

Proposal for IMCC side-event

(revised draft: 26-Feb-2009)

Title: How will Conservation Science meet Policy Requirements on the High Seas?

Proposed date & location: All day, 9-5, Tuesday 19 May 2009, George Mason University

Abstract

Major decisions and criteria recently developed by the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and UN FAO (Food and Agricultural Org.) concerning conservation of the high seas, while based on science, remain unknown to most marine scientists, and also to policy makers outside of these bodies. This IMCC workshop side-event will provide an opportunity for high seas researchers and policy makers to discuss with each other what is currently being done to meet international high seas commitments, what is reasonable to expect within the short-term, and what would be required in the medium term using these recently adopted conservation criteria. Participants will be challenged to come up with realistic approaches to address data-limited situations such as are commonly found on the high seas. Next steps will be developed.

(Draft) Agenda

1. Overview of the day and workshop aims: Jeff Ardron (MCBI, USA; *confirmed*)
2. Brief background on the policy and legal context: Kristina Gjerde (IUCN; *confirmed*)
3. Brief background on the CBD and FAO criteria, their commonalities and differences: Jake Rice (Fisheries and Oceans Canada; *confirmed*)
4. Examples of the applicability of current research to the CBD and FAO criteria:
 - global predictive habitat modelling:
 - Alex Rogers (London Zoological Society; *confirmed*)
 - Andrew Davies (SAMS, Scotland) & John Guinotte (MCBI, USA; *confirmed*)
 - crossover with the International Seabed Authority criteria: Craig Smith (U. of Hawaii)
 - identification of Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest: Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra (Tethys Research Institute, *confirmed*)
 - identification of OSPAR MPAs in the NE Atlantic (Henning von Nordheim, German Agency for Nature Conservation, Chair OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on MPAs)
 - identification of VMEs and EBSAs in the Antarctic (Susie Grant, British Antarctic Survey; *tentative*)
5. Results of the related session at the ICES Deep Sea Symposium, 27-30 April, Azores: Jeff Ardron (MCBI; *confirmed*) & Robert Brock (NOAA, *confirmed*)
6. Work that can be done in the short-term based on existing research and data, and additional research required in the medium term: open panel discussion (above speakers on a panel in open dialogue with workshop participants)
7. Next steps and development of workshop recommendations: chaired open discussion (chair: Henning von Nordheim, German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, *tentative*)

Sponsors: Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

Cost and registration: free of charge, but registration required (through IMCC registration page, or contacting Jeff Ardron --below) and limited to 50 people maximum

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