

ICES REPORT OF TCFMBC2011

Report of the Training Course: Fisheries Management to meet Biodiversity Conservation needs (TCFMBC2011)

7-9 June 2011

ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen



ICES

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM

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Participants at the course “Fisheries Management to meet Biodiversity Conservation needs” conducted 7-9 June 2011 at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen. Left to right: Sara Hornborg, Alexandre Rodriguez, Patricia Bianchi, Therese Jacobson, Mark Tasker (instructor), Elizabeth Guttstein, Fernando Nieto-Conde, Jake Rice (instructor), Ireneusz Wojcik, Helle Jørgensbye, Pieter-Jan Schon, Andrea Frommel, Andrea Belgrano, Jan-Willem van Bochove, Juan Gil Herrera, Leonie Dransfeld, Vegard Haukeland, Conny Jacobson, Colin Brannen, Antonios Stamoulis, Staffan Danielsson.

Report of the ICES training course:
“Fisheries Management to meet Biodiversity
Conservation needs,”

by

Jake Rice and Mark Tasker

Summary

This was the first course that has been provided by ICES on the intersection of the biodiversity and fishing areas of science in support of policy and management. The course attracted nineteen participants, from a very diverse range of backgrounds, including advisors within the European Parliament, NGO staff members, the European Commission staff and researchers early in their careers. Only a few participants had previous experience of ICES. This diversity posed challenges in striking an appropriate level to pitch the training; both because of the disciplinary diversity of participants and because of the differences in the depth of experience in how the science-policy interface functions and the role of ICES at that interface. However, the diversity also led to enthusiastic discussion with participants coming from many perspectives.

The course content was a mixture of presentations and small break-out group discussions on topics relevant to each presentation. Participants were encouraged to interject during presentations if a point was not understood or if further elaboration would be of interest, and every presentation was followed by opportunity for course discussions. The course sharepoint site allowed participants to view the presentations on line. After each breakout discussion, groups reported back to the full course and there was further opportunity for open discussion. The final afternoon was an exchange between the instructors and course participants regarding issues that participants had not had opportunity to bring up during the earlier sessions.

Pdfs of the presentations, a small library of background legal documents and another folder of relevant background documents were available for participants to consult or to download. Web-links were provided from some of the presentations. The standard feedback form for training courses was augmented with a few further course oriented questions. These sources of feedback were harvested for suitable recommendations – many of which confirmed our own thoughts. There was a suggestion that a handbook or report covering the conclusions of the meeting could be produced. However we feel that this would be premature as the course was really aimed at introducing participants to the needs and opportunities for dialogue between fisheries management and biodiversity conservation needs, leading eventually (sooner, not later, we hope) to coherence of policies – and their science support on biodiversity and fisheries management. A three day course with many participants still in early stages of their careers is not a strong enough foundation for conclusions on the way forward for these disciplines.

Feedback on the level at which the course was delivered was diverse, with some feeling that it was too simple, while others would have appreciated more basic information. This was not surprising given the broad diversity of backgrounds of the participants. In future it should be possible to provide in advance more guidance on preparations for the course, and more publications which interpreted the context and implications of the policies and agreements which comprised the foundation documents for the course in order that less experienced participants can be prepared for a course starting at a level above basics.

The content of the course began with the global legal background, including the most up to date developments in both fisheries and biodiversity policy, followed by the major EC policies: the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and its more focused predecessors, the Water Framework Directive and the Species and Habitats Directives. Building on this basis there was as a series of examples of how the global and European legal commitments are being implemented at national, European and NE Atlantic scales. This mixture was appreciated in most feedback, but some comments suggested that a little more emphasis could have been put on what is about to happen at the national/regional scale, with less on historical evolution of the policies and past implementation efforts. Future foreseeable developments include:

- implementation of the goal setting approach to marine management (both in fisheries and through the Marine Strategy Framework Directive);
- a greater emphasis, in both biodiversity conservation and in fisheries management, on economic valuations of ecosystem goods and services; and
- better quantification of the social links of community dependencies and livelihoods to uses of the ocean.

Overall, the course was well received – there were certainly lessons learned on how to better manage and give the course - as is probably normal. We hope that we can run the course again in the relatively near future.

