

# Ecosystem Effects of Fishing

## Preface

Chuck Hollingworth



*A good editor is a man I think charming, who sends me large cheques, praises my work, my physical beauty and my sexual prowess, and who has a stranglehold on the publisher and the bank.*

*John Cheever*

Perhaps Cheever was thinking of a literary editor. At any rate, it is a great privilege to edit the proceedings of this important and successful conference and I thank ICES for the invitation.

The choice of manuscripts for these proceedings rested with me, although I am most grateful to the Conveners, Henrik Gislason and Mike Sinclair, for their kind collaboration and advice. We received 54 manuscripts – a staggering 2043 pages. We sent them all for peer review to international journal standards by 95 referees worldwide who gave us an even broader range of viewpoints than was represented at the meeting. The referees, to whom we are greatly indebted, are listed on page 792. Constraints on space forced some unpalatable decisions, but other publications will surely arise from the Montpellier Symposium and we send those colleagues whose work could not be included here every good wish.

This volume contains 33 papers, chosen for scientific interest, relevance to the Symposium theme, suitability for the *ICES Journal* and quality of presentation. We are delighted to include many papers arising from invited lectures, nine papers based upon posters, and plenty of material by young researchers. We have tried also to reflect the geographical range of authors and diversity of subjects presented at the conference. Many contributors had to condense their papers (sometimes by more than 60%), often to tight deadlines, and I thank them for their understanding and cooperation.

Final acceptance of each revised paper was the prerogative of Niels Daan, Editor-in-Chief of the *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, Niels also performed the final, detailed edit. Judith Rosenmeier and her colleagues at ICES and Academic Press saw the papers through publication. It is a pleasure to acknowledge their efforts.

The “Symposium overview” by Henrik Gislason, Mike Sinclair, Keith Sainsbury, and Robert O’Boyle

discusses the content of this volume in some detail and presents the general findings of the Symposium, so here I shall simply relate the plan of the volume to the conference themes. These were: (1) effects of fishing in different marine ecosystems and on species groups; (2) quantifying the impacts of fishing on species and ecosystems; and (3) integrating fisheries and environmental management. We have structured this volume broadly to reflect that organization. Section 1 discusses effects of fishing at the levels of species groups and communities. These papers lead in to the Symposium’s prime topic of effects at the ecosystem level (Section 2). The boundaries between such levels are blurred, often arbitrary, reminding us that effects may be felt at all levels. Although effects of fishing have been detected worldwide, from estuaries to the deep sea, Section 2 closes with two papers cautioning that not all effects on the ecosystem may safely be attributed to fishing. How to demonstrate and measure effects of fishing is a problem being attacked in many ways, both practical and theoretical, and some approaches are necessarily controversial. Section 3 touches on the individual, species, community, and ecosystem levels. Section 4 closes the volume by discussing some ways to use the increasingly reliable measurement of effects of fishing in the design of operational management strategies – the way forward. Or rather, that should say a hint of the way forward: each reader will readily think of other tools for enlightened fisheries management, and we were able to select only a few case histories.

Finally, on behalf of the authors, editors, organizers, publisher, and everyone else who worked to produce this volume, I hope you will find the contributions thought-provoking, perhaps in places exciting, and in any case enjoyable to read.

*Chuck Hollingworth*  
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