

Workshop Summary
Duke University Marine Lab, May 11-14, 2009

The Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum is building momentum with a productive and engaging second workshop, held at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina. Fifteen regional fishery management council members participated in the workshop, which was designed to build leadership skills, network with peers, and discuss ongoing fishery management challenges. Participants were eager to learn and offered ideas for continued engagement by the Fisheries Forum.

Council members from seven of the eight regional fishery management councils brought a diversity of experience, knowledge, and perspective to create a unique opportunity for learning. For three days, state representatives, fishermen, academics, scientists and conservationists from across the United States candidly discussed and debated current challenges, focusing on ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management.

The Forum adopted the case method as our primary teaching tool, and provided the case study to participants in advance of the workshop. The case study serves as a common pool of information from which council members from various regions can discuss management approaches and decisions. The case study for this workshop focused on incorporating ecosystem considerations into setting annual specifications and the role of councils in protected species management.

Participants broke into small groups to discuss the case study. Groups were tasked with setting an annual catch limit (ACL) and introducing accountability measures (AMs) for the case study fishery while also choosing management alternatives in response to a protected species. The groups reconvened to compare and discuss their decision-making processes, key information used to select an alternative, and compare the alternatives selected.

The workshop also included presentations from academic and fisheries management experts:

- Michael Orbach, Professor of the Practice of Marine Affairs and Policy at Duke, began with a presentation on the total ecology for ecosystem based fisheries management that includes humans and institutions as well as the biophysical environment.
- Larry Crowder, Steven Toth Professor of Marine Biology at Duke, spoke about the ecosystem effects of fishing and large-scale/long-term changes that ecosystems undergo.
- Phillip Levin, Program Manager at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center at NMFS, gave an overview of the scientific support for ecosystem-based management and integrated ecosystem assessments.
- Tim Ragen, Executive Director of the Marine Mammal Commission, gave a general overview of the pertinent laws that govern protected species management and lessons learned from the case study fishery.

Participants actively shared their own experiences and challenges during general discussions, enabling representatives from different regions to learn from one another. The learning and dialogue was a two-way street; as presenters and council members alike noted that they gained a

lot from the discussions. Council members shared their own experiences on ecosystem based approaches and protected species management.

The leadership skills session focused on negotiations and consensus building. Lynn Maguire, Professor of the Practice of Environmental Decision Analysis at Duke University, advised the group on values structuring as an aid to negotiation. She asked participants to identify their own goals and objectives, measures that could be used to evaluate progress toward meeting those goals, and developing priorities. A consensus building exercise on salmon management in the Pacific Northwest allowed participants to practice negotiation through role-playing.

A workshop highlight was a keynote talk by Monica Medina, Senior Advisor to the NOAA Administrator. She spoke candidly about NOAA's upcoming priorities and openly discussed questions and concerns of council members and other workshop participants. The participants and staff were grateful for her generous commitment to sharing her time and thoughts.

While the workshop took place overlooking the water, participants also enjoyed social opportunities outside of the classroom. On the last day, nearly all of the participants joined staff on a boat tour of Beaufort's coastal waterways. Mike Orbach, Larry Crowder, and Preston Pate (Former Director, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries) provided a history of the barrier islands, commercial and recreational fishing industry, and coastal infrastructure. The day ended on Shackleford Banks, complete with wild horses, blue skies, and warm weather.

Staff solicited feedback from workshop participants to continually improve our workshops and respond to the needs identified by council members. The overall tone of the responses was positive and enthusiastically supportive, and included some of the following quotes:

- "This is the best exercise I have attended."
- "This workshop was a breath of fresh air."
- "I enjoyed participating in the discussions while learning from the other participants. I commend you and your sponsor for putting this forum together."

The Fisheries Leadership and Sustainability Forum exists as a resource to regional fisheries council members. Workshops such as this create a neutral environment where participants can openly discuss a breadth of fishery topics and build leadership skills to take home and apply at the council level. Many repeat attendees recognized the steps taken to improve this workshop in light of previous recommendations. The Fisheries Forum staff will continue to incorporate the advice and comments of workshop participants in an effort to expand and improve this resource for regional fishery management council members around the country.

Background Information on the Fisheries Forum: The Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum is a partnership of the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions and the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences at Duke University, the Center for Ocean Solutions managed by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University, and Environmental Defense Fund, Incorporated. The purpose of the Forum is to assist members of the Regional Fisheries Management Councils by increasing their understanding of fisheries and ocean science, economics and policy by convening workshops and providing ongoing support throughout the year.