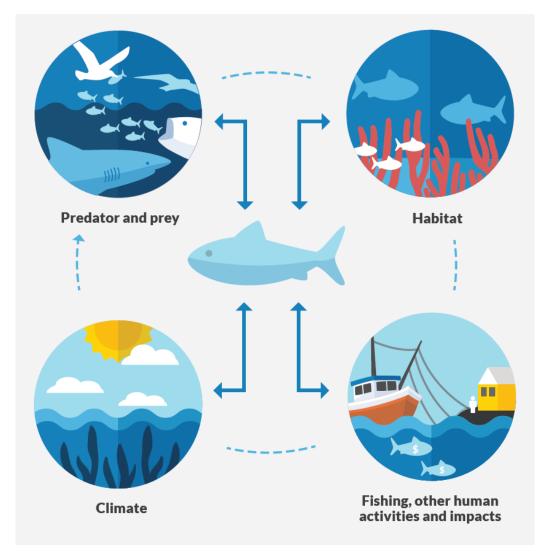
Implementing (International) Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management

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

What is EBFM?

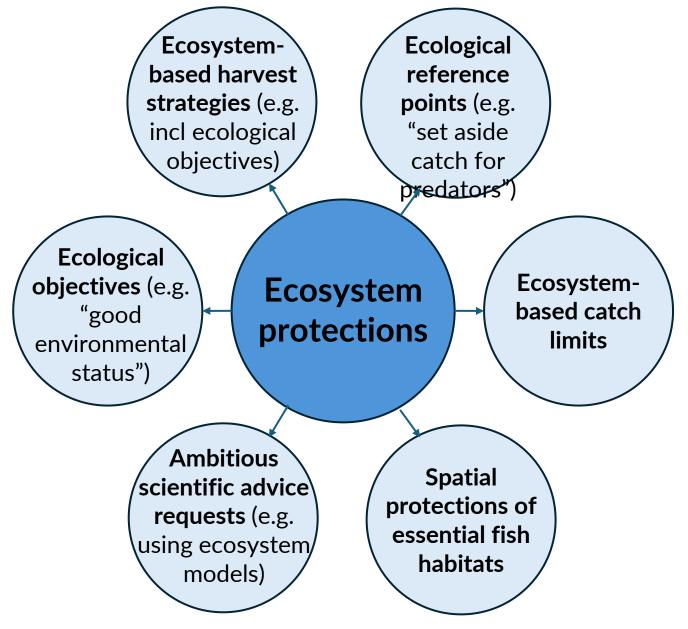
Various definitions exist (incl. FAO, CBD, IUCN etc.), but generally understood to address:

- 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)



© 2023 The Pew Charitable Trusts

What EBFM measures/ecosystem protections is Pew calling for?



NEAFC/Coastal States

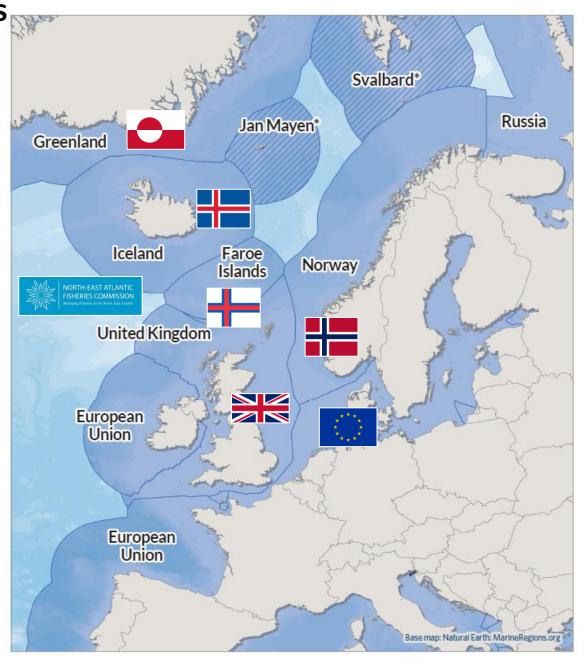
Blue whiting 5.9 MMT (SSB)











