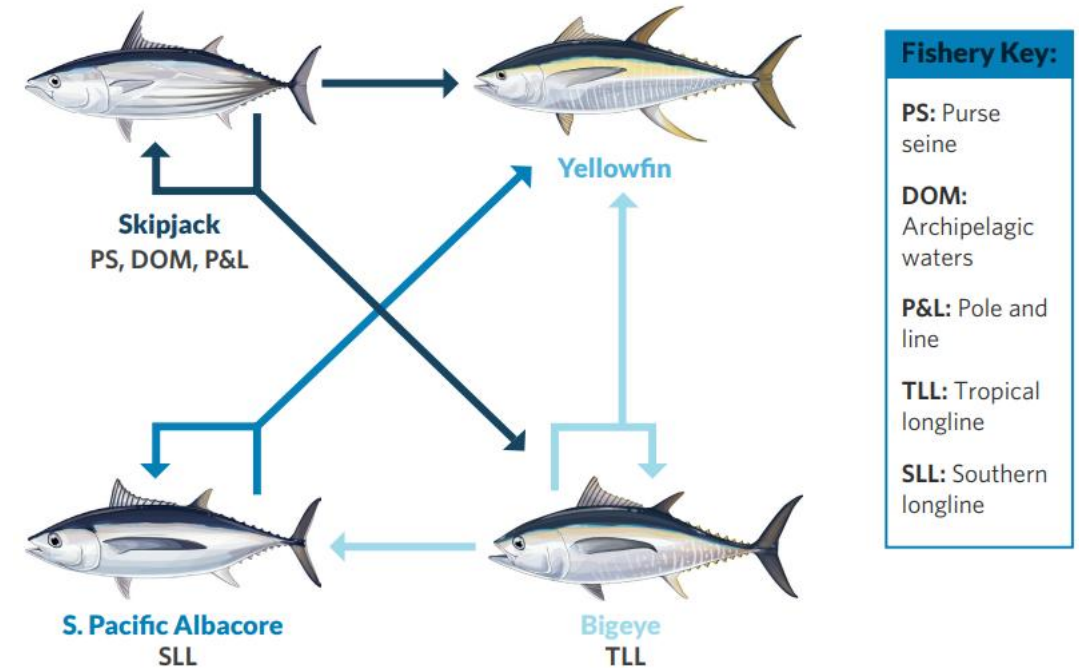
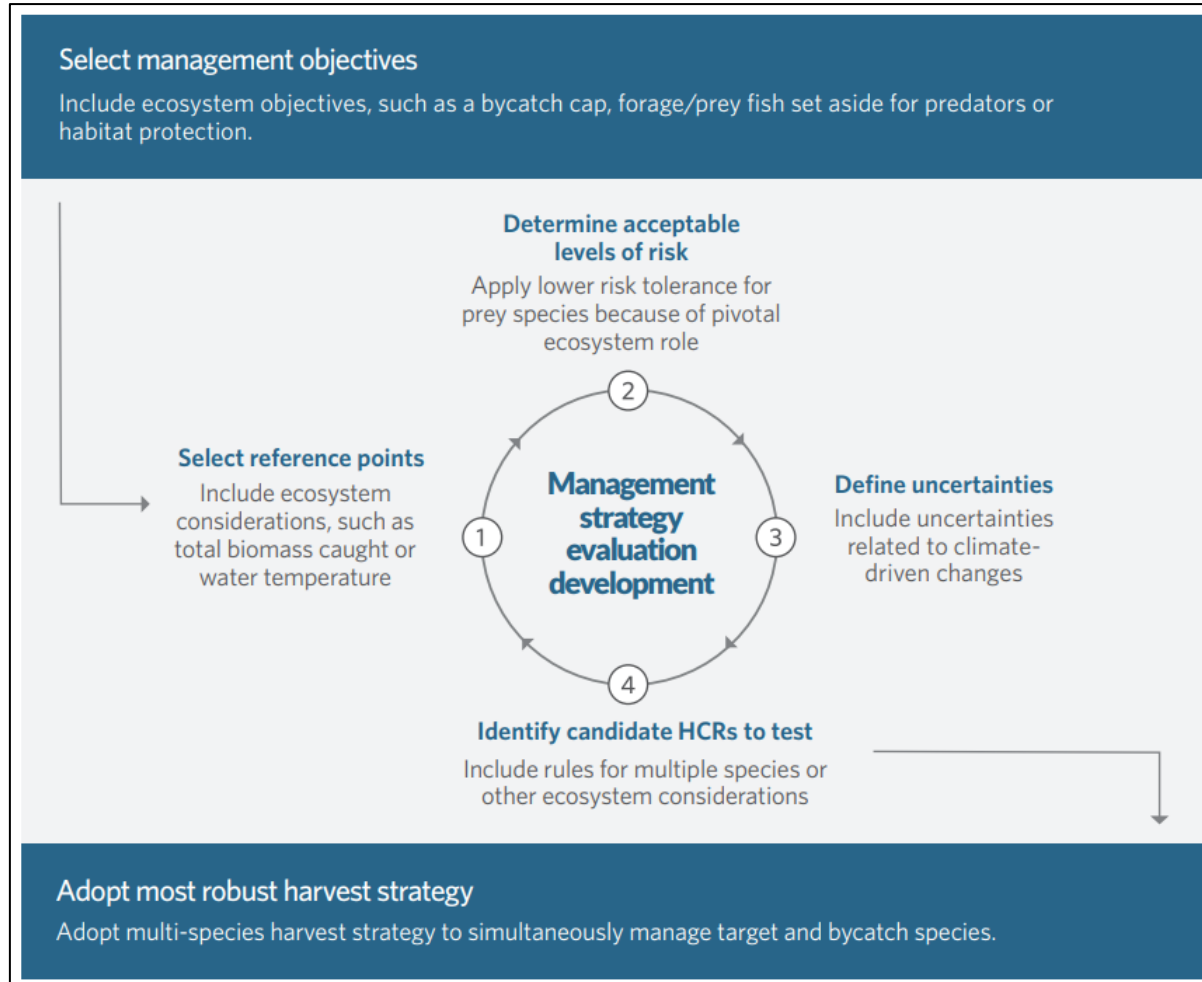
- ✓ Define focal objectives
- ✓ Define indicators/thresholds
- ✓ Design implementation plan

# Ask better questions: An advice request checklist



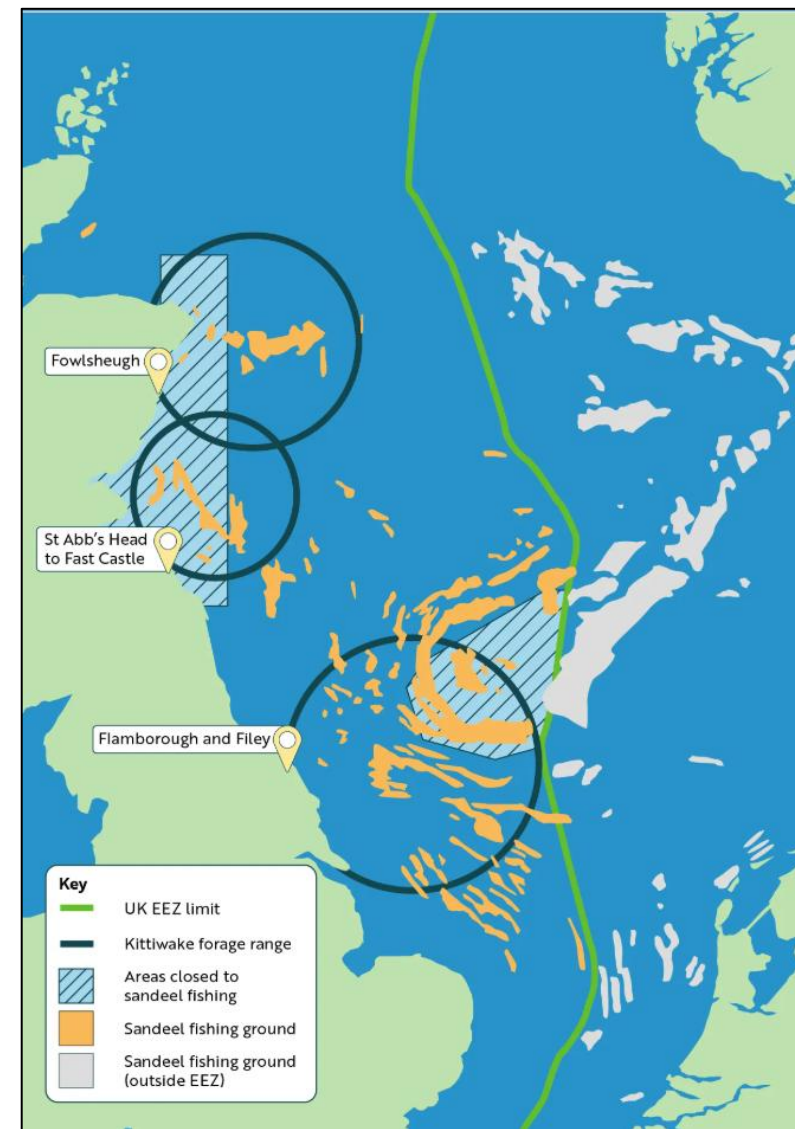
