

## **Meeting of the NS AC – MareFrame group**

11<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 13- 13.00, Park Hotel, The Hague

**Present NS AC: Emiel Brouckart, Ned Clark, Lorna Duguid, Heather Hamilton and Henrike Semmler, Wouter van Broekhoven and Jurgen Batsleer.**

**Present MareFrame: Marta Ballesteros, Mika Rahikainen, John G. Pope and Troels J. Hegland**

### **Timetable:**

13:00-13.30 Welcome & brief introduction of participants, brief recap on MareFrame, and clarification of objectives of the meeting (Marta Ballesteros)

13.30-14.00 The North Sea case study (John Pope)

14.00-16.30 Multi-Criteria Analysis and Decision Support Tool (Mika Rahikainen)

16.30-17.00 Next steps, timetable, and AOB (John Pope, Mika Rahikainen, and Troels Hegland)

### **Introduction (Marta Ballesteros)**

Marta Ballesteros presented in brief the MareFrame project and the process with the NS AC, which is part of the North Sea case study. In short, the MareFrame project is designed to support the shift towards eco-system based management solutions.

### **The North Sea Case Study (John G. Pope)**

John G. Pope presented the work previously carried out in relation to the North Sea case study in particular related to the 'Green' Model which is currently the subject of the DSF for the North Sea. He also mentioned the more preliminary work on the 'Amber Model' (with a spatial component), and the 'Red Model' (which builds upon this and will including socio-economics consideration that might affect regulation grid lock).

### **Multi-Criteria Analysis and Decision Support Tool (Mika Rahikainen)**

Mika Rahikainen presented the idea of the multi-criteria analysis and a decision support in general. A key element in a multi-criteria analysis is agreeing on a goal (for management in the North Sea, in this case), and it was the idea that the discussion should give input to this as well

as how to measure the extent to which different aspects of the goal have been achieved. These attributes will be evaluated against each other making the stakeholder preferences recognizable. Also, it is essential to develop sensible decision alternatives, i.e. a set of realistic and effective management scenarios to reach the stated goal.

In this way, most efforts of the meeting were directed towards the Multi-Criteria Analysis, which was dealt with in two separate tasks:

### **Task 1: Agreeing on a goal**

The meeting was introduced with presentation on a narrative on goals and concerns for the NS fishery, the key management objectives. This is the situation that we are trying to approach by means of a multi-criteria analysis.

Based on discussions with the PEL AC, a draft narrative for the North Sea was presented, which the NS AC was asked to comment on:

*“Management of the North Sea mixed fisheries balances the economic, social, and ecosystem considerations through good governance. The management output is the sustainable and steady livelihood for the industry as a whole, comprising the fleet and the processing industry utilizing the renewable resource. Management allows economic or social optimization while it respects the CFP and MSFD goals as far as these are truly compatible with the additional reality of a multispecies /mixed fishery system. “*

The ENGO representatives highlighted that the draft text did not reflect the CFP goals and that the environment needed to be included. Furthermore, the NGO representatives argued that the text seemed to suggest that CFP and MSFD goals were somehow optional, which is of course not the case.

Marta Ballesteros responded that at least Fmsy is a goal that is complicated to apply to multi-species management.

It was agreed to modify the draft text so that it responded to the concerns of the ENGOs:

*“Management of the North Sea mixed fisheries balances the economic, social, and ecosystem considerations through good governance. The management output is the sustainable and steady livelihood for the industry as a whole, comprising the fleet and the processing industry utilizing the renewable resource. Management allows economic or social optimization while it acknowledges the additional constraints of a multispecies mixed fishery system.”*

It was agreed to present the new version of the goal to the PELAC, as both the NSAC and the PELAC are involved in the same case study. The final output will be presented during the joint meeting in Aberdeen.

## **Task 2: Agree on problem structure for the Multi-Criteria Analysis**

The discussion unfolded from the draft problem structure designed prior to the meeting based on pre-knowledge as well as input from the PEL AC meeting.

