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INCOFISH Progress Report for January 2006

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Coordinator's report (Rainer Froese)

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-- With Lotta, I discussed the design of the new INCOFISH portal. Especially, there will be several new ICZM-related services.

-- With FishBase staff Christine and Eli I finished the design of the new 'Invasive exotics' service, which shows for every country the aquarium fishes that may establish themselves. Go to <http://64.95.130.5/search.php> then select a country and click on the respective link. Have a look at the information provided and let me know if you spot any errors. This service will also run from the INCOFISH portal.

-- I asked some colleagues from Greece for the occurrence data related to their publication on depth range and abundance of deep-water fishes and demersal fish assemblages in the Mediterranean. They responded positively and the data will be sent soon. This will be useful for WP Bio-mapping.

-- With colleagues from OBIS and AllFish I am preparing an 'AquaSpecies' workshop in the Philippines, right after the WP1 workshop. This will hopefully lead to a FishBase-like information system for all aquatic animals, to be integrated with the INCOFISH portal.

-- I prepared material for an invited presentation at the AAAS meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on 17 February. Among other I will use this opportunity to distribute a 'West-Coast' fish ruler showing size at first maturity for important fishes. As Amanda put it: "Don't buy the small fry."

-- With Amanda I worked on the final version of the review on simple indicators. We also submitted an abstract to the IIFET conference, July 2006 in Portsmouth (Amanda will go).

-- Silvia and I discussed with several WP leaders the thrust of their upcoming workshops. From the coordinators point of view, we want to make sure that the focus is on the deliverables, including scientific publications.

-- During January it became clear that INCOFISH will not be able to spend 70% of the received first installment during the first 12 months. We clarified that this will only delay but not diminish the second installment. General message: Do not hold back funds! Spend as is foreseen in the work plan. If deliverables are delayed because of late arrival of first

installment, consider hiring additional personnel to catch up. Funds not spent at the end of the project will be lost.

#### Project Support Team (by Silvia Opitz)

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We have edited and distributed the project report for December 05 (S&C); updated Incofish webpage (S&Sven); advised WP1 re lay-out of portal search page (R&S); prepared request for amendment to Incofish contract (to be completed)(S); prepared Incofish PP Show for upload to portal (to be finalized)(S); advised participants on budget and other project matters (e.g 70% target of expenses)(S&R); supervised day-to-day tasks of project management team (R&S); discussed Cris' participation in the upcoming workshops of WPs 2, 4, 5 (R&S&C).

We have received the last signature on the Consortium Agreement from the University of Aberdeen. All contractors have now signed the Consortium Agreement.

The INCOFISH web page statistics for January stand at 13,556 hits from 725 visits, with 436 unique visitors. See link below.

<http://filaman.ifm-geomar.de/awstats/awstats.pl?config=incofish.org>

#### WP 1 Data, Tools and Outreach (by Lotta Järnmark)

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Preparations for portal launch (by Kit in consultation with Lotta, Rainer, and Eli):

A static version of the portal has been finalized and uploaded to the Philippine server. This version includes most "INCOFISH services" (Seafood advisories, Annotated bibliography, ICZM Links, ICZM Glossaries, Outreach toolkit and Species information Services), forum and guestbook. New dynamic functions have been added for "INCOFISH services".

A draft of the portal had been sent to Kiel for review and comments. Based on suggestions from Kiel, the new INCOFISH search/index page now includes the following: FishBase Information by country, FishBase Information by ecosystem, a selection of tools from Incofish Tools page and FishBase Tools and FB Glossary.

Database management (Skit, Auda and Joann):

Annotated bibliography documents from Word have been converted to Access format. A table for Annotated Bibliography and a Contacts database have been

prepared and updated. Online research on Seafood advisories websites is being done.

Outreach and Graphics (Aque, Allan and Lotta):

Four graphic elements have been produced for the INCOFISH portal news page: Bulletin headline, Newsflash, Incofish in the media and Around the world icons. Draft illustrations for "Let them spawn" and "Don't eat the babies" have been prepared. Request for use of "Fishing down the foodweb" illustration from Daniel Pauly has been granted.

Workshop preparations and administration (Lotta and Joann):

Workpackage leaders have been contacted for their plans and travel schedule. Official invitations, provisional agenda and program for Workshop WP1.1 the 15-19 of May 2006 have been prepared. Preliminary inspection of venue and accommodations, bookings, and budget drafts are being attended to.

WP 2 Shifting Baselines (by David Starkey/Joanne Phillips)

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Research: during January 2006, the WP2 partners continued the process of assembling and validating historical data relating to key aquatic resources in the LMEs selected for investigation - that is, the North Sea, Baltic, Caribbean, Benguela Current, South East Australian Shelf, Humboldt Current and the Galapagos Marine Reserve, which lies within the Pacific Central-American Coastal LME. In each case, emphasis has been placed on collating data pertaining to fishing catch and effort, species interactions, and human impacts. Each partner will present the initial findings of this first phase of the research effort to the WP2 workshop in March 2006.

Data Management: the INCOFISH WP2 Database development phase is proceeding according to plan. The various partners have submitted, or are in the process of submitting, sample dataset information that is being assessed. Communication between the Database Administrator and the partner Research Teams is positive and is resulting in successful progress for the database development phase of the project.

