Call for contributions

Global changes in small-scale small pelagic fisheries

A synthesis paper & journal special issue publication

Editors:

Manuel MUNTONI (Too Big To Ignore Project, Memorial University, Canada) Ratana CHUENPAGDEE (Too Big To Ignore Project, Memorial University, Canada)

Despite the usually low commercial value, small pelagic fisheries are considered among the most important fisheries in many countries, especially in developing coastal communities (Fréon et al. 2005; Briones et al. 2006). Many small-scale fishing communities depend on small pelagic fisheries for food and source of employment and income (Allison 2011; Cochrane and Tandstad 2000). Many coastal communities also have cultural and traditional tie to these small pelagic fish. Like many fisheries around the world, small pelagic fisheries are approaching the maximal harvest level, due to growing demand. Small pelagic fish play central role in marine ecosystems, and variability in stocks have direct effects on their prey (plankton), predators and lastly, fisheries. These fisheries are characterized by huge fluctuations in catches and because of this, their effective management and long-term sustainability is challenging (Taboada and Anadón 2016). Holistic view of the system complexity and dynamics is required for sustainable small pelagic fisheries (Checkley et al. 2009).

Significant progress has been made in describing and understanding the primary aspects of observed large-scale changes in small pelagic fish production (Checkley et al. 2009). Little is known, however, about how these global changes, including environmental, climate, markets and regulations, affect small-scale small pelagic fisheries and small-scale fishing communities who depend on them. Considering the importance of pelagic fisheries to small-scale fishing communities, both culturally and as a reliable source of food, the "Global Change Response" cluster of TBTI is launching an effort to enhance understanding about small-scale small pelagic fisheries and their susceptibility to global changes, by learning as much as possible about different types of changes, effects and responses.

Specifically, the purpose of this call is to invite case studies about small-scale small pelagic fisheries anywhere in the world affected by any type of change, local or large-scale, climate-related or others. Case study contributors are encouraged to use the I-ADApT template, developed by IMBER Human Dimension Working Group (Bundy et al. 2015), to first describe the natural, social and governance systems associated with these fisheries, and to systematically examine how vulnerable these fisheries are to specific stressors in the study location. The framework also allows for documentation and appraisal of the effectiveness of the various types of responses. By applying the same framework to multiple case studies, typology of responses can be developed, based on fisheries characteristics and type of stressors. Such a typology can be very useful to help fishing communities and fisheries managers prepare for change.

Possible journals for the special issue are Global Environmental Change, Progress in Oceanography, and ICES. If you are interested in contributing case studies, please follow the timeline below and send your contribution to toobigtoignore@mun.ca.

Call for contribution May 15, 2016
Expression of interest* June 15, 2016
Completion of I-ADApT template August 15, 2016

Manuscript writing workshop[^] September/October 2016

Submission of manuscript November 2016

- * Expression of interest (about 300 words) should include title of the case study, location, type of change and effects on small-scale fishing communities and fisheries ecosystems.
- ^ All contributors will be invited to a 3-day workshop to work on manuscripts and to contribute to a synthesis paper. Travel support will be available for those meeting the funding eligibility. Exact dates and location will be later determined.

References

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