

General comments - Design of the applied research projects

- **Stable criteria must be used to elect projects.** Often projects start while forgetting all the former results and findings from past projects.
- **Social sciences must be part of such projects**
- Projects are designed to be further applied with and for stakeholders. So they should be previously **built and designed with these stakeholders.**
- **Complexity is not a guaranty of efficiency and applicability.** It is preferable to make **simple and efficient projects** rather than **complex and inapplicable ones.** Sometimes basic knowledge is missing

Funding - Logic and rationality in time of scarcity of resources

- **Funding availability must be taken into account** in order to condition the ambition and scope of the projects
- **Part of the funding must go to the stakeholder's ground work**
- SWWRAC is strongly supporting the possibility of **co-funding mechanisms from the European Union to enable cross border projects**

Outside the scientific world

- **Effectively applying applied science.** There are numerous applied research projects, but very little is really applied. Judicious **follow up and ex post analysis** are absolutely necessary.
- **Access to data and findings** must be made as wide as possible to all scientific institutes, but also to the general public and policy makers
- **A dissemination, collaborative and participative strategy must be part of the plan.** Scientific cooperation is fostered all along the document, but little is said how to bridge the gap with stakeholders, policy-makers and institutions
- **Science and research** are a core component of the EU Atlantic Strategy.
 - ✓ Governance and policy should have similar relevance. Stakeholders and the Civil Society must also be considered.
 - ✓ SWWRAC would encourage **stronger collaboration between member states on the application of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive** and further involvement of the stakeholders.

Suggestions regarding Marine leisure and marine bio-resources

- Recreational fisheries

- ✓ Assessment of the **economic value** and **environmental impact** of recreational fishing activities on the Atlantic bow.

- Marine bio-resources

- ✓ **Ecosystem approach** to fisheries (in accordance with FAO) should also encompass socio-economic and governance aspects, and not only ecological components.
- ✓ **Maximum economic yield** and **maximum social yield** must be part of the research
- ✓ To develop **long term management plans for mixed-fisheries** including **social and economic objectives** (MSY as one of the goals to be achieved adequately)
- ✓ **Ecological footprint of the different kinds of aquaculture** must be objectively assessed. (impact on the environment of fish meal), taking into account the trophic yield compared to the one estimated in the wild environment (prey to predator)
- ✓ **Labelling**, likely not a priority for research. Ground to guidelines at the EU level.