

Poseidon Newsletter

Autumn 2010

Hello again from the Poseidon team. This short newsletter summarizes our activities since our last newsletter in September 2009, 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.

New staff

We are very pleased to announce that Fiona Nimmo joined the Poseidon team in January 2010. Based in Scotland, Fiona's expertise lies in European marine commercial fisheries and the marine environment. Fiona has a B.Sc. in Marine Biology from Newcastle University and a B.Eng. in Chemical Engineering from Edinburgh University, and she has previously worked for a number of fisheries and environmental consultancy companies. She has managed large renewable energy EIAs for wind and tidal developments, and has completed numerous Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) pre- and full-assessments.

Global certification and fisheries management improvement activities

Market-based initiatives aimed at improved sustainability and fisheries governance are developing rapidly, and we are pleased to be part of these developments, working globally through MSC-accredited certifiers. During 2010 Poseidon coordinated an MSC pre-assessment of 29 Australian Commonwealth fisheries – South Australian trawl, line and gill net fisheries, pelagic purse seine and pelagic long line fisheries, Coral Sea fisheries, and four tropical and temperate shrimp trawls. Due to issues of confidentiality we are not able to fully publicise other pre-assessments we have completed, but they have involved work in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. We have also been involved recently with a number of MSC full-assessments, including: the PNA free school and log set purse



The Poseidon team



Shrimp trawl sustainability improvements, Orissa

seine fishery; the Maldives pole & line skipjack fishery; the Australian Spencer Gulf prawn fishery; the recently certified Canadian Nova Scotia haddock fishery; the Danish saithe fishery; and Swedish, Danish and German Eastern Baltic cod fisheries.

In addition, to these assessments, we have been contributing to an improved understanding of the costs and benefits of certification schemes – a recent study for the OECD examined different certification schemes and the distribution of their costs and benefits through the supply chain. We are also reviewing the environmental gains from MSC certification through a contract with MSC (in collaboration with MRAG and Meridian Prime).



Swedish MSC assessment

Poseidon also completed a global review of tropical shrimp trawl fisheries in 2010 (WWF). This review assessed fishery management practices in 12 tropical shrimp trawl fisheries, spanning 6 regions, and reviewed the many problems in such fisheries in terms of environmental, economic and social sustainability. Case study information, and the key lessons learned, was used to develop a generic 'blueprint' for sustainable tropical shrimp trawl fisheries. Making this generic blueprint specific to the needs of particular countries has already commenced with the development of a country-specific blueprint for Suriname, with work in other countries expected to commence shortly in South and South East Asia (WWF).



Suriname fisheries management framework

EU fisheries and CFP reform

Poseidon continues to contribute to the debate on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), working for the Commission, national governments and NGOs. During the last year, under our framework contract with the Commission (in association with other European fisheries consultants), we have completed or are working on impact assessments of the CFP *status quo* and different policy options for reform, of a change in the management regime for North Sea benthic species, and of a seabirds action plan. Under the same framework contract we also completed socio-economic studies of 24 case study fisheries around Europe to assess key drivers of change and how communities have adapted to such change. Other recently completed or ongoing projects in Europe we have participated in include: an evaluation of the Community Fisheries Control Agency joint deployment plans (EC/MRAG); an interim evaluation of the Community financial measures for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy 2007-2013 (EC); assessment of effort management administration in the North East Atlantic (EC); evaluation of an insurance claim by a tuna farm in the Mediterranean following a vessel collision with the farm (insurers);



CFP reform: Outer Hebrides, Scotland

and an assessment of overcapacity in the EU fleet (EC/Framian).

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 and ongoing work includes: studies for Defra on reforming management of inshore fisheries, and a review of industry and government action (and associated recommendations) to improve the sustainability of fish and shellfish production and consumption, using environmental product lifecycle analysis; commercial fisheries assessments for the Hornsea Round 3 Offshore Wind Farm developments in Hornsea (North Sea) and West of Wight (English Channel); preparation of a brown crab management plan in Northern Ireland (NI Fish Producers Organisation); and an investment appraisal of a boat ramp and fishing compound in Withernsea in NE England (County Council).

Asia and the Pacific

Primarily through our office in Australia, we continue to be very active in this part of the world. We are currently completing an assessment of the institutional needs for strengthening marine fisheries management in SE Asia in 11 countries in the region (in association with MRAG, and on behalf of the RPOA Secretariat, funded by DAFF, Australia). The work focuses on identifying institutional support needs, and critical intervention requirements for improved management. Our work in the region during the last year has also included the use of the MSC pre-assessment methodology to specify Fisheries Improvement Plans (FIPs) in a number of countries, in order to provide action-orientated 'road maps' towards improved fisheries management and resource sustainability. WWF-funded work has enabled a study of tuna fisheries in Indonesia covering four principal target species, across a range of fishing methods – purse seine, long line, pole & line, hand line, ring net, troll & line and gill net. Also through WWF-sponsored work, we have developed FIPs for reef fisheries (grouper and snapper) in Indonesia, and blue swimming crab in Vietnam. We are about to start similar work across a range of fisheries in French Polynesia.

We are mid-way through some work for the FAO/GEF Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project to conduct assessments of the stock status, ecosystems impacts, and management frameworks for Indian mackerel and hilsa shad fisheries in all 8 countries in the Bay of Bengal. These assessments are identifying key strengths and weaknesses, and making recommendations for improvements, and form the first step in the development of



Wind farm development, commercial fisheries impacts



Gillnet fishermen in Sri Lanka, Indian mackerel assessments in the Bay of Bengal



Samoa HACCP improvements

regional management plans for these species. Also for the BOBLME project, we are reviewing fisheries and marine environmental policy processes, content, and implementation (FAO).

Other ongoing or recent projects in the Asia/Pacific region during 2010 include: the provision of HACCP training and preparation of associated legislation in Samoa (Commonwealth Secretariat); and supervision of a post-tsunami and fisheries management project in the Maldives (IFAD).

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. Our work during the last year in Africa has included: an evaluation of a value chain strengthening and economic modelling project in Mozambique (IFAD); training and capacity development in Sierra Leone for compliance with the EC IUU regulation (EC); and a terminal evaluation of an Eastern African coastal and marine environment resource database and atlas (UNEP).

Work on other emerging issues

Climate change issues in fisheries have an increasingly high profile. During 2010, we presented a paper at a workshop in Geneva for fisheries WTO trade negotiators on the implications of climate change on fisheries, and in particular on fisheries trade. Another important emerging issue is marine litter from the fisheries sector. Based on work completed in 2009 for FAO/UNEP on the causes, extent, and impacts of abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear, and recommendations for mitigating measures, we prepared a paper on this important topic for this year's issue of FAO's State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) publication.

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, Rod, Tim, and Graeme.



Maldives pole and line skipjack vessels



Value chain strengthening, Mozambique



Abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear