

Open session

How do we best incorporate social and economic analyses in management advice?

Conveners: ICES Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension (SIHD) co-chairs, Alan Haynie, Eva-Lotta Sundblad, and Jörn Schmidt

The Open Session was well attended, with over 100 attendees from diverse backgrounds, including members of the ICES Council, the Advisory Committee and Science Committee. As indicated by the name of the session, the goal of the Open Session was to consider the question “How do we best incorporate social and economic analyses in management advice?”

At the start of the session, Jörn Schmidt quickly introduced an interactive tool, “Sli.do”, that allowed participants to ask questions throughout the session and then to answer several questions at the end of the session. This led to an interactive discussion at the end of the session. The organizers will integrate the input from the session into on-going discussions of the Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension (SIHD) Roadmap and the future of the SIHD.

Alan Haynie gave a very brief overview of recent SIHD-related activities, and then provided a description of the United States system of National Standards, which provides one means to define different types of information that should be considered in any fisheries policy analysis. Alan also noted several other new systems, notably the Australian requirement that maximum economic yield (MEY) be calculated. The requirement to calculate MEY has led to better consideration of the economic impacts of different levels of catch.

Discussion in the session raised a number of interesting questions and ideas. Key among these were:

- We need the commitment from countries to support social scientists in ICES groups as, with a few exceptions, there are no social scientists working in national research organizations.
- It is important that we are aware of differences between EU and other member countries in terms of the needs for, and interest in, social and economic advice.
- We should give significant attention to developing methods and simulation tools and to supporting data collection.
- There was strong encouragement to develop an ICES Viewpoint on why we need to take social and economic considerations into account when giving advice. This was recommended by several very experienced members of the audience and there are now SIHD efforts underway to develop a proposal for this viewpoint.