

Symposium on “Targets and limits for long term fisheries management” – October 2015

2014/3/SSGEPI01 A Symposium on “Targets and limits for long term fisheries management” will be held during October 27th to 30th 2015, in Athens, Greece, with Anna Rindorf, Denmark, Cathy Dichmont, Australia, Lynne Shannon, South Africa and Jim Thorson, US, as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established with members nominated by relevant Working Groups or other relevant ICES bodies from among the ICES network of research institutes in order to assist the Conveners in planning the Symposium. In consultation with the Conveners, the ICES Secretariat will solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Setting targets and limits for long term fisheries management is at the core of ICE work as well as of highest priority in fisheries management research outside the ICES area. The implementation of the MSY approach, the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and the upcoming European Landing Obligation has forced fisheries scientists to turn to advising on the setting of targets for ecosystems rather than single species.
Scientific justification:	Suggesting targets and limits for long term fisheries management is at the core of the ICES strategic pillars 1 and 2. To provide decision makers with sufficient information to make informed choices of the most desirable targets, reliable information on the effect ecosystem of setting specified targets and limits is required (Goal 3). To produce this information, an integrated, interdisciplinary understanding of the structure, dynamics and response of marine ecosystems to change is required (Goal 1) as well as of the relationship between fishing activities and marine ecosystems (Goal 2) are prerequisites. In support of these goals, the symposium will provide an opportunity to discuss the latest progress on what aspects of yield (such as landings or economic yield) can be maximized under MSY management, how limits to ecosystem, economic and social sustainability should be defined, the identification of conflicting objectives and trade-offs and suggestions for decisionmaking, the role of targets and limits in a changing world, the economically and socially feasible management tools and implementation of fisheries targets in practice. It builds directly on the efforts in ICES to define the MSY approach for interacting stocks (e.g. WKMSYREF1-3, WGMIXFISH and WGSAM), to define limits to sustainable exploitation of the ecosystem (e.g. WGECO, WGBIODIV, WGBIRD) and to include socioeconomic considerations in advice (e.g. WGIMM, WGMARS). By targeting a global international audience, the symposium will promote the exchange of knowledge on these topics both within ICES and between ICES and other international organizations such as FAO and PICES.
Resource requirements:	Resource requirements will be met by the imposition of a Conference Fee as well as by funding from the FP7 project MYFISH (www.myfishproject.eu). MYFISH will provide funding for travel and subsistence of conveners as well as invited keynote speakers. Further, additional funding will be available for stakeholders outside the scientific community to attend an interactive session focused on stakeholder priorities and implementation in practice.
Participants:	ICES countries: 100, other countries: 50

Secretariat facilities:	The Secretariat is requested to participate in the announcement of the symposium (online and via the distribution of folders produced by the Myfish consortium), registration of participants including applications for reduced fee and will be responsible for assembling the Book of Abstracts. The symposium organising committee will cost the printing of the Book of Abstract.
Financial:	Cost of conveners and key note speakers will be covered by MYFISH. ICES support is requested for support early career scientists.
Linkages to advisory committees:	The symposium topic is directly related to the need for the ICES Advisory Committee to define guidelines on the implementation of the MSY approach in the ICES area, including the setting of targets for FMSY as a point or a range, limits to precautionary management, limits to ensure sustainability in an ecosystem, economic and social setting and the manner to address environmental variability in the setting and updating of reference points. The topic links to work under SCICOM in the linkbetween environmental conditions and species interaction and ecosystem structure and function.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	ACOM, SCICOM, WGMIXFISH, WGIMM, WGMARS, WGECO, WGSAM, Benchmark workshops, workshops providing guidance on the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and the MSY approach, Assessment working groups, a.o.
Linkages to other organizations:	FAO and PICES will be contacted as the issue of targets and limits to fisheries management is of global interest.
Publication of proceedings	ICES Journal of Marine Science is requested to publish symposium proceedings in a volume not expected to exceed 200 pages. The conveners agree to the 15-month turnaround schedule for publication and are willing to act as guest editors if requested by the journal.