Theme Session N
Resilience and marine ecosystem services

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Marine ecosystems are being increasingly altered as a result of anthropogenic threats to which they are subjected. The concentration of population in coastal areas, overexploitation of marine resources, climate change, loss of biological diversity, eutrophication, damage to natural habitats, and pollution (from waste, oil spills, nuclear testing, and shipping, among others) act cumulatively and often have diffuse effects on the coastal environment. Ecosystem services are the benefits from the resources and processes supplied by the natural ecosystems that support the development of human activities.

However, little research has been done on this topic despite the ICES Science Plan considering marine ecosystem services as an area of high priority research: "Development of options for sustainable use of ecosystems", and transversally related with the first and second thematic areas of "Understanding Ecosystem Functioning" and "Understanding Interactions of Human Activities with Ecosystems".

While the valuation of ecosystem services has been recognized as a relevant component of environmental public policies, most of these approaches and methodologies tend to aggregate the different social groups of beneficiaries within a general category of human well-being, which limits the applicability of these approaches to questions addressing the synergies and trade-offs between ecosystem services, stakeholders and institutions at temporal and spatial scales.

Across resilience and marine ecosystem services, papers are welcome on the following topics:

- Emerging tools and methodologies of ecological, socio-economic and institutional dimensions of marine ecosystem services
- Spatial and social distribution and potential conflicts between marine ecosystem services and users
- Resilience and ecosystem services under global change
- Understand the ecological, economic, cultural and social factors undermining the use of marine ecosystem services
- Participatory experiences to manage marine ecosystem services
- From science to decision-making process: alternative strategies for the use of ecosystem services