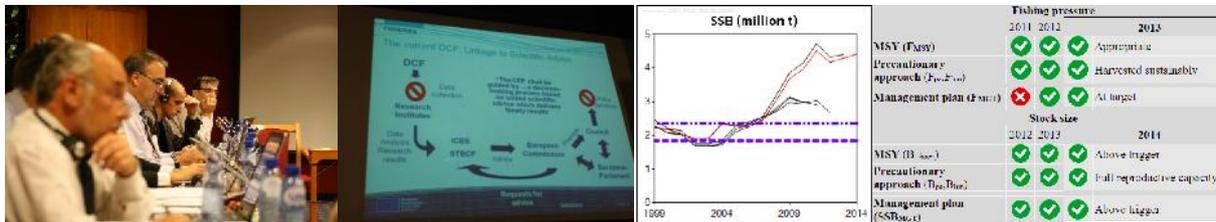


Evaluating the history of the scientific advice for fisheries management in the Northeast Atlantic

Ref 2015/06 (18/5/2015)

Introduction

Scientific advice on fisheries management in the Northeast Atlantic is provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Fisheries management advice is known to operate in an area of large uncertainty and with different frameworks for advice. Recently, the fishing mortality of many fish stocks have shown decreasing trends. A MSc student of Wageningen University evaluated the potential factors that explain this perceived decline in fishing mortality by looking at potentially explanatory variables like scientific advice, quota setting, fleet size and fuel price. He found that scientific advice, quota setting and fishing effort were important variables explaining the decrease in fishing mortality. In this thesis we would like to delve more deeply into the background of the scientific advice.



Research questions

- (Further) Develop a database of past fish stock assessments, fisheries advice and management decisions
- Evaluate the links between stock status, advice, TAC and catch (landings) for all stocks with analytical assessments
- How does the intended fishing mortality and perceived stock status compare to recent assessment of stock trends?
- How can different advisory frameworks be conceptualized in terms of influence on decision-making and fisheries management.

Type of student work: MSc thesis

Required background: fisheries science

Period: 5-6 months. Starting any time.

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Organization: The Pelagic Freezer-trawler Association represents the interests of 9 European pelagic freezer-trawler companies. PFA members are responsible, family-run companies, mostly going back to the late 19th century, who benefit from several generations of fishing experience, and operate a combined fleet of 19 vessels. They are vertically integrated companies involved in the catching, processing, distribution and export of pelagic fish. The association currently has members in France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands and the UK.