Recommendations

- This course attracted very few nature conservation practitioners from the community providing official “biodiversity” advice to Governments. We suspect that this is because they were not aware of it. We recommend that greater efforts be made to reach this community with publicity about the course.
- The next time the course is run, a summary abstract against each course topic and some annotated suggested reading should be provided (preferably on Sharepoint) well in advance of the course.
- Improve the clarity of the exercise questions and consider whether some of the exercises might have been better carried out in open discussion in plenary. Exercise sessions should last about 45 minutes. Further consideration may be given to possibly having fewer, longer exercises with more integrative themes, rather than having a shorter exercise following each course topic.
- Consider and if possible implement a post-course support and discussion mechanism that allows participants to keep in touch with each other and

with developments in the field. (this was suggested during the final discussion session and strongly supported by a number of participants.) A Facebook (or similar) group might be formed.

- For each of the themes following the opening policy reviews (i.e new information sources, "classical" fisheries assessment and management approaches, protected areas, impact and strategic assessments, the presentations strove to give broad coverage to the themes, with no single illustration being developed in detail Consider taking a more focused approach to at least one topic, for example possibly taking one protected area as an example and treating it in greater depth.
- Carry out some further market research into whether further topics covering economics and economic valuation of biodiversity and of fisheries could usefully be added to the course. This would likely add a day to the course and require a guest lecturer for one presentation.
- A list of acronyms and perhaps a further attempt not to use them (or to explain them better) could be included in the background material.
- A fuller understanding of what objectives participants are seeking to fulfil with the course would perhaps enable better tuning of the course (and better evaluation of the course afterwards). Consider asking future participants what they hope to gain from the course when they register would help the instructors with the right balance of content.
- Consider adding in more content on Marine Strategy Framework Directive and reducing content on Marine Protected Areas (several comments of this nature were received).

Responses from course participants

- I am overall very satisfied with this course. Organisation was perfect. The instructors gave a very comprehensive and clear overview of both international and EU framework for biodiversity and its links with fisheries management. Quality of presentations and speakers was remarkable. Interaction and dialogue among participants was encouraged, which was a very positive thing given the plurality of views and diversity of backgrounds in the room.
- As this was a first course, obviously there were a number of things that could be improved in the future. A couple of suggestions:
 - To develop some sort of ToR prior to the meeting including a brief abstract under each agenda item or programme heading so participants can go better prepared and know what to expect from the meeting in terms of discussions.
 - To have a written report or "handbook" with the main conclusions of the meeting.
- I would consider this course as a good idea and a success and I hope ICES will consider a follow-up meeting in future year on this topic once we get more information and historical perspective!
- Very good construction of course. Suggestion for improvement would be to go deeper in the documentation and process in at least one example site.
- Great attitude of instructors - Mark and Jake, very good communication skills and openness.
- Instructors had a great deal of knowledge and experience in the subject matter which made for a fascinating series of lectures.

- The breakout sessions could have been more structured.
- Perhaps bring in another guest speaker to provide even greater course diversity.
- I would have liked to see a presentation on economic valuations and the role they will play in conservation and fisheries management.
- Overall, it was a very good learning experience with some very interesting discussions between the instructors and the students.
- Thank you!
- Good range and number of participants. Fair balance between lectures and exercises. Good degree of interaction between lecturers and participants.
- It was interesting, especially in the area I am working on. Nevertheless, most of the areas were poorly covered, probably due to lack of time and presentations were getting a bit tiring. Discussions among groups were quite nice.
- Well done

Course description

Context

In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) committed themselves to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth. This target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly and was incorporated as a target under the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2010 the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook confirmed that the 2010 biodiversity target has not been met, and the CBD 2010 Strategic Plan notes that “actions [to achieve the 2010 target] have not been on a scale sufficient to address the pressures on biodiversity. Moreover there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies, programmes and actions, and therefore the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have not been significantly reduced”. The Strategic Plan includes a new series of targets for 2020 together “*Taking action now to decrease the direct pressures on biodiversity*”.

There is an increasing societal need to use fisheries management measures to achieve biodiversity conservation needs, and an increasing societal expectation that fisheries managers should account for conservation of biodiversity when selecting and applying fisheries management measures. At present, many of those wishing to conserve biodiversity have limited understanding of fisheries assessment and management mechanisms, while those advising on the management of fisheries have limited knowledge of national and international commitments and obligations to conserve biodiversity and little familiarity with the tools for doing so.

Objective

The objective of this course is to raise the level of understanding of middle and senior level advisors on fisheries and biodiversity issues. There may also be some interest from fisheries and biodiversity managers.

The course is intended not only to present the theoretical elements but also to guide participants in putting theory into practice through case studies and exercises. Specific objectives are to provide participants with:

- 1) understanding of the role of biodiversity in fishery science and management;
- 2) familiarity with international policies and targets for fisheries and for biodiversity;
- 3) experience in fishery management measures to meet biodiversity as well as fisheries policy targets.

