An innovative network paving the way for Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management in Europe

SEAwise is an exciting new project working to deliver **a fully operational tool** that will allow fishers, managers, and policy makers to easily apply Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) in their own fisheries. **With your input**, SEAwise will identify and address core challenges facing EBFM, creating tools and advice for **collaborative management aimed at achieving long-term goals** under environmental change and increasing competition for space.

SEAwise will operate through four key stages, drawing upon existing management structures and centered on stakeholder input, to create a comprehensive overview of all fisheries interactions in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean. Working with stakeholders, we will:

1 **Build a network** of experts – from fishers to advisory bodies, decision makers and scientists – to **identify widely-accepted key priorities** and **co-design innovative approaches** to EBFM.

2 **Assemble a new knowledge base**, drawing upon existing knowledge and new insights from stakeholders and science, to create a comprehensive overview of the social, economic, and ecological interactions of fisheries in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean.

3 **Develop predictive model**s, underpinned by the new knowledge base, that allow users to evaluate the potential trade-offs of management decisions, and forecast their long term impacts on the ecosystem.

4 Provide practical, **ready-for-uptake advice** that is resilient to the changing landscapes of environmental change and competition for marine space.

Our work will link the first ecosystem-scale impact assessment of maritime activities with the welfare of the fished stocks these ecosystems support, enabling a full-circle view of ecosystem effects on fishing productivity in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean. Drawing these links will pave the way for a whole-ecosystem management approach that places fisheries at the heart of ecosystem welfare.

The project will focus on four cross-cutting case studies, each centred on the link between social and economic objectives, target stocks and management at regional scale, in addition to:

- Integrated EBFM advice on fisheries in the **North Sea**, and their influence on sensitive species and habitats in the context of ocean warming and offshore renewable energy

- The key priorities for integrating changes in productivity, spatial distribution, and fishers' decision-making in the **Baltic Sea** to create effective EBFM prediction models

- The effects of environmental change on recruitment, fish growth, maturity and production in the **Western Waters**

- The impacts of management measures and climate change on fisheries, fish and shellfish stocks living close to the bottom, wildlife bycatch, fisheries-related litter and conflicts in the use of marine space in the **Mediterranean Sea**

That's where you come in.

We need the input of **on-the-ground experts** to help us shape priorities and build an understanding of the management decisions and trade-offs at play in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean. By involving the end-users of our advice from day one, we can make sure that our outputs are **relevant, useful and intuitive to use**.

Ahead of the official start of the project in October 2021, we would like to involve as many local experts as possible, giving them the opportunity to share their knowledge and become an active participant in the SEAwise project. **'Expert advice user representatives' will hold a key advisory role**, attending workshops, partaking in research, online workshops and stakeholder interviews, and providing counsel on key priorities and the eventual format of advice.

For more information about how you can become involved with SEAwise, please contact Elliot John Brown at **elbr@aqua.dtu.dk**