

Sea Around Us

The Sea Around Us: Some activities planned for 2001-2002

By Daniel Pauly

The first two years of the Sea Around Us Project (July 1999 to June 2001) are completed, and so - largely - is our coverage of the North Atlantic, which led to rather impressive results. The reason why these have not been noticed by more than those colleagues who participated at meetings where they were presented orally, is that it takes some time for just-completed reports and journal articles to be published. Thus, it is only in the next months that our quantitative analyses of the impact of fisheries on North Atlantic ecosystems will become widely available.

Also, some highlights from our work will be presented in the form of a mini-symposium on "Fisheries-Induced Changes in Marine Ecosystems" to be held in Boston, on February 16, during the 2002 meeting of AAAS.

In the meantime, the project staff are retooling (see e.g., article by Sumaila, on fish trade), and getting ready to tackle the regions

to be covered in year three of the project, viz. the Central and South Atlantic, the former including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean in the West, and North West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea in the East, while the latter is to cover the rest of the Atlantic all the way to Antarctica.

Our studies will include among others (i) the spatial integration of ecosystem studies previously conducted in the Gulf of Mexico; (ii) the reconstruction of deficient catch time series in the Caribbean and West Africa; (iii) the establishment of a sound baseline to evaluate changes in the status of West African ecosystems; (iv) the inclusion of biomass time series in Ecosim analyses of the pelagic ecosystems off South America and South America; and (v) an examination, using Ecopath with Ecosim, of the interactions between key elements of the Antarctic ecosystem.

The results of these studies will feed into the global

fisheries catch and other maps that we have begun to develop (watch the Fisheries Centre web site this fall).

This is a lot of work, and it is obvious that it can be tackled only in collaboration with a vast number of local and regional colleagues, whom we have begun to identify and contact. One of the first fruits of these interactions is the planning, recently initiated, of an international symposium on "Marine fisheries, ecosystems and societies in West Africa: half a century of changes" to be held in June 2002 in Dakar, Senegal, West Africa.

The symposium's goals are to examine how the shelf ecosystems, modes of exploitation, and governance of fisheries in West Africa (Morocco to South Africa) have changed as a result of the widespread increase in fishing pressure from the 1950s to the present. All contributions are expected to address long-term

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2001 Oscar E. Sette Award Recipient

On August 20, 2001, the Sea Around Us PI, Dr Daniel Pauly, was awarded the 2001 Oscar E. Sette Award. This award for outstanding lifetime contribution has been presented annually since 1991 by the Marine Fisheries Section of the American Fisheries Society. Past award winners include, among others, Lloyd Dickie, Douglas Chapman, Saul Saila, William C. Leggett, William E. Ricker, and Edward D. Houde.

Congratulations to Dr Pauly from everyone at the Sea Around Us Project!

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changes, contrast the present situation with earlier baselines, and, based thereon, to evaluate the impacts of fishing, interpret prevailing trends, and propose alternative policy scenarios.

For a number of practical reasons (notably having to deal with two languages without assured funding for simultaneous translations), the symposium will be divided in two parts: (1) a two day session dedicated to present the results of the 'SIAP' project, based in Conakry, Guinea, funded by the European Commission (EC), and devoted to the analysis of ecosystem changes in Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal), and conducted in French; and (2) a three-day session for presentations from other parts of West Africa, and global perspectives relevant to the West African experience, to be conducted in English.

The participants will be invited researchers, fishery managers, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), notably of conservation-orientated NGOs. The Symposium's Local Organizing, Coordinating and Scientific Committees are composed, among others, of representatives of the following institutions: SIAP project; Sub-

Regional Commission of Fisheries (CSRP, Dakar, Senegal); Centre for Oceanographic Research of Dakar-Thiaroye (CRODT), Dakar, Senegal; Institute for Research and Development (IRD), France; Fisheries Committee for the Central-eastern Atlantic (CECAF), Accra, Ghana; and The Sea Around Us Project.

External support will be sought to help fund various elements of the symposium (translations, rentals, publications) and to subsidise participants' travelling expenses. Various means of diffusing the symposium's results will be explored, in addition to a complete set of proceedings; and a special issue of a scientific journal.

Another related activity recently initiated by the Sea Around Us Project is the re-encoding of data from the famous Guinean Trawling Survey, conducted in 1963-64 on the West African shelf, from Gambia in the Northwest to Congo in the Southeast. This will make available to West African and other researchers a dataset that had been inaccessible for decades, but also to provide a baseline for evaluating changes in ecosystems that were then largely unexploited.

Contact us if you are interested.

The *Sea Around Us* project newsletter is published by the Fisheries Centre at the University of British Columbia. Included with the Fisheries Centre's newsletter *FishBytes*, six issues of this newsletter are published annually. Subscriptions are free of charge.



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The Sea Around Us website may be found at www.fisheries.ubc.ca/projects/saup, and contains up-to-date information on the project.

The Sea Around Us project is a Fisheries Centre partnership with the Pew Charitable Trusts of Philadelphia, USA. The Trusts support nonprofit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion. Based in Philadelphia, the Trusts make strategic investments to help organisations and citizens develop practical solutions to difficult problems. In 2000, with approximately \$4.8 billion in assets, the Trusts committed over \$235 million to 302 nonprofit organisations.