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

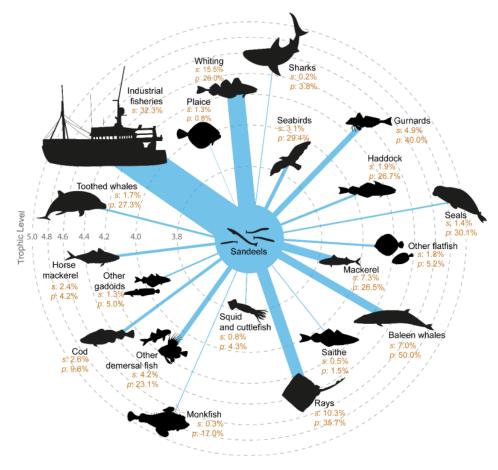


Seabirds

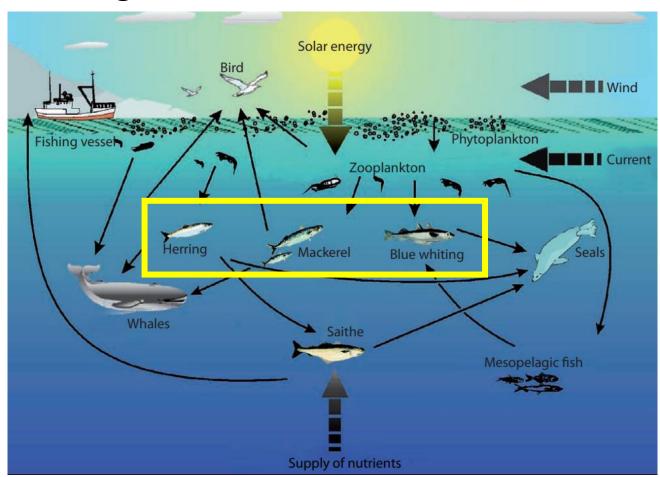




Sandeel and North Sea food web



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

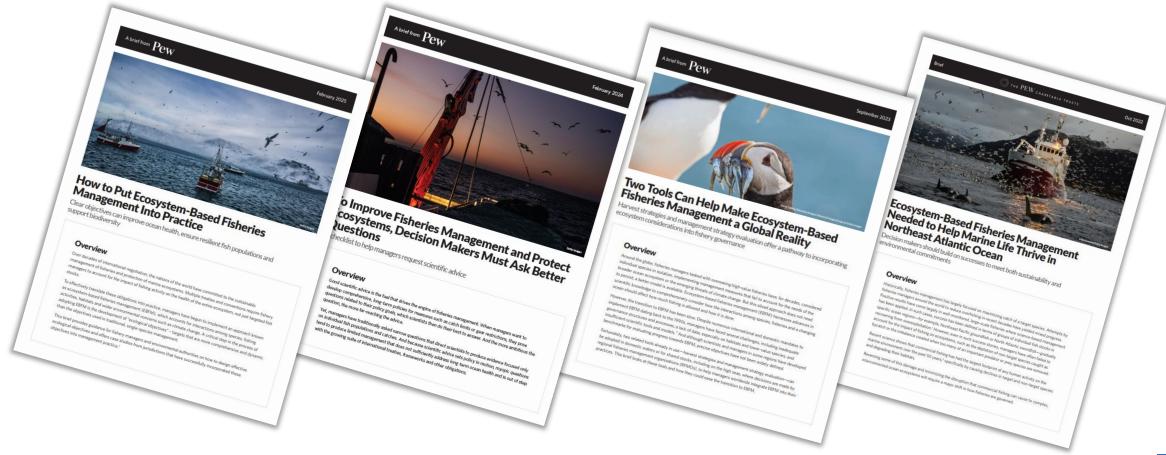
Sharing targeted advocacy at key moments
Stock/process-focussed recommendations
sent to all parties in advance of
negotiations

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

Identify policy route, include affected groups

Agree on policy route to adopt objective and set inclusive process for development

Evaluate uncertainty and risk

Regularly assess risk to ensure that the new objectives are adaptive to changing conditions



Define one or more measurable objectives

Decide on specific, actionoriented management intentions to address ecosystem health

Select rules and indicators

Define metrics to track progress and pre-agree on rules to enable action



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

Stage 2. Initiation

Stage 3. Formulation

Identify lead forum

- ✓ Identify policy obligations
- ✓ Define focal objectives

- Document process openly
- ✓ Define focal elements

✓ Define indicators/thresholds

Liaise multilaterally

Design implementation plan

Include stakeholders





completed
Step not
relevant to

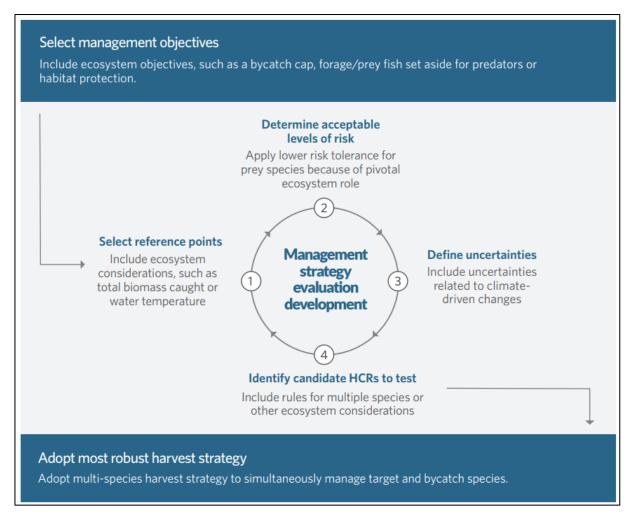
Ask better questions: An advice request checklist

