

Background to the BS RAC SCIENCE WORKSHOP (Revised)

Time and Date:

6th May: workshop 17:00 – 19:00, buffet dinner at 20:00

7th May: workshop 09:30 – 16:30

Place:

6 May:

NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

Gdynia Aquarium, Sea Fisheries Institute Gdynia al. Jana Pawla II 81 -345 Gdynia

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And:

7 May:

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Background

Since November 2007, the Göteborg Center for Public Learning and Understanding of Science (gcPLUS) has been working with the Baltic Sea RAC to understand how the RAC works and how its members and others in related organizations see the BS RAC and its processes. As indicated by several RAC members - in line with the gcPLUS findings - contested issues related to the science and the scientific advisory process in fisheries repeatedly form barriers to an effective dialogue within the RAC.

Against this background, Michael Andersen and Sally Clink, in cooperation with the team from the gcPLUS, are organizing a workshop to address science-related issues through facilitated dialogue.

Our suggestion is that the following be the topic of discussion:

- Biological assessments and advice: (MSY, precautionary approach, uncertainty)
- The interplay between the scientific and the political playing fields

The aim is not to reach an immediate solution. The workshop is a first step towards improving communication between the various interest groups. The workshop will aim to move towards greater agreement within the RAC.

Objectives:

The objectives of the workshop are:

1. To create a stronger and more accepted base of technical and scientific information related to fisheries.
2. To introduce and develop skills with a designed and facilitated dialogue process that supports a collaborative and open analytical effort, so it is possible to:
 - Identify issues of joint concern.
 - Discern the underlying interests of all stakeholders.
 - Bring the best information into the dialogue.
 - Discover, clarify or create the greatest common gains possible.
 - Make informed choices on what the stakeholders can and cannot agree on.

Outcome and output

The aim is to make *informed* choices, to understand the complex issues at hand, and to address the aspects of problems that can be resolved. A brief report on the workshop and its process will be produced.

The participants

RAC members and invited speakers have first priority, but the meeting is open to everyone interested, as long as there are seats left. Participants are kindly asked to pre-register for the workshop. We want to include the entire range of relevant stakeholders. Poul Degnbol from DG Mare, Steve Karnicki and scientists from the Sea Fisheries Institute (MIR), Gdansk, have already agreed to take part.

Interpretation

There will be people present who are able to translate between English and Polish, if needed.

Workshop moderator

The workshop was jointly designed by Michael Andersen, Danish Fishermen's Association, and Ilan Chabay. Ilan Chabay, Director of gcPLUS, will convene and moderate the workshop. It will be facilitated by Peter Adler, who is an experienced mediator in natural resource governance matters and president of the Keystone Center in the USA.

Addendum:

After lunch on 7th May, Margit Eero (Technical University of Denmark, National Institute of Aquatic Resources), and Henn Ojaveer (Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu, Estonia) will make a short presentation of their Indicator-based assessment of the status of Baltic fish stocks: contribution from the EU FP6 project IMAGE. (See next page).

Indicator-based assessment of the status of Baltic fish stocks: contribution from the EU FP6 project IMAGE

Margit Eero¹ and Henn Ojaveer²

¹ Technical University of Denmark, National Institute of Aquatic Resources, DENMARK

² Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu, ESTONIA

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) requires progressive implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EBFM). EBFM requires that managers take account of a wide range of fisheries impacts when setting objectives and attempts to meet these objectives will need to be supported by reliable scientific advice and effective management decision making. Indicators can support the decision making process by (1) describing the state of the ecosystem, the pressures affecting it and the response of managers, (2) tracking progress towards meeting management objectives and (3) communicating trends in complex impacts and management processes to a non-specialist audience.

The project ‘Indicators for fisheries management in Europe’ (IMAGE) seeks to (i) develop an operational framework of candidate indicators to support ecosystem-based fisheries management decision making, (ii) develop methodology to integrate indicator information into tools supporting the decision making process, (iii) develop a framework that can evaluate management strategies based on indicators, and to test their applicability in regional case studies, taking into account the diversity of the fishery systems in Europe. The application of indicators in management systems requires that they are generally understood and accepted by stakeholders and a major focus of the project will be to engage stakeholders through the emerging Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). IMAGE will thus support the development of an effective EBFM in the context of the CFP and contributes to the applied science needed to support the emerging European Marine Strategy and Maritime Policy.

The Baltic case study in IMAGE provides an easily communicated framework for integrating different biological/ecological and fisheries information related to the long-term development of the three main commercial fish species in the central Baltic (cod, herring and sprat). This approach provides a simple straightforward way to monitor the success or failure of fisheries management in terms of the development of the stocks towards the agreed management objectives, i.e. the desired state of the stocks. Most importantly, it visualizes which factors have prevented the desired developments in the stocks or have promoted it, and allows it be easily communicated to a wider group of stakeholders.

MAP OF GDYNIA



Gdansk airport is about 30 kms. from MIR and Aquarium. It takes about 20 minutes and will cost about 150 zlotys.