Open Lecture:

Our Common Future: A Political Perspective on the Ocean and Related Issues

T. Stoltenberg, Norway

Since 1989 a search has been going on (consciously or unconsciously) for a new world order; can this be achieved without a war, which has been the chief stimulus for world-order changes during the 20th century? The answer would be yes, it can, but only if it is supported by two pillars: integration and regional cooperation. To be successful, such a strategy will require stronger institutions in order to handle the problems – and the possibilities – which transcend boundaries.

Centenary Lectures 2001 – Present: the Challenges Facing ICES

Titles to be announced later on.

Invited Talks:

Ecosystem studies and fisheries management: the Benguela experience

Coleen L. Moloney, South Africa

In 1981, a formal research partnership was established among government departments, universities and museums in South Africa, through the creation of the Benguela Ecology Programme (BEP). During the next two decades, the BEP and its associated structures directed many aspects of the research carried out in the pelagic environment of the Southern Benguela upwelling region, off the west coast of South Africa. Most of this research was aimed at advancing and integrating understanding of the upwelling ecosystem, with one of the objectives being improving fisheries management, particularly that of anchovy (Engraulis capensis). Anchovy is the major component of pelagic landings in the region, and because catches of this species are dominated by young of the year, environment-induced recruitment variability has substantial implications for management.

Although much reduced in scale, the BEP is about to enter its fifth phase. Its critics believe that much of the money invested in its ecosystem-type research has not benefited fisheries management, whereas its supporters maintain that improved ecosystem understanding underpins many aspects of current pelagic fisheries management in the region. This paper will examine the legacy of the BEP by describing some of the major scientific findings, and assessing the usefulness of ecosystem-type research to fisheries management. Other scientific and management issues will also be discussed.

Finally, the role of the BEP in enabling productive partnerships to be established between academic researchers and fisheries managers is described.

Fisheries Management from an Ecosystem Perspective: how do we get there from here?

Stephen J. Hall, Australia

The transition from a single-species framework for fisheries management towards one that incorporates the wider considerations demanded of an ecosystem-based framework has proved a difficult one. In part, this difficulty can be explained by a decreasing clarity of objectives as one moves up the hierarchy of biological organisation and a poorly developed and inadequately tested theory for how fishing affects marine communities and ecosystems. This paper explores what we have learned about the wider implications of fishing and seeks to identify those areas where data support popular theory. In doing so an effort is made to clarify concepts and highlight those areas where effort may best be spent (and where effort might be wasted) gathering additional data. Consideration is also given to some of the institutional alliances that might profitably be forged to further an ecosystem-based management framework.