

Theme Session P

Operational solutions for cephalopod fisheries and culture

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Cephalopods have important ecological roles as predators and prey, reflecting their fast-growth and high productivity, and they are increasingly important as a fishery source in Europe, in small-scale and large-scale fisheries. Cuttlefish, octopus and squid are all targeted by small-scale coastal fisheries, especially in southern Europe, and these fisheries have an important social role as well as high economic value. Historically in Europe, cephalopods have mainly been a bycatch of large-scale fisheries, although opportunistic targeting of squid during periods of high abundance has been seen (e.g. in Norway and at Rockall). Recently however, the decrease in catch possibilities of traditionally exploited species (e.g. hake in the Bay of Biscay) has led to some commercial fleets to move into targeting of squid. Key aspects of the importance of cephalopods as resources are:

- 1) the dependency of some artisanal and commercial fisheries on cephalopods, either as target species, as accompanying species or as prey for other important commercial species. A recent global review highlighted the indirect importance of cephalopods as food of fishery target species
- 2) environmental sensitivity and trophic role: understanding effects of environmental variables on cephalopod distribution and abundance will help us to explain and predict the wide fluctuations in cephalopod abundance, and hence variation in fishery catches and effects on the abundance of predators and prey of cephalopods.
- 3) potential as cultured species and thus as a source of marine proteins

We welcome papers on topics related to these themes, including but not limited to:

- Practical applications of environmental impacts on cephalopods
- Directed cephalopods fisheries: e.g. small-scale fisheries and their socio-economic importance
- Environmental and human impacts on cephalopods in small-scale fisheries.
- Management strategies for cephalopod fisheries, accounting for essential habitats.
- Optimal culture conditions
- Key issues for successful culture: artificial diets; quality product for human consumption.