

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

MAY, R. M. (ed.): *Exploitation of Marine Communities*. Dahlem Konferenzen Berlin, Heidelberg, NY: Springer Verlag, 1984, 367 p.

The book reviewed here resulted from an attempt to make community ecologists and fishery biologists think "about problems in the exploitation of marine fisheries, in an atmosphere free from any of the overtones that often constrain professional fisheries meetings" (cited from the editor's introduction).

More prosaically, the book is the outcome of a Dahlem Konferenz, whose task "is to promote international, interdisciplinary exchange of scientific information and ideas, to stimulate international cooperation in research and to develop and test new models conducive to more effective communication between scientists". The goal of the workshop/conference leading to the book reviewed here was: "to evaluate the ability of fishery science and management to deal with changes in the marine ecosystems".

Prior to the conference, 11 papers were commissioned and circulated amongst the participants. They now form the bulk of the book; their titles are:

- Why do fish populations vary? (M. P. SISSEWINE)
- The availability and information content of fisheries data (J. G. SHEPHERD)
- Dynamics and evolution of marine populations with pelagic larval dispersal (J. ROUGHGARDEN, S. GAINES and Y. IWASA)
- Observed patterns in multispecies fisheries (J. A. GULLAND and S. GARCIA)
- Some approaches to modelling multispecies systems (R. T. PAINE)
- The response of multispecies systems to perturbation (J. R. BEDDINGTON)
- Kind of variability and uncertainty affecting fisheries (J. H. STEELE)
- Managing fisheries under biological uncertainty (C. J. WALTER)
- The wider dimension of management uncertainty in world fisheries (G. D. BREWER)
- Strategies for multispecies management: objectives and constraints (C. W. CLARK)
- Management techniques for multispecies fisheries (G. G. NEWMAN)

These contributions are of very uneven quality and some of them simply do not satisfy the requirement for such reviews which is "to provide a review of the field rather than a report of individual work".

Fortunately, the book includes also four group reports which even things out a bit. They deal with:

- The dynamics of single species
- Ecosystem dynamics
- Management under uncertainty
- Strategies for multispecies management.

These reports, the editor's introduction, the epilogue (by J. A. GULLAND) and the comprehensive back matters (glossaries, indices, etc) have helped tie this book together, as has the elegant design characteristic of the Dahlem Konferenzen, Life Science Research Report, of which it is No. 32.

In summary, I do not believe that bringing together community ecologists and fishery biologists has contributed much in advancing fishery biology.

However, the book reviewed here is useful: it reflects very well the state of the art in fisheries science and will be, as such extremely welcome to graduate students and others in need of a comprehensive review.

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