

Talepapir til Ole Toft deltagelse i arrangementet "A CONFERENCE ON IMPROVED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MODELS" den 8. oktober 2019

Mødet finder sted på Axelborg fra 14:00-17:00.

Oles indlæg er skemasat til 15 min fra 15:45-16:00

Baggrund

Formålet med projektet "Ecosystem Based FMSY Values in Fisheries Management" er i højere grad at få den viden, der findes på området, inkorporeret i ICES' årlige biologiske rådgivning. En bærende pointe for projektet er i den sammenhæng, at ICES i sin rådgivning ikke i tilstrækkelig grad indarbejder alle de biologiske faktorer, der er vigtige for bestandenes udvikling. ICES anvender således ifølge projektet næsten udelukkende rekruttering som det afgørende parameter, hvorimod faktorer som bestandsafhængig vækst, dødelighed og modenhed ikke i tilstrækkelig grad er medtaget i beregningsmodellerne.

Ifølge projektet leverer i projektet konkrete nye 'Fmsy-referenceværdier' for de omkring vigtigste 50 fiskebestande i Nordøst Atlanten, som er højere end de nuværende FMSY værdier, som ICES pt. anvender.

Formålet med konferencen er at formidle og drøfte resultaterne af projektet og mulighederne for at indarbejde dem i ICES biologiske rådgivning.

Tale:

Thank you all for having me here today.

It is important and valuable that fishermen, scientist and fisheries managers have a constructive dialogue regarding fisheries management and the basis for this management. Therefore, I would like to thank The Nordic Marine Think Tank and EUFishmeal for organizing this conference.

.....

Fishermen ask for stability in their quotas and are critical when what they experience at sea does not correspond to what is presented in the scientific advice.

Fisheries managers have an obligation to manage fisheries sustainable and in accordance with the politics agreed both internationally and in the EU.

Sound and dependable scientific advice is the basis for sustainable fisheries management.

.....

The FMSY project offers some new ideas on how to manage fish stocks within the MSY framework. The project findings claim that more fish can be harvested from the fish stocks and that the stocks would still be within FMSY.

From a fisheries managers point of view this of course sounds interesting. The overall aim of fisheries management is to utilize our fish resources in accordance with our guiding principles.

.....

I was asked to give my views on “How fisheries policy makers can help move the agenda forwards?”.

In order to answer this question I in turn have some questions that policy makers will have to ask before we can move on and consider possible changes in line with the work done in the project.

How does the model used in the project incorporate the precautionary principle?

The precautionary principle is an integrate part of our fisheries management and principle is applied in current scientific advice. Moreover, it is enshrined in the UN agreement on managing marine resources sustainable.

The CFP prescribes that fisheries should be managed by an ecosystem based approach. Admitted – we as fisheries managers are still struggling somewhat with what the ecosystem based approach entails when it comes to management decisions. However, ICES is beginning to consider impacts of fishing on other components of the ecosystem.

These are not just considerations demanded by the CFP. Also the Marine Strategy Framework Directive demands managers to consider impacts of activities on the marine ecosystem as such.

How does the FMY project model take into account such impacts. For example – what will the proposed FMSY values mean to the balance of juvenile and big mature fish in the fish stocks?

Another relevant question is – How does the model handle changes in fish stocks and ecosystem regimes caused by other factors such as climate change?

These questions are also relevant to put to ICES with regard to the traditional scientific advice. I know that these factors are more and more becoming an integrate part of ICES considerations and something that parties that make use of ICES fisheries management advice ask for.

The FMSY project should also consider and describe how the models used can deliver answers to these answers in order to meet scientific advice demands for the future.

.....

Coming back to the question, I was asked to speak about “How fisheries policy makers can help move the agenda forwards?”

Well, Fisheries managers – as I mentioned earlier - need to have sound and accurate scientific advice in order to make solid decisions on the TAC’s. Before new management options can be incorporated in scientific advice, we need scientists to cooperate and review new proposals against the targets and obligations put forward by legislation and international agreements.

In the North Atlantic region, this means that reviews should be carried out in cooperation with ICES. Therefore, I am happy that already there has been discussions between ICES and the project. These discussions should continue and expect ICES to be a constructive partner in this regard.

The EU and Member States can use the outcome of these discussions and advice on possible new models for fisheries management decisions.

[From what we have heard here today there seems to be an option for rethinking – or at least consider if there is a possibility to allow for more fishing on stocks that are in a good shape.]

[However, when we look at the current situation and the condition of some of the most important stocks in the North Sea region – for example the cod stocks – there is considerable reasons for concern. And maybe it is not the best time for increasing fishing pressure].

That said, from a fisheries management point of view it is still important at all time to consider possible improvements to the science we use for management.

I therefore – as I mentioned before - highly recommend that both the project and ICES continue the dialogue and deliver reviews on the possible use of the models used in the project.

.....

Let me once again emphasize the importance of fishermen, scientists and fisheries policy makers talking together about the fisheries management and the basis for this management.

We know the scientific advice on fisheries does not necessarily depict the real status of our fish stocks and the fisheries taking place. We must always try to improve the basis for our management in order to get to best possible and sustainable use of our resources.

Thank you!