The discussion started with some thoughts and reflections on what the output of the decision support framework would be when finalized. This would include considerations about economic and social issues, ecosystem status, and compliance with the Common Fisheries Policy.

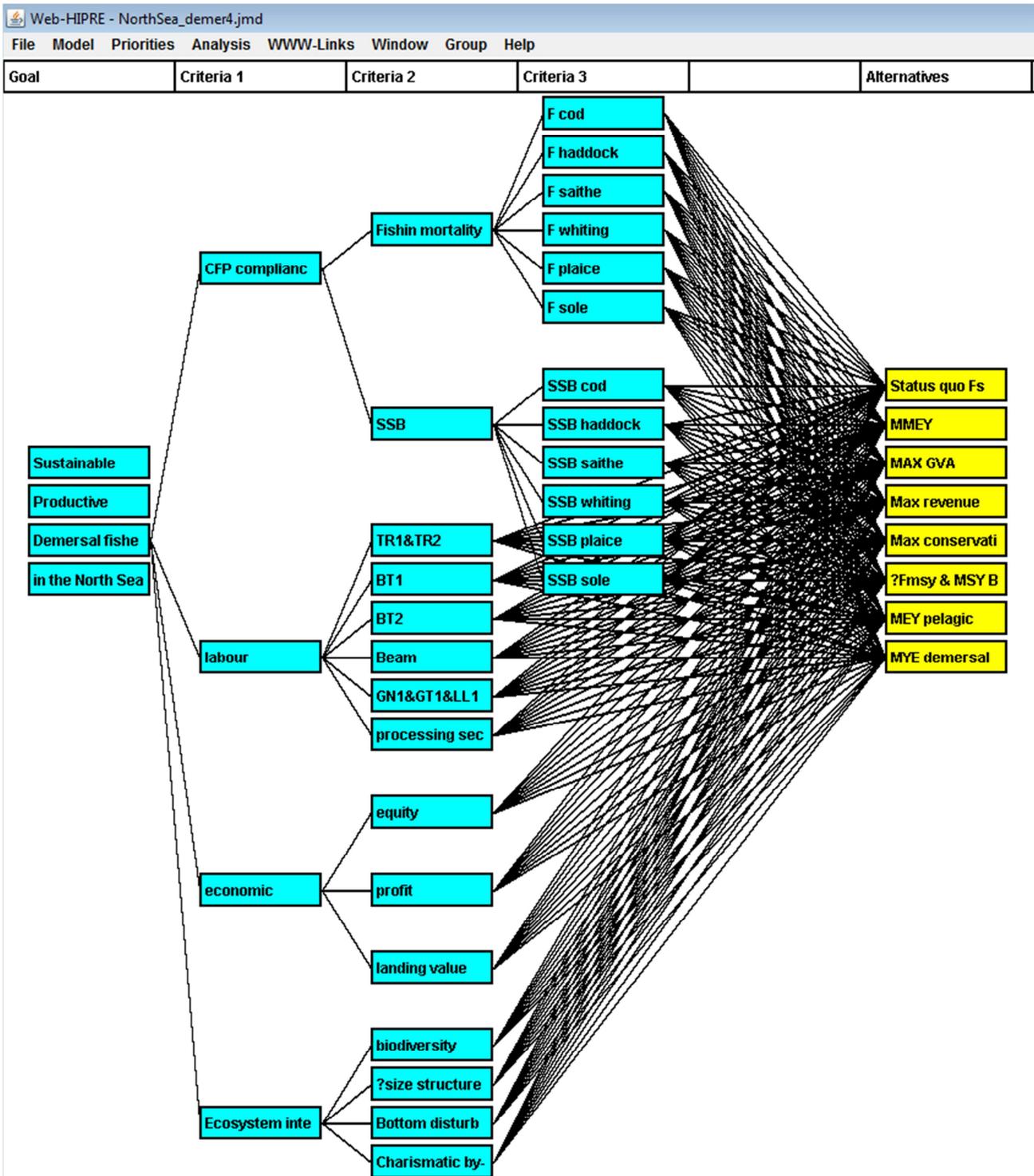
There was a general discussion of how to handle Marine Stewardship Council issues (MSC)(in the structure, as MSC seems not really that important in the demersal fishery – at least not to the same extent as in the pelagic (relevance directly connected to both species and customers).

