

Interview guide SAFMAMS WP3

Main Topic: RACs and scientific advice

[Introduce the SAFMAMS project, explain what the interviews will be used for, and ask if it is OK to tape the interview]

I Background

I.A. Could you please tell me a little about your professional background and how you ended up in the position you have now? *[Follow-up if background related to understanding science is not clear]*

II The advice required.

II.A. What are three specific situations in the last 6 months where you have used scientific advice in connection with your RAC related work? *[Get list]*

II.B. *For each situation repeat the following question guidelines:*

II.B.1. What was the specific question to be addressed? In what ways was the scientific advice useful? In what ways was it not useful? Do you think that this was the right source of information? How was the advice presented? Do you think the way it was presented could be improved?

II.B.2. Lets talk about the sources of this advice. Is this the source you would prefer to use or are there preferable ways to go?

II.C. Can you describe some specific questions faced by the RAC where you felt that you where missing scientific advice/knowledge?

III. Sources of advice

III.A. Trust

Who do you trust to provide do science and provide scientific advice/knowledge to the RACs and why? Who do you not trust to do science and provide scientific advice to the RACs and why?

III.B. In-house science in RACs

Should the RACs have scientists among their staff? Should the RACs have scientific bodies among their membership? How do you believe that the scientific advice that the RACs need should be paid for?

IV. Specific topics about which RACs may need advice

For each of the following topics I would like you to tell me

1. What are the general questions faced by the RAC?
2. What are the needs for advice?
3. What are the sources of advice available now? What has your experience with them been like?
4. What alternative sources of information would you consider?

IV.A. Marine spatial planning / MPAs

IV.B. Recovery plans

IV.C. Social and economic information

IV.D. Long term management issues

V. Issues about RACs in general

Could you please tell me your main concerns about the following topics?

V.A. Representation on the RACS

V.B. The RACs relationship with the Commission

V.C. The general effectiveness of the RACs

VI. Is there any other thing on your mind about how RACs could be improved?