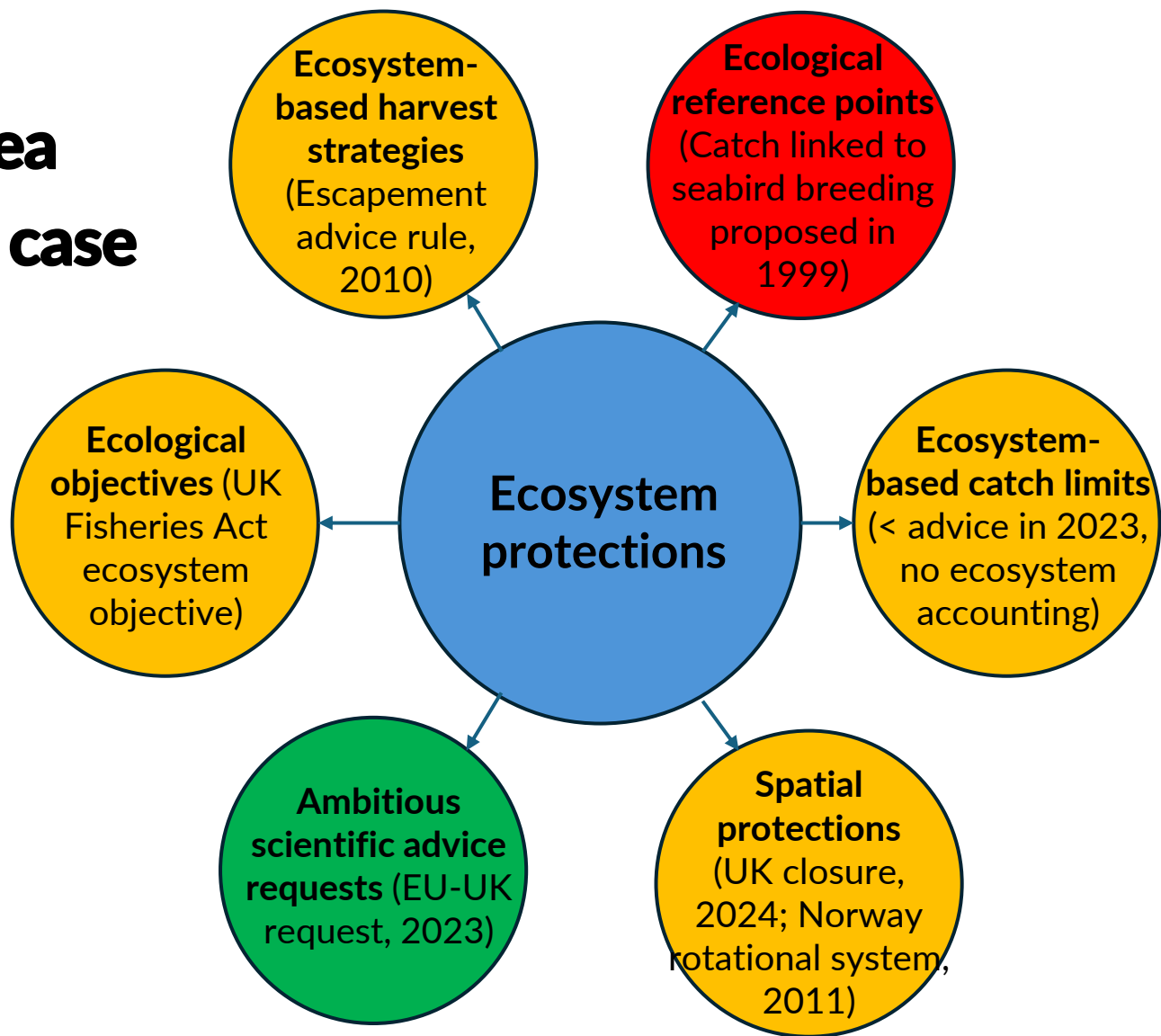
	Checklist stage	Preparation				Initiation		Formulation		
		Lead forum	Open documentation	Multilateral liaison	Stakeholder inclusion	Int/national obligations	Focal elements	Objective setting	Objective measurement	Implementation plan
