

Interdisciplinary fisheries seminar

Reconciling stakeholder conflicts in managing fish resources through integrating biological and socio-economic perspectives

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Aula Seminar 07, Faculty of Economics

Abstract

Sustainable use of renewable natural resources is a goal shared by scientists, policy makers, and stakeholders, but inherent conflicts between objectives (i.e., between extractive use, employment, profitability, and conservation) regularly create problems in achieving it. Could recognizing that seemingly conflicting objectives are compatible promote stakeholder consensus? Here we outline a quantitative approach to reconciling stakeholder conflicts through integrated assessments in marine fisheries. We link a biological model with a socio-economic model, both calibrated for the capelin and cod fisheries in Norway, define utility functions for five stakeholder groups, and evaluate different management options in terms of the resulting stakeholder utilities. Our results show that, for both cod and capelin, there exist management control options that result in unexpectedly high joint stakeholder satisfaction, with even the least satisfied among five modeled stakeholder groups reaching a high degree utility relative to their maximally achievable utility. Our approach facilitates stakeholder inclusion in fishery management and helps deriving management regimes that reconcile stakeholder conflicts by showing that conflicts between competing objectives are often much weaker than they first seem.

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