By the end of the course, the participants will

- be aware of international policy targets and management measures;
- understand the data-collection needs for different management measures;
- be familiar with the factors that affect the ability of various management measures to keep fisheries and their impacts on biodiversity sustainable ecologically and economically;

- be familiar with indicators and reference points, both biological and economic, as tools in fishery management to meet policy targets.

Course Programme and Instructors

The three-day course is organised as a series of lecture, exercise and discussion sessions that focus on policy targets and applied concepts associated with assignments and work sessions. The course programme is in Annex 2.

Instructors

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Annex 2: Course programme

(P numbers are numbers of presentations on Sharepoint site)

Tuesday, 7 June 2011	
9.00-10.00	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ICES Training Programme (Søren Anker Pedersen) ▪ ICES Advisory Services – What is ICES? (Poul Degnbol) ▪ Practical issues having meetings in ICES (Claire Welling) <p>About this course (Jake Rice and Mark Tasker) Introduction of participants, background and expectations – 1-2 minutes from each participant</p>
10.00-10.30	Tea/Coffee
10.30-13:00	<p>Biodiversity commitments</p> <p>Global (P01)– CBD 2020 targets, FAO guidelines on deepsea fisheries, on bycatch and discards, IPOAs on seabird bycatch, on sharks, UK Commitments UNGA 61-105, 64-72, include VMEs and their detection</p> <p>Regional (P02)- EU Habitats and Birds Directives, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, CFP requirements</p> <p><i>Exercise: Comparisons of policies and instruments – are they compatible. FAO VMEs vs. CBD EBSAs, CFP vs. MSFD, Are principles compatible between biodiversity and user oriented instruments.</i></p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	<p>Information needs (P03)</p> <p>Knowledge of habitat and species and effects of various fishing activities on these; sensitivity. Bycatch and discard observer schemes/systems Sustainable reference levels for non-commercial species (ASCOBANS 1.7%)</p>
15.30-16.00	Tea/Coffee
16.00-18.00	<p>Knowing where fishing is taking place (P04, 04a), VMS – and how to use/not use</p> <p><i>Exercise: Are there ways of solving information needs generically without unrealistic expenditure?</i></p>
18.00-20.00	Icebreaker (optional) in ICES lunch room

Wednesday, 8 June 2011		
9.00-10.15	<p>MPAs and their uses (P05) Covering IUCN MPA types. Reasons for MPAs, all the way from places that have nothing to do with fisheries management purposes (but impacts on fisheries) through to those put in place for fisheries purposes. What is allowed under fisheries; what do the protected areas mean for fisheries management?</p>	
10.15-10.45	Tea/Coffee	
10.45-13.00	<p>Policy routes to create MPAs (P06) – Natura, MSFD, OSPAR, Helcom – national implementation of differing obligations. Effectiveness of (fisheries) closures (P07) - STECF review Harmonising MPAs and fisheries management (P08)- EMPAS process and results <i>Exercise: EMPAS: Did we do it all? Did we do too much (could equal results been achieved for less investment)? Could this be done by everyone and everywhere?</i></p>	
13.00-14.00	Lunch & Group photo	
14.00-15.30	<p>Current ICES advice on fisheries Guest: Poul Degnbol (P09) How does traditional fish stock advice work – an understanding of the history and complexity. What ICES now advises upon. Developments in global advice on fisheries (P10) Developments at a global level (multi-species, fleet-based, ecosystem approach, MSY etc). Evaluation of ICES advice.</p>	
15.30-16.00	Tea/Coffee	
16.00-18.00	<i>Exercise: What fisheries management would be needed to meet objectives of an MPA (steal objectives a few real life examples)</i>	

Thursday, 9 June 2011		
9.00-10.15	<p>Strategies for mobile species conservation (P11) Impact Assessments (P12) Introduction: Types of Impact Assessment Strategic (SEA), Environmental (EIA), “Appropriate” (under Natura) (AA), future developments in ABNJ, CBD (Manila) guidelines. Illustrations of assessments in marine industries</p>	
10.15-10.45	Tea/Coffee	
10.45-13.00	<p><i>Exercise: Devise systems for fisheries assessments – what would be appropriate, what could be done?</i> Fisheries management measures for Natura sites (P13) <i>Exercise: Is any further guidance needed to complete the Commission’s eleven questions?</i></p>	
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.00	<p>Open session and feedback Chance to raise any issue that you feel should be covered further, or you think that the group might be interested in.</p>	
15.00-15.15	<i>Exercise: Online feedback on course contents</i>	
15.15-15.30	Summary and closing	
15.30-16.00	Tea/Coffee	