

PROFET Policy: Baltic Fisheries Research Results Workshop

Vilnius, Lithuania, 19-20 April 2007

PROFET Policy – EUROFISH

- Target public: fishermen and fishermen associations, government representatives, research institutions, regional fisheries bodies.
- Duration: 1 and ½ day

DAY 1		
SESSION 1: BALTIC FISHERIES AND RESEARCH		
Time	Issue	Speaker
	Opening Remarks	EUROFISH
	Critical issues affecting Baltic fisheries	Industry / Baltic Sea RAC
	Relevance of ongoing fisheries research in the Baltic	Steve Karnicki (Sea fisheries Institute, Gdynia, Poland)

This session will serve as an introductory session. It will aim to present the context into which Baltic fisheries evolve. We still at the moment considering adding one presentation that would describe Baltic fisheries themselves (history, evolution, characteristics) or ask the speaker presenting the critical issues affecting Baltic fisheries to include this in his presentation.

The second presentation of this session (relevance of ongoing fisheries research in the Baltic) will aim to link research in the Baltic with the critical issues affecting Baltic fisheries.

SESSION 2: POLICY FRAMEWORK		
Time	Issue	Speaker
	EU: Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Baltic	DG FISH
	Fisheries policies in the Baltic: a Russian perspective	Russian speaker

This session will give the policy background to fisheries in the Baltic. We would like to have two presentations in this topic, one from someone from the DG FISH (maybe you can advise us on who would be more suitable to address these kind of issues in front of this kind of audience) and we would like to find one Russian speaker also, as Russia is now the only other political player in the Baltic. We also think that the DG FISH presentation could make the link between the CFP and other policies affecting fisheries such as consumer protection, environmental policies,...

SESSION 3: ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		
Time	Issue	Speaker
	Ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the Baltic	Henn Ojaver (Marine and Fisheries Institute, Univeristy of

		Talinn)
	Integration of environmental requirements in fisheries management.	Fredrik Arrhenius (National Board of Fisheries)? Sture Hansson (Stockholm University)? WWF?
	Development of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the Baltic	PROTECT project HELCOM habitat working group
	Environmental cost of fishing/ Integrating ecosystem and society	COST IMPACT project Jon Suttinen (Rhode Island University)

This session will focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. It will first present the ecosystem approach and focus more specifically on its application and relevance for the Baltic sea. Henn Ojaver from the Marine and Fisheries Institute of Talinn Univeristy has recently published work on the topic and will be approached.

We will then move on to present the importance of integrating environmental requirements in fisheries management that could be presented by either one of the 2 Swedish speakers mentioned above, or the voice could also maybe be given to an environmental NGO (FISH, WWF).

The third presentation will look at one of the most well known tool of ecosystem management i.e. MPA and their development in the Baltic area. The PROTECT project is looking at the implementation of MPA's in inter alia the Baltic and HELCOM habitat working group has also done some work on it, which gives us 2 potential speakers.

The third session will be concluded by a presentation on the need for further integration between ecosystem and society, reflecting the need for more research on socio economics aspects of fisheries management in the Baltic and inter alia on the environmental cost of fishing activities. Jon Suttinen has been involved in the socio economic side of the Bonus project (ERA net project) but we might also check with people from the COST IMPACT project (FP5) if they have interesting results even if the project is already finished.

DAY 2		
SESSION 4: COD FISHERIES MANAGEMENT		
Time	Issue	Speaker
	Effectiveness of fisheries management (the case of cod)	CODYSEY
	Stock recovery programmes	UNCOVER
	Long term cod recovery plan	DG FISH
	IUU in the Baltic	Espersen (Klaus Nielsen, Palle Nimb) BSRAC (march workshop conclusions)

		Johan Modin (specialist on black fish) Fritz Köster

While selecting the potential themes we have been struck by a keyword that was common to quite several themes. We then thought that we would gather these themes around this keyword i.e. cod. Cod fisheries is together with sprat and herring one of the 3 commercially important fisheries in the Baltic. When it comes down to the value of the catch, cod is the first fishery in the Baltic. 2 major cod stocks are found in the Baltic, one being fully exploited the other one being overexploited.

As cod fisheries face severe management problems in quite a few areas, we would begin by presenting specific challenges to cod fisheries management with a speaker from CODYSSEY, a FP5 research project looking at cod spatial dynamics and its implication for fisheries management (but we will have to check whether CODYSSEY have results that will be of interest to the audience of this workshop otherwise we could replace it by a cod specialist from the Baltic area, namely Fritz Koster).

As cod stocks are in bad shape in quite a few fisheries, recovery plan are a common tool to address the problem. UNCOVER will present its views on recovery plans, just before someone from the DG FISH could present the Baltic Cod recovery plan, enabling to see whether this plan fulfils UNCOVER criteria's.

We decided to include IUU in the Baltic as a closing theme for this session as IUU is a problem affecting mostly cod fisheries in the Baltic and that it will be a thematic link with the next session i.e. sustainable development of Baltic fisheries where a IUU presentation could also have been held. Regarding IUU, we would like the industry to present its views, especially because the Baltic Sea RAC will be holding a workshop on the topic in March 2007 (1 month before this workshop).

2ND DAY: SESSION 5: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF BALTIC FISHERIES		
Time	Issue	Speaker
	Economic assessment of the Baltic fisheries	EAEF
	Fleet based management (effort based management)	
	Ecolabelling	MSC, KRAV (Swedish eco label) FINDUS (Inger Larsson) Scientist? Johan Modin Stefan Ekman
	Quality labelling (link with dioxin?)	Scientist (Finn?, see with Jan Thulin)

The 5th session will focus on sustainable development of Baltic fisheries. We would like to find someone able to draft the economic situation of the Baltic fisheries but we have not found anyone yet. We had thought about EAEF project but it has been completed in 2004 and might therefore not have any updated information.

Fleet based management can also be an interesting theme but the only study in the region is done by the Swedish board for Fisheries and focus on the Kattegat (North Sea). Mr Astudillo said that maybe Mrs Stephanie Schmidt from his unit could present on this topic.

We would then have a presentation on ecolabelling and we would aim for this presentation to have a scientist presenting a balanced view on this aspect. There is also the possibility of inviting a speaker from the industry (FINDUS for example) or from the MSC but their presentations might be too commercial or “partisanes”.

Quality labelling is another type of label that poses a challenge to the fishing industry, and that challenge is particularly acute in the Baltic sea where pollution problems are an issue (inter alia dioxin). We have been told that there were some Finn specialists on the issue and we are tracking them down. We are not aware of any research done in this area though.

2ND DAY: SESSION 6: FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS		
Time	Issue	Speaker
	Future research needs	BSRAC
	Baltic Science plan	Chris Hopkins
	Discussion (invite a restricted panel to discuss?)	Moderator
	Conclusions and recommendations	Moderator

The closing session on the workshop will focus on assessing future research needs. We will try to have the Baltic Sea RAC come up with their position on future Baltic fisheries research. We will also give the stand to Chris Hopkins, the author of the Baltic Science plan drafted in June 2006 for the Bonus project.

This session will be concluded by inviting a restricted panel among the day’s speakers to discuss needs for future research in front of the audience. The public will then be allowed to ask questions directly to the panel and recommendations will be drawn from the discussion.

We are now in the process of contacting speakers to check for their availability and willingness to be part in this workshop. We also have to check with the different research projects listed above to see whether they have results relevant to our themes and specifically ones for the Baltic.

This programme is very open of course and will somehow be adapted according to the type of speaker we will have for each theme, but the overall layout is likely to remain as it is. We are eager for your comments in order to continue to improve it.

For your information we have listed below the different FP5/FP6 projects we think could be of interest to the workshop. Please tell us if you think we should try to incorporate more in the programme or if we have missed any.

FP5/FP6 Baltic fisheries related research programme				
	Project acronym	Project name	Link to Theme	Link to Baltic
FP5	BECAUSE	– Critical interactions between species and their implications for precautionary fisheries management in a variable environment – a modelling approach	ecosystem approach to fisheries management	OK (Bonus)
	BEEP	Biological effects of environmental pollution in marine coastal ecosystems	impact of environment degradation on fisheries ???	OK (Bonus)
	CODYSSEY	Cod spatial dynamics and vertical movements in European waters and implication in fisheries management	COD special topic/ effectiveness of fisheries management	OK (Bonus)
	COST IMPACT	Costing (putting a monetary value on) the impact of demersal fishing on marine ecosystem processes and biodiversity	environmental cost of fishing/sustainable fisheries	OK (Bonus)
	EAEF	Economic Assessment of European Fisheries	fisheries management/economic assessment of fisheries/ sustainable development	OK (Bonus)
FP6	INDECO	Development of indicators of environmental performance of the common fisheries policy	ecosystem approach to fisheries management	OK (Bonus)
	CEDER	Real-time monitoring of fishing activity	IUU? Sustainable fishing	???
	CEVIS	Evaluating alternative, participatory management models for EU fisheries	Fisheries management/ participatory management	Danes and Poles involved
	COMMIT	to improve the scientific basis for the long-term sustainable planning of fishery management, while identifying any short-term biological and socio-economic consequences	Fisheries management/ Sustainable fisheries	Danes and Estonian involved
	DEGREE	Develop new fishing gear (otter trawl, beam trawl, dredges) that reduce the adverse effects on the seabed and benthic communities	sustainable fisheries	???
	EFIMAS	Evaluating scientific advice and decision-making processes in fisheries management systems	fisheries management/sustainable fisheries	Danes/Swedes/Finns
	EMPAFISH	Ecosystem conservation and fisheries management through Marine Protected Areas	MPA/sustainable fisheries	???, mostly med and Atlantic
	FISBOAT	Taking reliable stock of fish numbers	sustainable fisheries	Poles involved
	NECESSITY	Modified fishing gear and practices to reduce by-catch in trawl fisheries	sustainable fisheries/discards and bycatch	Finns, Swedes, Danes involved

	POORFISH	Developing probability model applications in data-poor fisheries		Finns
	PROTECT	Ecosystem conservation and fisheries management through Marine Protected Areas	MPA/sustainable fisheries/ecosystem based management	Danes, Fins, Swedes, Poles involved
	SHEEL	A secure and harmonised electronic European fishery logbook		Swedes, Latvian
	UNCOVER	Developing more effective stock-recovery programmes	Sustainable fisheries/Cod special topic	German, Danes, Russian, Poles

SAFMAMS

SAFMAMS draws insights from existing research projects and management processes on the most useful forms of scientific advice for marine environmental management and then communicates those insights to scientists and decision makers.

BONUS (FP 6 ERANET)

The aim is to form a network and partnership of key agencies funding research to deepen the understanding of conditions for science-based management of environmental issues in the Baltic Sea.