

Poseidon Newsletter

September 2009

Hello again from the Poseidon team. This short newsletter summarizes our activities over the past year or so, and we hope it will be interesting for those of you who may not be aware of the range of work we have been involved with recently. The newsletter also provides us with the opportunity to thank all those who continue to support our activities.



Tuna purse seiners in Seychelles - tuna tagging evaluation

EU fisheries and CFP reform

It is an exciting and important time in the EU for those interested in fisheries, with ongoing debate on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Poseidon is already contributing to this debate, and continues to work on a variety of EU fisheries issues for the Commission, national governments and NGOs. Working under a framework contract with the Commission (in association with other European fisheries consultants), we have completed ex-ante impact assessments of a change in the management regime for Baltic pelagic species, changes to the EC fisheries control regulation, and of measures envisaged under the EU Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. Other recently completed or ongoing projects on EU fisheries includes work on: fisheries dependency in the EU (EC); identification of target species and economic significance of EU deep sea fleets (WWF/MRAG, 2009); assessment of the existence, functioning and monitoring of markets that have developed in the EU around transferable fishing rights (EC/MRAG); an ex-post evaluation of subsidies provided under FIFG 2000-2006 (Pew Charitable Trusts); a definition of data collection needs for aquaculture (EC); and an assessment of the impact of aquaculture on the good environmental status of EU freshwater and marine water bodies (EC).



CFP reform

Project design, monitoring and evaluation

Designing and evaluating fisheries projects and programmes remains core to Poseidon's expertise. Recent work has included: assistance to the WorldFish Centre in Malaysia on institutionalising a programme-level impact assessment system; two missions to the Maldives for IFAD to supervise a post-tsunami agriculture and fisheries rehabilitation project and then participate in a mid-term project review; ex-ante inputs to harbour developments in Oman; preparation of a project fiche for the development of marine and freshwater fisheries in IOC/COMESA and EAC countries (IOC); and an evaluation of an EC tuna tagging project in the Indian Ocean countries of Mauritius, Seychelles, Comores, Reunion, and



Assessment of harbour developments in Oman

Madagascar (EC). On a more global basis we have also recently assisted FAO with the conceptual structure and governance arrangements for a project to develop a Global Record of fishing vessels to counter IUU fishing, and completed an assessment of the impact of development assistance in fisheries and aquaculture by all major international and bilateral donors (FAO/World Bank). Poseidon staff have also provided expertise to a panel of reviewers evaluating the World Bank ALLFISH programme.

UK fisheries

As a company with staff based in both England and Scotland we retain a strong commitment to working on UK fisheries issues. Recent work for the Scottish Government has included: a study to integrate the OSPAR MPA commitments with the EC Habitat and Birds Directives; developing management plans for Scottish Inshore Fisheries Groups (IFGS); and two projects assessing comparative conditions in the salmon industry in Scotland, Norway and Chile, one looking at price and market impacts of salmon industry evolution and government interventions, and one assessing the cost structure, competitiveness, and economic impacts of regulation. We have also been working for Defra on a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the UK EFF Operational Programme, and most recently on reforming management of inshore fisheries, which has involved considering a range of different potential management regimes – both projects obviously have strong linkages with CFP reform. Other work for regional agencies and the private sector has included: investigation into regional ice provision; design of a decision-making tool for sustainable fish sourcing for a large retail company; an Appropriate Assessment of a regeneration project on two Natura 2000 sites; and a feasibility study for a shellfish depuration facility.

Certification

Market-based initiatives aimed at improved sustainability and fisheries governance are developing rapidly, and we are pleased to be part of these developments, working through Moody Marine as one of the MSC's accredited certifiers. Due to issues of confidentiality we are not able to fully publicise the pre-assessments we have been involved with, but they have included work in Australia, East Africa, the Indian Ocean, Canada, China, Holland, the UK and Vietnam. We have also completed, or are currently engaged with full assessments in the North Sea (shrimp), the Maldives (for pole and line and handline caught tuna), Canada (Atlantic haddock) and Fiji (also pole and line tuna). In addition, to these assessments for the MSC, we have been contributing to normative work on certification issues – for example we are currently exploring the validity of concerns that small-scale fisheries in developing countries may be disadvantaged by certification initiatives (FAO).

Asia and the Pacific

Primarily through our office in Australia, and due to our long history of working in the Asia/Pacific region, we continue to be very active in this part of the world. We have recently completed a three-year commitment to tsunami-affected areas with work for ADB/NACA supporting the rehabilitation programme. Work has focussed on post-tsunami private sector institutional building



Project design for a Global Record of fishing vessels



Scottish langoustine



Maldives MSC certification



Post-tsunami rehabilitation site in Indonesia

with the design and implementation of Livelihood Service Centres for fisheries and aquaculture. This work was complemented by an economic/livelihood assessment of the benefits generated from ADB's contribution to the rehabilitation programme. In Sri Lanka, we completed three projects for FAO: a value-chain analysis of beche de mer and related capacity development of national staff; an economic assessment of tuna longline catching and processing/export sector viability; and a project design for implementation of a landing site/fish marketing quality programme. Projects in Vietnam for Danida have focused on development of quality control and food safety in aquaculture areas, and development of a business plan for a private sector organization providing consultancy services to the fisheries sector, as well as participating in the mid-term evaluation of the FSPS II programme. In Australia we were recently engaged by a private sector client to review the Queensland fisheries management regime and implications for the Daintree fishing community.

Africa

The fisheries sector has a special role to play in Africa in contributing to poverty alleviation and food security, in a region in which people are especially vulnerable and in which achieving the Millennium Development Goals remains a considerable challenge. It is for this reason that we are always pleased to work in Africa. Recent activities have included a review of sustainable financing mechanisms for the Lake Victoria Fishery Organisation and preparation of a related Business Plan (EC), and fisheries sector inputs to a Diagnostic Trade Integration Study in Liberia (World Bank). We also worked recently in Nigeria on resettlement and alternative livelihood strategies for a community of fishers displaced by a large natural gas development (private sector client).

Other work on emerging issues

Climate change issues have an especially high profile in 2009. The December 2009 15th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen aims to set the climate change mitigation and adaptation agenda from 2012 when the Kyoto Protocol expires. Poseidon has been working with the WorldFish Centre to assess the potential impacts of climate change on fisheries and related trade, with a special focus on small developing Commonwealth States (Commonwealth Secretariat). Another important emerging issue is marine litter from the fisheries sector. FAO/UNEP have recently published as a Technical Paper our work reviewing the causes, extent, and impacts of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear, and recommendations for mitigating measures. The report is available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0620e/i0620e00.HTM>

Our website www.consult-poseidon.com provides more detail on all the above activities, as well as on other projects. The site has many downloadable reports, individual profiles and CVs for key staff, and useful links. You might also enjoy browsing our Photo Gallery.

With kind regards from Poseidon's Directors (Richard Banks, Tim Huntington, Graeme Macfadyen and Rod Cappell) and staff.



Development & management of tuna longlining in Sri Lanka



Business plan for the Lake Victoria Fishery Organisation



Bangladesh - fisheries livelihoods vulnerable to climate change