

The central Government's actions for sustainable fisheries

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Audit scope

- Performance audit on the action taken by the Swedish
 - Government
 - Board of Fisheries
 - Coast Guard
 - Main period covered: 2002-2007
 - Actions covered:
 - Conservation measures
 - Structural measures
 - Control system
- = Entire Swedish saltwater fisheries policy

Audit criteria

Intentions of the EU and the Swedish Parliament

- Economically, socially and environmentally long-term sustainable development
- Precautionary approach



- Ensure the viability of the fisheries sector
- Promote employment in small-scale coastal fisheries
- Stop overfishing that threatens fish stocks

Methodology

- Legal analysis
 - Extent of national discretion within the CFP
 - Sweden's use of its national discretion
 - Quality assurance by a leading expert in EU law
- Analysis of economic data
 - Costs for and effects of different structural measures
 - Value added and net profit relative to direct and indirect support
 - Quality assurance by external economic experts
- Analysis of the control system
 - Mapping of shortcomings and gaps

Main findings

- Unclear prioritisation of objectives and policy instruments
- Material shortcomings in analysis and reporting
- More effective use can be made of national discretion
- Financial support counteracts achievement of objectives
- Shortcomings in the implementation of fisheries control

Recommendations

- Lay down clear priorities in relation to the objectives
- Use the policy instruments in a co-ordinated and cost-effective way to bring about fleet reductions
- Consider if the tax exemption can be reduced or abolished
- Enable a clear overview of the (un-) balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities
- Analyse the costs and impacts of different policy instruments
- Ensure that national discretion is effectively exploited
- Address weak links in the control system

Challenges / lessons learned

- Challenges
 - Lack of "official" reliable data for the economic analysis
 - Looking through the argument that "everything is decided by the EU"
- Lessons learned
 - Focus on the economic analysis if you have to choose one audit area
 - Try to relate the outcome of policy instruments by cases in point
 - Mixed competence in the audit team was very valuable

Impact

- Large media coverage
- Quoting of the audit in parliamentary committee report on exemption of taxes
- The Agency for Marine and Water Management has in a strategic document for 2020 suggested that the tax exemption should be abolished
- Some improvements have been made to the control system

SNAO's experiences - summary

Audit scope, criteria and questions

- Broad scope – “three audits in one” – was necessary
- EU's / Parliament's intentions/objectives
- Audit questions: Focus on effectiveness

Methodology / data

- Lack of official data – try to find data via other channels
- Contradictory objectives – is there a prioritisation?
- No analysis of national discretion – SNAO had to analyse it

Recommendations

- Directed to the Government and the Board of Fisheries in different layers
- The recommendation of considering whether the tax exemption should be reduced/abolished was the most controversial one

Impact

- Large media coverage
- Good way to use cases in point to show that policy instruments are counteracting each other

Thank you for your attention!

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