In the problem structure, biodiversity was included. As the underlying model(s) have difficulties handling this (biodiversity is weakly linked to fishing mortality, it was considered to drop this element. However, John G. Pope would consider if it was possible to include in one way or the other.

The “portfolio stability” has been included as a criteria by the PELAC. Questioned about the relevance for demersal fisheries it was pointed out as less significant: *“fishermen tend to catch what is in the fisheries not what comes out of a graph”*.

It was agreed that after exploring the feasibility of using some criteria, a rationale will be included for all the criteria that are finally removed from the value tree.

Revised value tree (not final yet, work in progress!):



It was suggested to use fish price, fuel and labour cost better than profit as a criterion, and it was discussed if it was possible necessary to have labour by sector, fleet etc., as the distribution of possible loss of jobs might be an important issue between different segments or even countries. In

the same line of thought, it was discussed if there should be a box on 'equity' by including knowledge on who bears the costs – possibly profit on different scale levels: nations, fleets etc.

The challenge of including country, fleet segment, or stock is the fact the value tree would grow very large. It would be tedious to weight all the criteria, possibly depleting the time allocated for the task at the meeting, but the results also would be cumbersome and time consuming to communicate. The structure is quite complex already.

As concerns disaggregation of profits for the cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice, and sole, the post-meeting conclusion among the MareFrame team was to combine them all. Having the stocks as sub-criteria of profit would be meaningful only if stakeholders value the profits differently for the different stocks. In other words, the stocks can be omitted if the stakeholders agree money has the same value irrespective of the fishery where it has been earned. This implies it is assumed these stocks are fished as a portfolio.

To limit the number of fleet segments in the problem structure, it was discussed if some divisions could be collapsed. A possibility was to possibly combine LL1, GN1 and GT1. This should be further investigated. In general it was discussed how much it was useful dividing maybe all the way down to métiers, as it is also an objective in itself to keep the problem structure manageable, as weights have to be discussed and agreed on at a later stage.

John Pope clarified that selectivity is external to the model and cannot be included.

At the end of the discussion the link between MareFrame and the North Sea mixed-fishery management plan was debated. MareFrame is intended to support the work towards a management plan, and it was stressed that the MareFrame work could support the NSAC work on the Commission's plan for multi-species management in the North Sea. It was agreed that the Commission's proposal could be used as a test case to run through the model; stakeholders need to see the numbers, otherwise it is difficult to get the full picture and identify how best to use MareFrame input for their goals.

### **Next steps, timetable, and AOB (John Pope, Mika Rahikainen, and Troels Hegland)**

**The next NS AC – MareFrame meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the PEL AC on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in Aberdeen from 15.30 to 18.30 in Aberdeen (Cruden Suite at Hilton Doubletree Hotel).**

The meeting in Aberdeen will be concluded with a joint dinner, including participants from the PELAC, the NSAC and MareFrame.

**A joint technical meeting with representatives of the JRC, STEFC, ICES, RACs, DG-MARE and DG-ENVIRONMENT is scheduled to take place at the ICES HQ in Copenhagen on 4th October 2016. The**

objective of the meeting is to provide and analysis of the current fisheries advisory process, demands from the EAF, opportunities for improvement, etc.

It was stressed that is was important to ensure fair representation from the various groups in the NSAC at the meeting – while keeping the overall meeting manageable in size.