

CIESM Congress Session : Ocean policies - local implementation

Moderator : Wendy Bonne, JPI Oceans, Brussels, Belgium

Moderator's Synthesis

In this session four examples of applied research tailored to serve national and European marine and maritime policy at different geographical scales – at a local (bay), national (beaches), regional (trilateral country agreements) or European context - were presented. The speakers all had substantial experience in exchange with policy makers as end-users. Some studies were even initiated on request of the end-users like fishermen.

The response from the audience indicated that roughly one third of them would like to actively perform applied research, which is the same ratio as performed through an audience survey at the ECSA conference in 2014. Still, the ratio of experts currently active as such was lower, mainly working in institutes involved in policy advice. They also indicated that the majority had experienced acceptable rewards for their work (already a higher ratio than at the ECSA conference 2 years ago), including some at universities.

There was a general consensus that more effort should be invested in well organised applied research. All recommended that applied research should be co-designed from the start with managers and stakeholders, not as a teaching exercise but as a co-learning experience. Policy makers also need to communicate better what the needs are to researchers. A need for extra assistance at European level to disseminate research was expressed, as well as for cooperation at wider international level for example through Future Earth and Belmont Forum.