Request	EU demersal fisheries/habitats	/	✓	/	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	~
	EU-UK-NO NSAS herring LTMS	~	~	✓	✗	✗	~	~	~	~
	NAFO roadmap for EAFM/TCI	✓	✓	✓	~	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Harvest strategies: A vehicle to operationalize EBFM



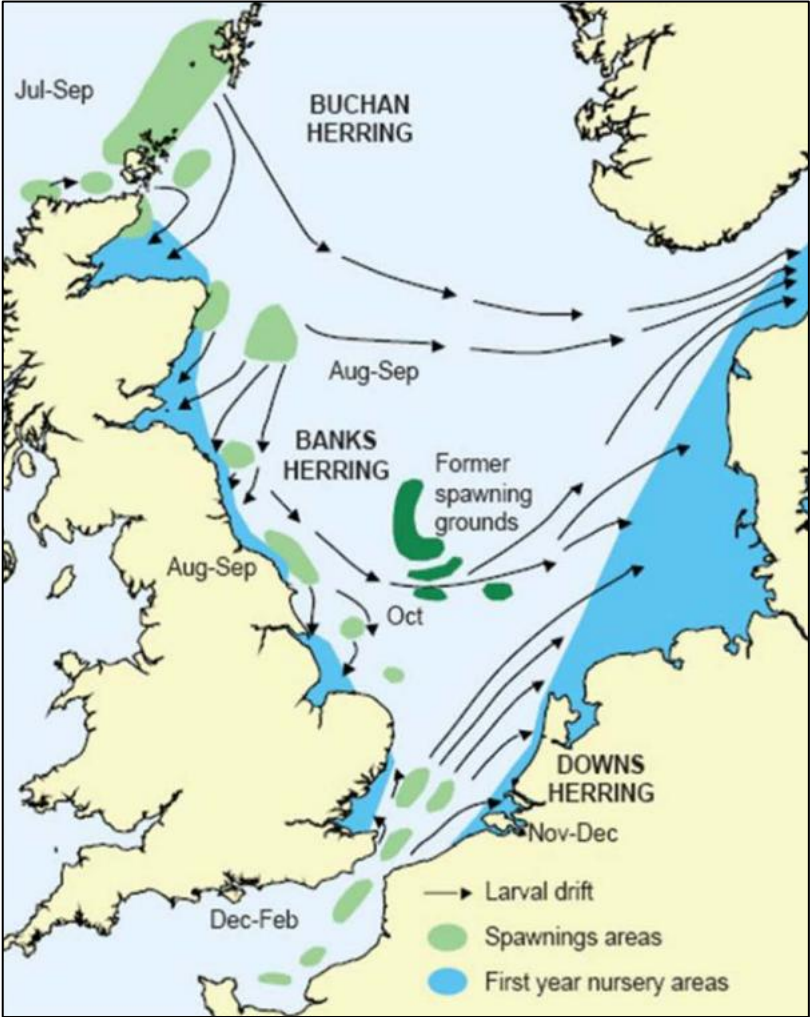
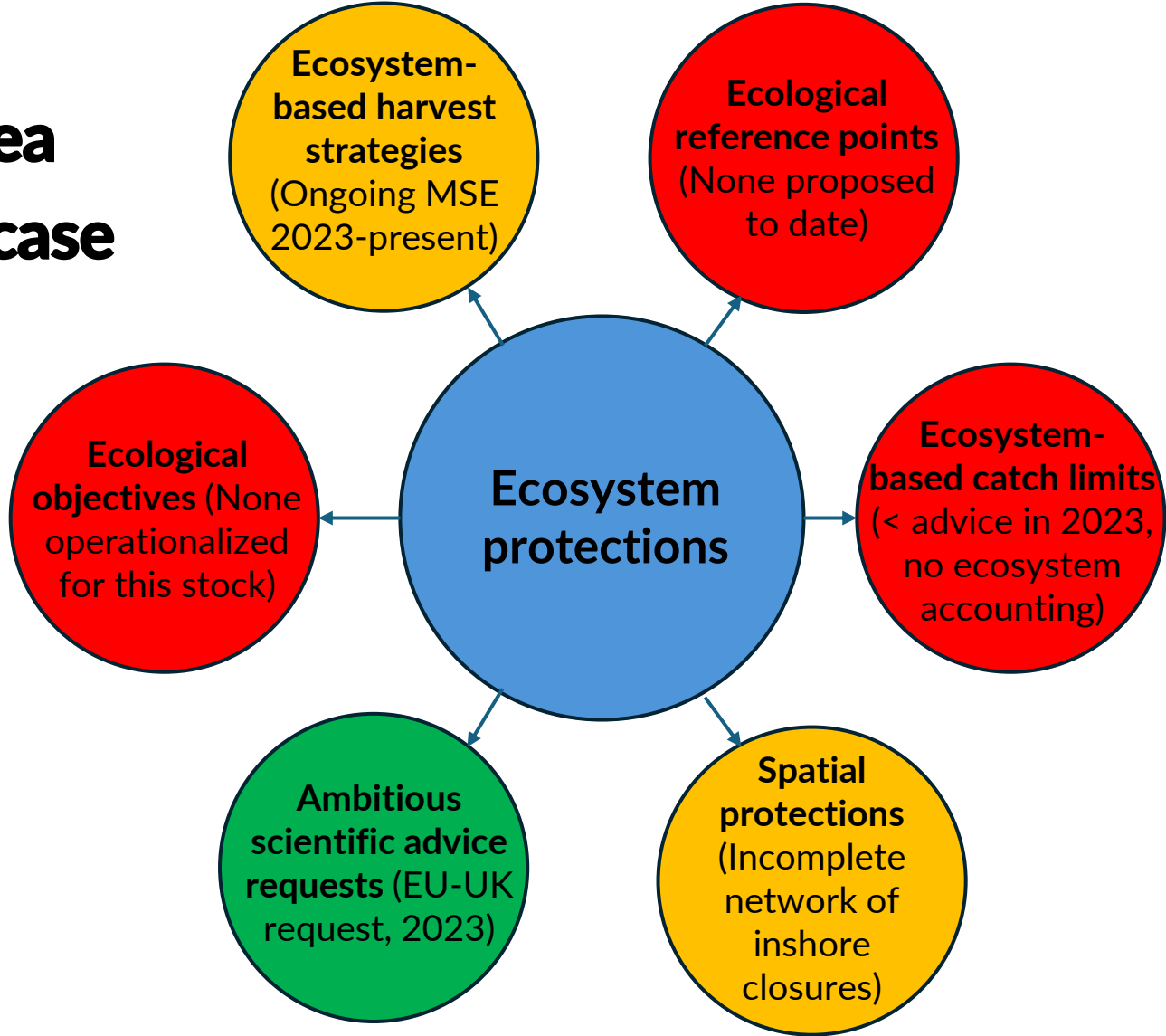
Multi-species MSE in Western Pacific to tackle inter-fishery bycatch issues

# North Sea Sandeel case study








# North Sea herring case study



## Learning from campaign to date

*International scale EBFM means:*

-  1. Managers moving beyond commitments & implementing/adapting existing tools
-  2. Targeted governance reforms to improve enabling environment for EBFM
-  3. Unifying biodiversity conservation and fisheries management obligations