

Session L

Bringing collaborative science – industry research data into stock assessment and fishery management: evaluating progress and future options

Conveners: Mike Armstrong (UK) and Bill Karp (USA)

Many programmes of collaborative research and data collection have been initiated in the North Atlantic and elsewhere since the 1990s, often in response to crises in the fishing industry that led to deteriorating relationships between fishers and fishery scientists. The programmes have helped fishers become more involved in the fishery management process and have built progressively greater capacity in the fishing industry to collect useful data and carry out scientific studies. The programmes have already yielded substantial amounts of data from fishing gear trials, resource surveys, catch-composition studies, discarding surveys, development of CPUE series, and from interviews and questionnaires capturing fishers' knowledge of fish stocks, fishing operations and tactics. Many publications and symposia have focused on the evolution of these programmes, their benefits in empowering fishermen and fostering productive collaborations, and the development of "best practice". Relatively few have looked in detail at the nature and quality of the data that have been produced, the successes and failures in using the data for stock assessment and fishery management, and the development of new methods that can make fullest use of fishers' data that are not amenable or not yet adequate for inclusion in standard stock assessment models. This Theme Session invites contributions from collaborative science-industry programmes world-wide on the following or similar topics:

- case studies of successes and failures in using fishers' data in stock assessment models and decision-making processes;
- strengths, weaknesses and applications of the data compared with similar data from standard scientific programmes;
- evaluation of the statistical design of collaborative data collection programmes and effects of departure from "ideal" designs;
- development and testing of methods for incorporating fisher's data in assessment and management procedures when they don't fit into the standard models;
- collection, analysis and accuracy of fisher self-sampling data;
- fast-tracking fisher's data – getting early wins to maintain incentives for collaboration.

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