SYMPOSIUM ON "IMPROVED FISHERIES AND SCIENCE PARTNERSHIPS AS POLICY DRIVERS", OSTEND, BELGIUM, NOVEMBE 9 AND 10 NOVEMBER 2010

Presentation in Theme 1: Data collection and stock assessments in a joint venture. Also relevant to Theme 5 Communication between science and industry: the key to success

Presentation from the scientist (Pascal Lorance)

Deep-water fisheries in European waters are diverse, exploiting a range of stocks with different life history strategies and being prosecuted by different types of fleets. Due to this diversity, one single management objective and regulation framework does not fit all fisheries, making it necessary to develop case specific management approaches. Further, deep-water fisheries are generally poor in official regulatory data, making the input of stakeholders on biology and fisheries essential.

Stakeholder knowledge and data were collected and used for (i) identifying regional management issues and solutions for several deep-water fisheries, from longlining to trawling, using cognitive maps; (ii) calculating standardised cpue as input to stock assessments (illustrated for three fish stocks to the West of the British Isles) using tallybook data and (iii) collecting socio-economic data for describing the current situation and stakeholder views on management using questionnaires. These examples allow to demonstrate how knowledge from stakeholders expressed in cognitive maps, data stored in tallybooks and collected in questionnaires can overcome data limited situations and at the same time involve stakeholders in the management and assessment process.

Presentation from the industry (Antoine Le Garrec)

Le Garrec and co is a French fishing company founded in 1930 which operates 3 types of fishing activities (i) tropical tuna purse-seine (ii) longlining in the Austral Ocean (iii) bottom trawling in the northeast Atlantic (the main focus in this communication).

For always and all time, ship owners have kept their activities and, in particular, their fishing grounds secret. Indeed, in most fishing companies, confidentiality and secret were key of success and therefore has been a strong driver of those companies management.

Over the past decade (i) more control of activities (ii) more rules and constraints (iii) development of the precautionary approach have triggered the need for fishermen to make their activity and knowledge more transparent. At the same time secrecy became less essential as regulation prevented entry of new companies into fisheries. The need for transparency was even clearly perceived in the case of deep-water fisheries.

Essential data for assessment and management of fishery resources are often missing, which may result in management being irreconcilable with perception from fishers. To fill this gap collaboration between fishing industry and scientist has increased in recent years, examples involving Le Garrec and Co are developed. Focus on Deep-water fisheries is presented where we explained (i) the need and reason (ii) the different steps and their difficulties (iii) the future and our expectations.