



Improved fisheries governance

In 2019 we launched an Index of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, to benchmark countries against coastal, flag, port, and market state responsibilities. We also finalised work to provide a global assessment of risks associated with **IUU fish passing through different ports** using vessel tracking data. Other governance projects with a global reach include ongoing work for FAO developing a toolkit to operationalise their **Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines**, and preparation for FAO in 2019 of a short **training course on fisheries and aquaculture response in post-disaster and emergency situations**. We also recently prepared a policy brief on potential actions that may be required by World Trade Organisation (WTO) members following a potential WTO agreement over **subsidy disciplines** related to IUU fishing, over-fished stocks, and over-capacity.

In the Asia/Pacific region we continue to provide support to the nine PNA countries in operationalizing the **longline vessel days scheme** and strengthening the application of **electronic-monitoring**. We also completed a **compliance review template** for PNA.

For Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) member countries we are currently assessing recent **progress in combatting IUU fishing** and evaluating their national plans of action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU). And we are in the process of preparing a feasibility study for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) of an **ASEAN General Fisheries Policy**, which will be complete by June 2020.

In Africa we started a 3-year project towards the end of last year to provide assistance in **Liberia to build the capacity of the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority**, while in Europe we developed a model and toolkit to **assess the relative environmental and societal impacts of alternative fishing patterns and management options** in England. In the Maldives we also assisted the government in 2019 to **prepare a NPOA-IUU**.



King scallops, *Pecten maximus*

Environmental certification and Fisheries Improvement Plans (FIPs)

Poseidon remains very active with fishery assessments, re-assessments, and surveillance audits, benchmarking and scoring fisheries against the **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** standard. Work in 2019 related to:

- Iceland cod and haddock
- Shetland mussels and inshore fisheries
- Icelandic demersal fisheries
- Norwegian herring
- NE Atlantic mackerel
- Greenland snow crab
- Icelandic saithe & ling, golden redfish, and lumpfish
- Dutch hand-raked cockles
- Danish, Swedish, German & Estonia Central & Northern Baltic Sea herring and sprat pelagic trawl and pelagic seine
- Australian Commonwealth northern prawn, Australian orange roughy and the small pelagic fishery
- Western Australia Shark Bay prawn, Exmouth Gulf prawn and pearl oysters
- South Australia Spencer Gulf prawn, and sardine purse seine
- Chinese clam and freshwater crayfish
- Greenland halibut & lumpfish
- PNA fish aggregation device (FAD) fisheries
- Shetland scallops
- Icelandic lemon sole
- West Greenland prawn



Yellowfin tuna, *Thunnus albacares*, unloading, Indonesia

Our recent or ongoing work on **Fisheries Improvement Plans** (FIPs), often a pre-cursor to MSC-certification, includes:

- deep-water snapper and grouper dropline and longline fisheries in Indonesia
- tuna purse seine in Southwestern Indian Ocean
- tuna purse seine and longline fisheries in Indonesia
- tuna handline in Vietnam
- clam and crayfish fisheries in China
- monkfish, scallops, lemon sole, plaice, crab and lobster in England
- implementation support to three potential Mediterranean fisheries improvement projects
- blue swimming crab gillnet and trap in Vietnam
- nephrops and scallops in the UK.

In 2019 we also completed a review of **bycatch of endangered, threatened or protected (ETP) and elasmobranch species** in MSC-certified tropical tuna fisheries, and prepared a report on how consideration of **ghost fishing gears** should be better incorporated into FIPs.

Of a more normative nature we developed a **fishery management plan template and guidance for fisheries** working to meet MSC's fishery standard requirements.

We also drafted a **detailed action plan** to improve the sustainability of a French longline fishery targeting dentex in Corsica, based on the MSC principles.



Skipjack tuna, *Katsuwonus pelamis*, Maldives

Economic studies

During 2019, Poseidon was involved in several economic studies in fisheries, aquaculture, and the blue economy, reflecting our strong expertise in this area.

We completed a study to **assess the dock/first sale and final consumed values of seven major tuna species in 2016 and 2018**, assessed the **economic benefits of Marine Spatial Planning** for the EU, and prepared national **maritime economy plans** for 17 Commonwealth Small Island Developing States in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

We currently have an ongoing engagement to develop **the Northern Ireland Fishing & Seafood Development Programme**, which will inform marine infrastructure planning, while last year in the Republic of Ireland we delivered a strategy to increase **raw material supplies to the seafood sector**.

Work in the Asia-Pacific region last year included a study for the IOTC to **review socio-economic data** that could be used in management decision-making at the regional level, and a study to assess the **economic and environmental impacts of FAD losses** in PNA countries along with mitigating strategies.

Other ongoing work in the Asia/Pacific region includes a continued long-term commitment to support PNA countries in **economic modelling of tuna fleets** to inform the setting of access fees, and **cost recovery mechanisms** for electronic reporting. We also recently completed an **analysis and review of the Marshall Islands vessel days scheme sales strategy** for domestic purse seine and long line vessels.



Crab and lobster pots, Dún Laoghaire, Ireland

Renewable energy

We are currently involved with several large-scale offshore renewable energy projects, primarily to assess the **potential impacts of offshore wind development on the commercial fisheries sector**.

Work has included the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment scoping studies for a number of offshore wind farm extension projects around the UK coastline and for the Dublin Array offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, and undertaking detailed impact assessments for Hornsea Projects Three and Four off the Yorkshire coast in England. We have also provided post-consent support to offshore wind farm projects approaching construction, including the Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm off the east coast of Scotland, which has involved developing approaches to mitigating potential effects on commercial fisheries. A Poseidon staff member is also supporting the Neart na Gaoithe project as Environmental Clerk of Works, ensuring the wind farm is constructed in compliance with project consents.

Evaluation

Through our evaluation expertise we aid clients in decision-making about policy and public expenditure, and generate lessons learned to inform future interventions. In Europe evaluations for the European Commission spanning 2019/2020 or those completed in 2019, included:

- evaluation of the **State aid framework** in the fisheries and aquaculture sector
- evaluation of **marketing standards**
- a study and analysis of the role of **women in fisheries** in the Mediterranean & the Black Sea

- evaluation of the **EU fleet entry exit scheme**
- evaluation of the **Eel Regulation**
- evaluation of regulations on the **provision of fisheries statistics** by Member States in the EU
- an interim evaluation of the **direct management component of the EMFF Regulation**.

Also, in Europe we continue to provide support to Member States on the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System of the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**.

In Asia in 2019 we completed an endline evaluation in Indonesia of a UK Space Agency-funded initiative involving the installation of **satellite communications and VMS equipment** on fishing vessels.

2019 was also a busy year for Poseidon's framework contract with DG MARE to complete ex ante and ex post evaluations of **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements**. Evaluations were completed of SFPAs between the EU and Greenland, Mauritania, Senegal, and the Seychelles. We also completed a **mid-term evaluation** of the Mauritanian **national strategy for the fisheries sector and maritime economy**.



Scottish salmon farm

Aquaculture sector

Our assignments in 2019 included:

- peer review of a report on challenges and opportunities of **Salmon Farming in the Falkland Islands**
- preparation of a White Paper on **marine litter from aquaculture** for the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, focusing on plastics
- preparation of best practice **guidelines for reducing debris from aquaculture** for the Global Ghost Gear initiative (GGGI).



Tim



Graeme



Rod



Fiona



Vincent



Richard



Sarah



Jean



The Poseidon team have had an active and rewarding year and look forward to working with you in 2020. Continued thanks to all our clients and to our network of consultants working around the world.

Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd. main@consult-poseidon.com