

18 Summary of other presentations

18.1 Oral presentations

18.1.1 Introduction to Risk based Assessment of the Effects of Fishing

Hans Polet, ILVO, Belgium

Abstract

A request was made by the chair of WGECO for input by WGFTB in the risk based assessment work related to fisheries impact. A method is being adopted by Ireland to determine which fishing gears will be allowed in marine protected areas in Irish waters. The method has been developed in Australia and adopted for risk assessment for most Australian fisheries. The method has been developed to be flexible, comprehensive, scientifically defensible, and understandable for fisheries managers and involves stakeholders.

There is a need for data to be fed into the method on selectivity, effects of gear alterations and effects of introduction of alternative gears. WGFTB holds the expertise to provide the necessary input. The cooperation of WGFTB is thus requested.

The request firstly holds the question whether there is any interest in WGFTB to allocate effort to this topic. If positive, the way forward should be determined. A possibility would be the organization of a workshop to collate the data. It will be investigated whether some finances can be found to organize the workshop.

18.1.2 Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing

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Abstract

Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERA EF) is a hierarchical, precautionary approach used to assess ecological risk in an Ecosystem-based Fishery Management (EBFM) context (Hobday *et al.*, 2011). It has been applied to many fisheries including those in Australia, where the process was developed, and is also applied as part of the certification process of the Marine Stewardship Council. To be fit for purpose ERA EF must be comprehensive, flexible, transparent, repeatable and useful for management. Stakeholder engagement and expert opinion are crucial in the development of the framework and to the successful application of ERA EF. The process is continuously being refined and adapted and there is considerable scope for input from experts, across a variety of disciplines, in developing the methodology. In particular there is an urgent need for establishing the risks posed by different fishing gears. To this end a scoring system for gears, which defines selectivity and which can be applied in the ERA EF process, requires development. As a multi-disciplinary consortium comprising research groups from University College Cork, Queen's University Belfast, and the Marine Institute Galway, we are applying ERA EF in Irish waters and in collaboration with other national efforts seek to establish a new global best practice for the application of the technique in the EBFM context. We are keen to