

MyFish

Maximising yield of fisheries while balancing ecosystem, economic and social concerns

FP7-KBBE-2011-5

PRESENTATION TO THE NWWWRAC

WESTERN WATERS CS

The idea of MSY:

- The concept of MSY is well known by all of us.
- Coming from the 1950's, essentially MSY implies leaving fisheries at a level where the maximum catch (yield in weight) is obtained.

The MSY as a political aim:

- Originally first used in the Peace Conference US-Japan, as a way to exclude Japanese vessels from the Pacific.
- More recently (1982) we have the UNC on the Law of the Sea which qualified the concept.

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Interest for WW

2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), where MSY was declared as a global imperative and the objective of year 2015 was set.

2009 CFP Green Paper on the Reform of the CFP. WSSD precepts were accepted and declared as a guide.

2013? New CFP.

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Problems related to setting MSY as a target

- **M**aximum is not necessarily optimum, why loose by maximizing when it can be optimized.
- **S**ustainable has to be interpreted within the environment (ecosystem approach). Keep one natural population constant at a certain level for the L/T is a chimera.
- **Y**ield may not be the main reason for fishing.

The concept of MSY as it stands alone admits at least some discussions.

Problems related to setting MSY as a management target:

- MSY is a single-species concept: Reach MSY in a multi-species fishery simultaneously for all species is not possible.
- MSY is not an ecosystem based concept: The catch of one species affects that of other species as the perturbation of the system propagates to other components through the PP relationships among others.
- MSY cannot be always measured: It is not easy to calculate MSY related targets (such as F_{MSY}) for not assessed species.

Problems related to setting MSY as a management target:

- MSY is not an economic concept: Economic concepts are not included in MSY. Not only if we see it as a target but also in the transition period.
- MSY is not a social concept: The same logic as in the economic side.
- MSY is not a governance concept: Promoting inclusive governance can also be a target.

Go beyond these interpretations and (re)define MSY variants

For doing so we have several regional areas: WW is one of those and it is divided in:

- CS on Celtic Sea
- CS BoB
- CS Iberian Watters

And in each one we (all of us) have to decide which are our priorities in terms of:

- What to maximize (optimize)
- What to Sustain (constraints)
- How to do it (management)

We started with a WS in which representatives of this RAC were presented. (April, 2012, Vigo).

- We defined (enumerated) variants and constraints.
- Tried to know if there was a common understanding of all the constraints and variants.
- Tried to know if there were relevant to our CS
- Tried to give preferences.
- Tried to measure the disagreement of the room.

Some results top scored / highly agreed:

- Yield in value of key species (1st ww) (2nd overall)
 - Yield in value of all species (2nd ww) (4th overall)
 - Max inclusive governance (3rd ww) (1st overall)
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- Willingness to invest (4th ww) (12th overall)
 - Fishing units (5th ww)
 - Minimize risk (6th ww) (7th overall)
 - NPV (7th ww) (5th overall)
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- GVA (8th ww) (3rd overall)

<http://www.myfishproject.eu/>



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