

CIESM Congress Session : Fisheries ecology
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Moderator's Synthesis

Fisheries Ecology is about the ecology of fish which are caught by man. Its aim is to seek out the processes which must be identified, described, measured, analysed and ultimately predicted in order to provide optimal management of exploited fisheries. The session has spanned over a wide range of species and systems in the Mediterranean, covering issues of productivity, marine protected areas, exploitation pressure, and gear selectivity and the technically non-trivial acquisition of time series on fisheries landings and catch per unit of effort data.

The following discussion revolved around two focal areas: (i) the applicability of the time series by merging the with time series on drivers and pressures from other sources, and (ii) the integration of the ecological findings in applied management of fish, molluscs and crustacean stock assessments and ecosystem management.

It has been concluded that the available time series have great potential to generate understanding of driver interactions and their forcing on exploitable resources, as well as predicting productivity in the face of climate change. Furthermore, there is an accumulating ecological knowledge that could constructively feed into stock assessments and management, as for example the effectiveness of closed areas to protect hake recruitment.