Workshop 1: the practical arrangements for WP2's first workshop were sent to all WP2 members. Flights are being booked, and visa applications are being sent out to all participants who are not EU citizens. A new participant, Charlotta Järnmark from WP1, will also be attending, and will be mainly contributing to the data discussions. The provisional programme includes the presentation of work achieved so far as well as papers presented by CEFAS ('What is a Shifting Baseline?') and UHULL ('Shifting Perspectives on Baselines' and 'The INCOFISH WP2 Data Repository in Perspective').

Integration: within INCOFISH, collaboration with WP1 colleagues was instrumental in the design of the WP2 database and preparation of the manual for data providers. The WP1 leader will be attending the first workshop of WP2. Contributions have been made to the INCOFISH Annotated Bibliography. Consideration is being given to photos that may be suitable as entries to the INCOFISH photographic award.

#### WP4 Ecosystem Modelling (by Paco Arreguin-Sanchez, for Dec.-Jan.)

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##### Ecosystem models:

All partners continued with the review of their study cases, collecting data, updating and improving existing models for their study cases, or constructing new models.

An intensive review was done on timetables, deliverables and the agenda for the first half of 2006 in order to meet all commitments established in the contract.

##### Preparations for joint workshop with WP 5:

For the WP 4-5 workshop in London, UK on 13-17 February 2006, all WP4 partners were asked to prepare materials for presentation, specifically those needed to meet the deliverables and other programmed activities.

Members and leaders of the WP4 and WP5 have been discussing about further joint actions, some of which will be specific points of discussion and agreement during the workshop.

A tentative agenda and working plan for the WP4-5-JW was prepared jointly with WP5 and distributed among partners. Administrative and logistic aspects were addressed.

##### Other activities:

A WP 4 webpage is under development. WP1 is providing ideas and support, while WP 4 discusses real needs based on the suggestions.

Invitation was extended to Incofish partners to the International Conference on Coastal Ecosystems to be held in the city of Campeche, Campeche, Mexico at the end of June. Several contributions directly linked with Incofish project were registered.

#### WP 5 Marine Protected Areas (by Nick Polunin/Will Le Quesne)

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Dr Chris Sweeting has been employed by UNEW to contribute to work on deliverable 5.1, the review of MPAs. Chris is particularly well suited for this work having recently written a report for the UK Government on MPAs for management of temperate Atlantic fisheries.

The agenda and logistical arrangements for the joint workshop with WP4 to be held in London Feb 13-16 were finalised and circulated to participants during the month.

Several WP5 members have submitted abstracts to international conferences covering coastal zone management and MPAs.

CICIMAR and NIES have continued with development of Ecopath models for their respective areas.

Will Le Quesne (UNEW) has been working on equilibrium and dynamic population models examining the implications of increasing relative fecundity with age, and using MPAs to protect or target specific age groups for site attached species, and mobile species with ontogenetic migration.

#### WP 6 Coastal Transects (by Ratana Chuenpagdee)

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Team meeting in Aberdeen:

Ratana, Rob and Javier travelled to Aberdeen to meet with Graham, Cristina and Jianjun on January 10-11, 2006. The discussion was focused around tasks, activities and delivery related to the first two products. Good progress is being made in both cases.

Coastal database development (for WPs 6 & 8):

- On-going database development and data collection
- Continued discussion with WP 1 on database structure

#### WP 7 Simple Indicators for Sustainable Fisheries (by Amanda Stern-Pirlot)

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A fish-ruler template, created in Adobe InDesign, and some simple instructions for how to modify it, are available for download at [www.incofish.org](http://www.incofish.org) . Adobe InDesign is necessary in order to use it. This software is available from Adobe for free for a 30-day trial at <http://www.adobe.com/products/tryadobe/main.jsp#product=31> . We are currently working on creating a template using a more widely accessible program such as PowerPoint.

Amanda has continued working with the high school students in Kiel on their fish market surveys. So far, they have visited four markets which sell fresh fish and their data looks interesting!

Alex Hearn and Mauricio Castrejon at the CDF have been working on bringing together sexual maturity data for both spiny lobster and sea cucumber resources, and are in the process of preparing two manuscripts to take the information out of the 'grey' literature and into the peer reviewed.

They have also recovered lobster size structures from the mid-70s which were part of a thesis carried out back then, and plan to compare that historical dataset to the current size structures. On the same theme, they are going through a 4-year series of mark-recapture data in order to prepare a document on the growth parameters for this species in Galapagos.

On the management front, they have also found a gross disparity between the recorded landings of undersized lobsters (0% immature) and those reported by onboard observers (as many as 45% immature). This warrants further study.

Other workpackage members have been compiling maturity data on species in their areas, especially focusing on what is in the grey literature. This data collection is in preparation for the "web-tool" deliverable which will allow users to easily get the acceptable length of a fish (or fillet) to buy at the market.

#### WP 8 Valuation of Coastal Ecosystem Products and Services (by Rashid Sumaila)

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Work package 8 member, Jannike Falk-Petersen, attended a Workshop in Cape Town on Ecopath with Ecosim ecosystem models, a tool we plan to use in our work.

Got a paper accepted "Sumaila, U.R. and C. Walters (in press). Making future generations count: Comment on "Remembering the future". Ecological Economics.

Sheila Heymans joins the project team as a research fellow.

#### WP 10 Legal Instruments for Sustainable Fisheries (by Gerd Winter/Marion Markowski /Till Markus)

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