

## 18 Summary of other presentations

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### 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 WGECCO for input by WGFTFB 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. WGFTFB holds the expertise to provide the necessary input. The cooperation of WGFTFB is thus requested.

The request firstly holds the question whether there is any interest in WGFTFB 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

**Susie Brown<sup>1</sup>, Emer Rogan<sup>1</sup>, David Reid<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland. <sup>2</sup>Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland.

##### **Abstract**

Ecological Risk Assessment for the Effects of Fishing (ERAEF) 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 ERAEF 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 ERAEF. 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 ERAEF 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 ERAEF 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