

2011/3/SSGSUE08 **A Symposium on “Making the Most of Fisheries Dependent Data: Science, Management, and Policy-making with the Active Participation of Stakeholders”** will be held during March 2014, at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, with Norman Graham, Ireland; Hendrik Doerner, JRC; FAO Representative (TBN); Management Representative (TBA); William Karp, USA; Fishing Industry (TBN); and Marco Frederiksen, Denmark (EcoFishMan representative) as Conveners.

The symposium will follow up on a number of key findings and conclusions from the first Fishery Dependent Information Conference, held in Galway in August 2010 and include a one-day dedicated session based on the outcomes of the EU FP7 project, EcoFishMan (Ecosystem-based Responsive Fisheries Management in Europe). A scientific steering group will be established to assist in planning the symposium, and will include industry representatives and social scientists,, and managers/policy-makers. The Conveners will solicit co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

The 2014 conference is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders and will focus on topics relating to the collection and use of fishery-dependent data, and provide a forum to review and assess how such data are gathered and utilized. Areas covered will include strategies for sampling commercial catches, data precision and quality from observer and self-sampling programmes, and use of data from new technologies such as VMS and on-board camera systems. The Symposium will also explore the role of the fishers in collecting data, the incorporation of fisher-collected data and knowledge in science, management and policymaking and the broader role of stakeholders in the science and management process. Recent advances in the field of results-based fishery management will be evaluated, as well as experiences and lessons learned from self-regulatory fishery management systems. A dedicated session on results-based management will also be convened that includes thematic sessions on: (a) international experiences with “results-based management”; (b) performance indicators that reflect stakeholder requirements, as well as ecological, economic, social and institutional elements; and (c) new approaches to management evaluation.

DSDy-Improvements in data quality, quantity, and timeliness are required to meet increasing scientific and management information needs, and much greater participation of fishers and other stakeholders is necessary to meet these needs. Technological innovations will also play an essential role in this process. Thematic areas of the conference will include monitoring methods and technologies and approaches for improving data quality in developing countries and data-poor situations.

The Symposium will be designed to bring together scientists, policy-makers, managers, fishers, and other stakeholders and facilitate and encourage dialogue among these groups. The importance of documenting lessons learned and comparing and contrasting relevant policy challenges and solutions will be emphasized.

Supporting Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Priority: | Catch data obtained from commercial fishing operations provide the cornerstone of much of the ICES advisory work in terms of advising on fishing opportunities for the main ICES clients. Increasingly, other sources of fishery dependent data such as VMS are being used to understand the interaction between commercial fisheries and the wider marine ecosystem. ICES also recognizes that central to improving the quality of its advice is the incorporation of the wealth of fishers' knowledge into scientific, advisory and management processes. Fishers can also provide essential insights into the utility and application of the data collected during commercial fishing operations and how best to manage fisheries. On this basis, the priority of this symposium is high from an ICES and wider stakeholder perspective. |
| Scientific justification: | Ecosystem and economic data that can be obtained from commercial fishing operations are far more extensive than the information available from fishery-independent sources. However, in most jurisdictions, fishers are generally only considered as data providers; as such, they often feel disconnected from the subsequent scientific, management, and policy setting processes. Clearly, closer co-operation between fishers, managers and scientists is warranted, and vital in understanding of how fishery dependent information can be used to collaboratively best manage marine ecosystems.. |
| Resource requirements: | The symposium will be funded through sponsorship and conference fees and partly by the EU FP7 project EcoFishMan. |
| Participants: | The 2010 symposium attracted 230 participants from 30 developed and developing countries, including scientists, commercial fishers, fishery managers and policy- makers. It is expected that the 2014 symposium would attract a similar number of participant and interests given the scope and objective of the symposium and the collaboration with the EU project EcoFishMan. |
| Secretariat facilities: | None required |
| Financial: | ICES is requested to provide €10,000 to fund a book of abstracts, travel and subsistence for keynote speakers and promote industry participation. Joint sponsorship is also being sought from other bodies such as JRC, NOAA and FAO. |
| Linkages to advisory committees: | During the benchmark process, industry participation is encouraged by ICES, this symposium aims to foster and develop common understanding of the data needs and data limitations associated with the fishery science and advisory process |
| Linkages to other committees or groups: | SCICOM, ACOM, Advisory Expert Groups. |
| Linkages to other organizations: | FAO, DG MARE, JRC, Commercial Fishing Industry, Regional Management Organizations |

Publication of
proceedings

The conveners request allocation of a special edition of IJMS for publication of the proceedings, it is anticipated that this will amount to approximately 200 pages. A guest editor will be appointed at least ten months prior to the symposium, preliminary discussions are being held with Dr David MacLennan, guest editor for the previous FDI symposium; former associate editor of the journal, Fisheries Research; guest editor Acoustics in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (IJMS 60: 2003); guest editor, The Ecosystem Approach with Fisheries Acoustics and Complementary Technologies (IJMS, 66: 2008).

Keynote speakers will be expected to contribute review papers that will summarize the state of the art and provide a vision of future science and management directions associated with the main themes. It is envisaged that this will include seminal papers outlining the successes, challenges and requirements to change trajectory away from currently unfavourable social-economic regimes by exploring the moves required by the scientific, policy and industry communities to promote such improvements. This will include reviews of the integration of fishers' knowledge to move from the current status quo where fishers are viewed primarily as data providers to one where they have a central role in the interpretation, analysis and use of fishery dependant data for longer term economic and biological sustainability; the challenges in the extended use of remote sensing technology for data collection; practical and institutional requirements to support results based fishery management and reversing the burden of proof and how these approaches work in practice.

Following submission deadline, approximately six month prior to the symposium, all abstracts submitted will be scored independently by each of the conveners, steering committee members and the guest editor based on a pre-agreed scoring system. A final selection meeting will be held to finalize the successful submissions for both oral presentation and those wishing to submit a manuscript for consideration by IJMS. The successful submissions will be required to submit a complete manuscript within one month of the symposium being held and will be put forward for review by appropriate international experts, following peer review procedures in line with regular issues of the IJMS. The special edition will be published within 15-months of the symposium.
