

**Indicators and metrics: What can they contribute to define and monitor pelagic habitats?**

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The use of indicators, metrics and indices has been advocated for implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and more recently the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In this presentation we will briefly review their definitions and differences, including the recent term “surveillance indicator” and then focus on their domain of application. For example, indicators with reference points/domains/directions are needed to evaluate the status of a pelagic habitat (good or not good), while an additional suite of metrics (surveillance indicators) can contribute to establish and confirm pressure-state links and provide insights into suitable management measures. Indices in contrast might be most useful for communication to a wider public. We will discuss these concepts with reference to pelagic habitats. For example, pressure state relationships are unclear for many of the elements in the pelagic habitat, including biodiversity and food webs. In contrast, the impact of eutrophication, contaminants, litter, invasive species, or fishing on pelagic ecosystem is relatively well understood.

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