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Environmental aspects of fisheries and MSC certification standards

Konstantin Zgurovsky
World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Russia

20 percent of the protein in the world comes from the sea. And if we cannot maintain this wealth, all of us can feel the loss. Fisheries management should be considered in terms of the ecosystem because fish of one species alters the ocean food chain as a whole - and sometimes we do not have enough data to prepare the necessary recommendations. This approach is called Ecosystem Based Fishery Management - EBFM. Comprehensive ecosystem approach to fisheries management requires that address interactions with predators and stock competitors, availability of food, the effects of weather and climate on fisheries; complex relationship between the target species and their habitats, and the impact of fishing on fish stocks and habitat. Arctic and adjacent waters are home to several large stocks of white fish (Walleye Pollock, Atlantic and Pacific cod, haddock, and herring and Pacific salmon). Due to climate change the area of Arctic ice is reduced, there is more open space for fishing. Long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources in the traditional fishing areas and new Arctic ones requires a comprehensive, ecosystem-based planning. EBFM become common practice in the world. It is designed to regulate fishing in the overall scheme of conservation, balancing their service with the competing interests of natural resources. Management of fisheries- is part of the so-called system integrated (or integral-ocean integral management) management of resources of the sea, not just biological. WWF is working to implement EBFM in two large so-called eco-regions: the Barents Sea and the Bering Sea (the latter includes the Bering and Okhotsk Sea). There are several systems of "green audit" of fishing, of which the most reliable is the certification to the Marine Stewardship Council (Marine Stewardship Council - MSC). Marine Stewardship Council program was founded in 1997 with the largest buyer of frozen fish -the Unilever Company- and WWF. It is based on an independent assessment by a third party and it is voluntary. Fisheries are assigned to the three main principles and criteria of MSC:

- State of the stock
- The impact of fishing on the ecosystem
- Management system

WWF as stakeholders is actively involved in the certification of fisheries in different regions of the ocean. The participation of non-governmental organizations makes the certification process more objective and accurate. Although these parameters are not included in the assessment system MSC, you still need to pay more attention to environmental pollution (emissions of CO₂ and lost fishing gear). In general, in our view, "greening" the impact of fishing gear - is a big topic for another conversation. Responsible fishermen recognize the need to improve the practice of monitoring and management of fisheries. Let's work together for the conservation of living marine resources of the Russian seas for our future!

Biography

Konstantine Zgurovskiy was graduated from the Far East University in 1976 as a Zoologist and pursued Post-graduation course at the Institute of Marine Biology in 1985-1988. He spent two years in Japanese Center in Vladivostok for Japanese language lessons and several training business programs on international trade and management in 1995-1997. In 1998 he studied management in the Mitsubishi Research Institute (Tokyo). He was given IREX four month fellowship in the WWF US Headquarters, NOAA Center and University of Washington in Seattle in 2001.

KZgurovsky@wwf.ru