

Evaluating progress to restore EU fish populations in line with the CFP

Markus Knigge

Theme session Q: [Harvest control rules: beyond \$F_{MSY}\$ for an ecosystem approach to fisheries?](#)

Conveners: Didier Gascuel (France)

Lisa Borges (Belgium)

Dave Reid (Ireland)

Fisheries management in the European Union entered a new era in 2014 when the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) came into force. The CFP stipulates the achievement of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) exploitation rates by 2015 where possible and, on a progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020, aiming to restore and maintain fish stocks above biomass levels capable of producing the MSY (B_{MSY}).

Analysis has been done to see to what extent stocks are exploited at their MSY levels. Yet, so far it has not been assessed to what extent the CFP is making progress to restore and maintain biomass levels above MSY levels. Only in 2016, the European Commission has for the first time requested ICES to provide an annual analysis of the long-term development of stocks and their exploitation in relation to the CFP reference points and objectives. If appropriately done, this analysis can help decision makers and stakeholders involved to better assess progress made to achieve the CFP objectives. It might also help to start a political discussion on how much above the B_{MSY} reference level fish stocks should be restored and maintained in the CFP context.]

The presentation will showcase some of the stakeholders' efforts to secure reporting on the CFP biomass objectives, illustrate developments in the request for scientific advice on development of stock biomass and outline opportunities to improve evaluation of CFP implementation.

Keywords: Reference points, maximum sustainable yield, common fisheries policy, ICES.