Facing similar issues in monitoring gives the opportunity for collaboration

JMP NS/CS Project outcomes and next steps in 13 bullets

1. Consider joint monitoring as an iterative process and not as a one-time fix. Organise top-down steer
2. Create a living network of scientists, policy makers and stakeholders, involving OSPAR and ICES; establish North Sea and Celtic Sea coordination groups to develop, implement and maintain long term plans for monitoring (incl. data storage, data sharing, analysis and assessment)
3. Go for internationally agreed indicators, compatible data sets, sampling methods and analysis methods, or at least harmonisation; decrease the number of inter-calibrations needed
4. Set up joint sampling designs and use an ecosystem-based division of the area to ensure an efficient joint monitoring programme
5. Estimate the statistical power needed to detect change in given indicators in order to deliver data that are fit for purpose
6. Ecosystem monitoring should not stop at national borders. Embed national sampling into regional scale sampling, and have a complementary sampling design that feeds multiple objectives
7. Incorporate monitoring components when conceptualizing international research projects to establish solid partnerships and a stepping stone for future joint monitoring.
8. Explore new - cost effective and scientific better - monitoring methods
9. Develop a portal for shared monitoring protocols, with inter-calibration exercises periodically
10. Develop mechanisms to share forward planning for monitoring surveys over appropriate time-frame (several years) to facilitate vessel availability and allow time for licence applications for work in other countries
11. Arrange a long term central funding source across North Sea and Celtic Sea countries with incentives to cooperate
12. Ensure financial sustainability when adding additional tasks to existing monitoring platforms
13. Remove legal obstacles to joint monitoring (cross-border sampling and data sharing)

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