

Symposium on “Understanding marine socio-ecological systems: including the human dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments” – February/March 2016

2013/3/SSGRSP05 A Symposium on “Understanding marine socio-ecological systems: including the human dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments” will be held during February/March 2016, in Paris, France with David C. Smith, Australia, Olivier Thebaud, France, and Jason Link, USA, as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established from among the ICES network of research institutes in order to assist the Conveners in planning the Symposium. Members of this Steering Group will include: Jake Rice (DFO, Canada), Tony Smith (CSIRO, Australia), Jan Jaap Poos (Wageningen UR, Netherlands), Stewart Frusher (SPICES, Australia), Simon Jennings (CEFAS, UK), Luc Doyen (CNRS, France), Doug Lipton (NOAA, US).

The convenors will also approach Jörn Schmidt (U Kiel, Germany), Sarah Kraak (U College Cork, Ireland), and Luc Van Hoof (Centre for Maritime Research, MARE, the Netherlands)

Supporting Information

Priority:	The challenge in supporting enhanced and sustainable uses of the marine domain is to meet the future needs of food, energy and conservation while equally supporting social, economic and environmental outcomes wherever possible. This challenge explicitly involves managing human impacts on the earth's marine and coastal systems, and managing the feedback of these impacts on coastal communities, industries, stakeholders, and nations. To fully address this topic, an evaluation of coupled socio-ecological systems is warranted. This Symposium will support the ICES focus on Integrated Ecosystem Assessments by providing a platform to inform our understanding of the complex interactions between human activities and the marine domain.
Scientific justification:	The focus of the symposium will be on integration and assessment across multiple ocean uses and sectors, including: fisheries, renewable energy, coastal development, oil and gas, transport, and conservation. There will be a particular emphasis on the methodological and empirical challenges involved in including human dimensions in integrated ecosystem assessments. Exploring tools to specifically evaluate coupled socio-ecological systems is sorely needed, is timely, and has not systematically been done. This theme is consistent with Goal 2 of the ICES Strategic Plan of understanding the relationship between human activities and marine ecosystems, estimating pressures and impacts, and developing science-based sustainable pathways. Understanding these complex socio-ecological systems is a challenging new area of research that combines multidisciplinary, inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary components. The integrated marine focus is relatively new, as previous research efforts have either been terrestrially focused or dealt primarily with single sectors.
Resource requirements:	Primary funding will be achieved through registration fees as is typical. The Conveners will seek additional sponsorship from participating institutions and other agencies which have active interest in the topic. These funds will be used to support keynote speakers, participation of postgraduate students and early career scientists, and support publication.
Participants:	There is increasing global interest in this topical area. We would expect participation to reflect this, including from Europe, North America and Australasia. In addition, the scope of the symposium with its multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral focus will ensure considerable interest. We would anticipate that around 200-250 delegates will attend.
Secretariat facilities:	The Conveners humbly request moderate ICES secretarial support, but do not need space at the ICES facility. This will be applied to advertisement, pre-planning, registration, and the general organisation of the symposium. It will

	also afford closer coordination with ICES to ensure alignment with ICES strategic plan elements.
Financial:	The Convenors humbly request ICES to contribute €10 000 to fund the Book of Abstracts, defray the cost of conference facilities, limited travel and subsistence of keynote speakers and/or ICES conveners, and limited travel support for early career scientists.
Linkages to advisory committees:	This Symposium directly relates to the remit of the ICES Advisory Committee in supporting innovative and interdisciplinary research in cross-cutting topics, as aligned with the ICES initiative on Integrated Assessments.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	The Symposium is relevant to the work overseen by the Steering Group on Human Interactions on Ecosystems (SSGHIE), Steering Group on Sustainable Use of Ecosystems (SSGSUE) and Steering Group on Regional Sea Programmes (SSGRSP).
Linkages to other organizations:	SPICES, PICES, IMBER, IIFET, Belmont Forum, KBBE
Publication of proceedings	A special issue or theme set of IJMS is the aim. Funding will be sought from a range of sponsors as part of overall symposium funding. The Convenors agree to the 15-month turnaround.