

# Preface and Acknowledgement

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The contributions included in this report form part of the scientific output of the first phase of the *Sea Around Us* project (1999-2001), targeting the data-rich North Atlantic<sup>1</sup>. This project was initiated and is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, USA, and designed to investigate the impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems. To this aim, the project collect and analyze catch data and ecosystem information, and has developed a suite of new analytical tools during its early phase<sup>2</sup>. This task is undertaken in collaboration with a global network of scientists providing data, expertise and peer review<sup>3</sup>. An important feature of the approaches and methods used to produce these results is that they do not compete with the elaborate single-species methodology traditionally used in fisheries management. Thus, we are able to build on the findings of conventional fisheries science in an effort to complement traditional approaches.

The following report, available as electronic PDF free of charge from our web-site ([www.fisheries.ubc.ca](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca)), contains four sections:

1. A section on basin scale analyses, presenting findings based on the synthesis approach of the data and information documented in the geographic sections and outside sources, such as the FAO fisheries database;
2. A section covering data on catches, discards, effort and ecological information for the north-eastern Atlantic, including Iceland, Norway, Russia, Faroe Islands, Germany, British Isles, and the Netherlands;
3. A section concerning catches of the fisheries of the south-eastern North Atlantic, including French, Spanish, Portuguese, Moroccan, Azores and Canary Islands fisheries; and
4. A section on the western North Atlantic covering the US Atlantic coast, and French, Spanish and Portuguese fisheries off the Newfoundland coast.

We thank the Pew Charitable Trusts for their ongoing support of the *Sea Around Us* project, and the project team for their dedication. We would also like to thank all the external collaborators and colleagues for their willingness to work with us, and for their efforts at delivering data and information on time.

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<sup>1</sup> The present report is the first in a series of reports on the North Atlantic, with others covering ecosystem models and analyses, and policy evaluation.

<sup>2</sup> See Pauly, D. and Pitcher, T. (2000) *Methods for Evaluating the Impacts of Fisheries on North Atlantic Ecosystems*. Fisheries Centre Research Reports 8(2), 195 pp.

<sup>3</sup> See Annex 1