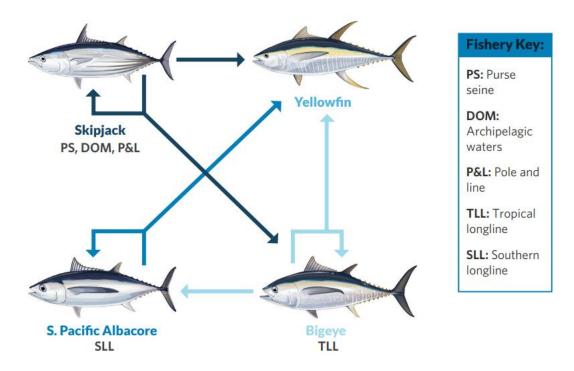




	Checklist stage	Preparation				Initiation		Formulation		
		Lead forum	Open documentation	Multilateral liaison	Stakeholder inclusion	Int/nationa I obligations	Focal element s	Objective setting	Objective measuremen t	Implementatio n plan
Request	EU demersal fisheries/ habitats					?		>		~
	EU-UK- NO NSAS herring LTMS	2	2	>	X	X	2	1	~	~
	NAFO roadmap for EAFM/ TCI	(

Harvest strategies: A vehicle to operationalize EBFM

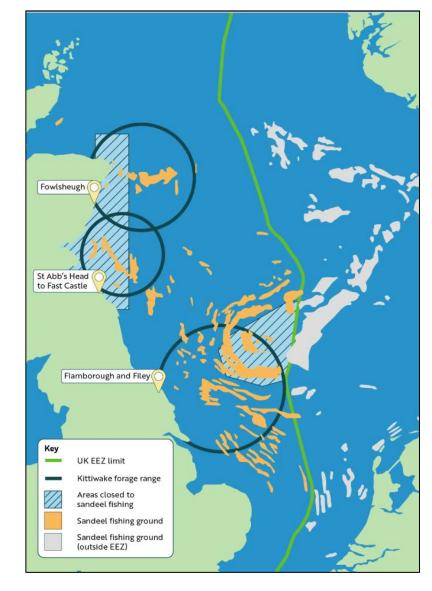




Multi-species MSE in Western Pacific to tackle inter-fishery bycatch issues

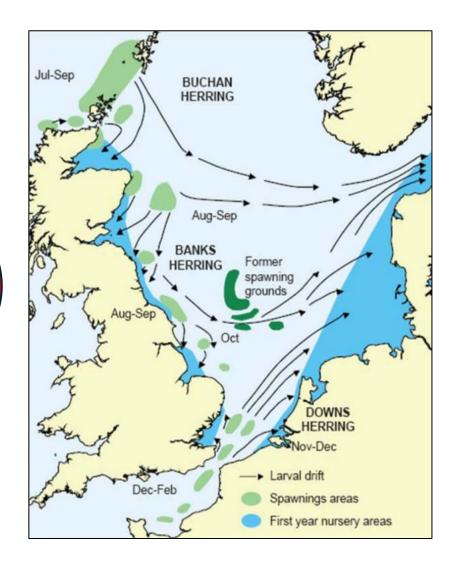
Ecological Ecosystemreference points based harvest **North Sea** (Catch linked to strategies seabird breeding (Escapement Sandeel case proposed in advice rule, 1999) 2010) study **Ecological Ecosystem**objectives (UK based catch limits **Ecosystem** (< advice in 2023, Fisheries Act protections ecosystem no ecosystem objective) accounting) **Spatial Ambitious** protections scientific advice (UK closure, requests (EU-UK 2024; Norway request, 2023) kotational system,

2011)



Ecosystem-Ecological based harvest **North Sea** reference points strategies (None proposed (Ongoing MSE herring case to date) 2023-present) study **Ecosystem-Ecological** based catch limits **Ecosystem** objectives (None (< advice in 2023, operationalized protections no ecosystem for this stock) accounting) **Spatial Ambitious** protections scientific advice (Incomplete requests (EU-UK) network of request, 2023) inshore

closures)



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