

Newsletter: Autumn 2016

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The Poseidon team (l-r): Richard, Graeme, Tim, Rod, Vincent, Fiona, Jean

Improvements in Fisheries Management

Poseidon is pleased to contribute to the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources. In 2016 we completed a **global review of IUU study methodologies** used to estimate levels of IUU fishing, and produced a report for FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) making recommendations about the need for technical guidelines to standardise and improve the quality of such methodologies. Other fisheries management work for FAO at a global level during the year has included: ongoing work to develop a **global estimate of discards**, their main causes, and mitigating strategies; and technical inputs and facilitation of an FAO expert consultation on the **marking of fishing gear**. We also contributed to the Global Ghost Gear Initiative to develop a **best practice framework for the management of fishing gear** to reduce 'ghost fishing' from abandoned, lost or discarded gear.

In the Asia/Pacific region Poseidon has been providing technical input and capacity building support to the offshore fisheries sector in the Solomon Islands, and assisting with the **introduction of a longline vessel days scheme** in the Solomon Islands and other PNA countries.

We continue to provide technical advice on **compliance** to PNA countries in responding to EU IUU Regulation issues. This includes the preparation of NPOA-IUUs and related implementation activities. Some of this advice has been extended to Indonesia where we recently coordinated a workshop on compliance risk assessment, indexing, and benchmarking. We also contributed this year to a regional evaluation for FFA estimating levels of IUU fishing in Pacific fisheries, and undertook a Pacific-wide cost benefit analysis of electronic information systems (e-tracking, e-reporting and e-monitoring) for WWF. Poseidon is supporting technical development and capacity building for PNA of the Fisheries Information Monitoring Facility and assisting with the roll-out of electronic monitoring systems to longline fisheries in the PNA countries.



Collection of wild seaweed for on-growing in Indonesia



Fishing vessel and iceberg in Nuuk harbour, Greenland



Frozen 'purse seine special' tuna, Solomon Islands

Also in the Asia/Pacific region we have been providing ongoing **project implementation support** to two separate 5-year IFAD-funded projects, one in Indonesia and one in the Philippines, aimed at improving fisheries management and establishing processing and aquaculture enterprise groups.

In Europe we produced a report ('Management Works'), highlighting the range of **benefits resulting from effective fisheries management** as part of a campaign by Pew Charitable Trusts to end overfishing. And we have been working to support local fisheries management, for example by drafting a **management plan for the English North Sea shrimp fishery**.

Environmental certification and Fisheries Improvement Plans (FIPs) building towards certification are important in supporting sustainability improvements. Poseidon has been working with WWF and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), to roll out **FIP curriculum and training** aimed at building capacity to undertake pre-assessments and FIPs in developing countries, and to mentor Indonesian and Vietnamese nationals. This year we have worked on the **design, monitoring and evaluation of FIPs** in China, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vietnam, the Seychelles and a number of UK fisheries.

Poseidon has been very active during 2016 working through certification bodies to undertake **MSC pre-assessments, full assessments, annual audits, or peer reviews** for a wide range of fisheries including: the Antarctic krill fishery; four Australian prawn trawl fisheries (Exmouth Gulf, Northern Prawn, Shark Bay, and Spencer Gulf); Shetland mussels; the Greenland halibut fishery; Adriatic small pelagic fisheries; Dutch pulse trawl fisheries; the Bering Sea cod/haddock fishery; a pike/perch fishery in Estonia; Dutch hand-raked cockles; a Japanese pole and line tuna fishery; Norwegian cod and haddock fisheries, the Maine lobster trap fishery; Suriname seabob shrimp; Celtic herring; a number of Spanish inshore fisheries; and Icelandic cod/haddock. We are also now working with a major global tuna catching and processing company to assist them with the development of a sustainable sourcing policy and its implementation through supplier audits, and during 2016 we completed an assessment of a responsible fish sourcing policy implemented by a French seafood processing group.

Economic studies

Within Europe we have been working for BIM in Ireland to identify additional **opportunities for foreign landings**, developing a strategy to supply the processing sector. And we have been supporting the development of a **framework for processing and analysing maritime economic data** to measure the Blue Economy in Europe. In the field of offshore energy developments and their impacts on the fisheries sector we recently completed a **socio-economic study of decommissioning options for offshore gas infrastructure** in the UK.



Bass and bream fish farm in Greece



Tuna longline fisheries improvements in Vietnam



Catch from the North Adriatic small pelagic fishery



Onboard a tuna purse seine vessel in the Seychelles

In the Indian Ocean, Poseidon is currently working on an assignment to support the identification of **blue economy/growth opportunities** in the EU's outermost regions, and we completed work in 2016 in Mauritius to **forecast fisheries traffic** into Port Louis and identify future needs for quay and land-based infrastructure for fish landing and processing.

We continue to have long-term commitments to support PNA countries in **economic modelling of tuna fleets** to inform the setting of access fees and to advise on cost and revenue streams, and are undertaking a **value chain assessment of tuna product flows** through the Philippines to assist with improvements in traceability.

Aquaculture sector

The aquaculture sector is growing rapidly in many regions of the world and our assignments this year have included projects to: **review the operational and financial performance** of two large vertically integrated bass and bream fish farming companies in Greece to identify areas for improvements and the resulting impacts on key performance indicators; **review the consenting/licensing regime** for Scottish aquaculture; advise a potential private sector investor on **tilapia farming** in North West Africa; **prepare the conference report** for a high level event on aquaculture organized by the European Commission in Brussels; and develop a **common reference document** for EU Delegations and other bilateral donors interested in investing in aquaculture projects to highlight the opportunities and the challenges of aquaculture development.

Evaluation

Evaluation is a core part of our work, helping to inform our clients' decisions about policy and public expenditure. We have completed evaluations this year of: a **GEF/FAO-funded bycatch reduction project** in Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea; potential **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)** between the EU and both Comores and Equatorial Guinea; and early next year will start work on an evaluation of a **Danida fisheries programme** in Myanmar.

In Europe our evaluation work during 2016 included: an **ex post evaluation of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF)**; an **interim evaluation of Production and Marketing Plans** prepared by fisheries sector Producer Organisations; and an **assessment of progress in NW Europe towards achieving the CFP objective** to end overfishing. We are also part of a European team providing ongoing support to EU Member State authorities on the **FAME Common Monitoring and Evaluation System** for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Thank you to all our clients who support our work.



Manila clam dredger, Dandong, China



Cod drying in Greenland



Mending fishing gear in Chioggia, Italy



*The Shark Bay fishing fleet in Australia
(courtesy Shark Bay Prawn Trawlers Association)*