



## UNCOVER – The News 2

December 2006



### Note from the Coordinator

Dear all,

welcome to the second issue of the UNCOVER Newsletter. At the end of the first year of UNCOVER, we are looking back on a successful start of the project. The kick-off meeting helped a lot to create a good project atmosphere among the participants. Many activities in the workpackages and case study areas are being implemented. Presentation of UNCOVER activities took place at international conferences and workshops. Now we are looking forward to the next year of continuing the work and increase our efforts in UNCOVER.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, and good health and success in the coming year!

*Christian and Nils*

### Activities report

The following section provides an overview of the main activities carried out within the last months. In the case study areas, work was carried out in relation to the workpackage activities described below.

In workpackage 1 (**WP 1**), the work outlined in Task 1.1 is progressing. Standardised tables to hold metadata on stock population biology, developed by the NAFO Working Group on Stock Reproductive Potential and the ICES SGGROMAT, have been used to review available data on growth, maturation, condition, fecundity, potential and realised egg production in the selected fish species. These tables will be finalized during a workshop in January 2007 (see Outlook).

Within tasks 1.2 and 1.3., main activities were collection and analysis of sprat samples from the Baltic and the North Sea. Some data reviewing activities took place for task 1.4 in the Baltic.

The work on **WP 2** tasks has been initiated in all case study areas and some progress has been made already. A workshop to coordinate the future work will be held in late spring/early summer 2007 in Copenhagen hosted by DIFRES (see Outlook). Most activities covered the review of relevant information as well as compilation of available data and time series. Some work started already on the update of recruitment proxies, first coupled biophysical model runs on larval drift and growth and analysis of larval drifts were performed.

Several activities took place in **WP 3**, already. Among those are the construction of the North Sea ecosystem models, the update of MSVPA models and enhancement of multispecies fisheries assessment models in the Baltic Sea, as well as the fitting of the STOCOBAR model to historical data on cod, capelin and herring in the Barents Sea. Further the setting up of a GADGET model for Southern hake, and the review of key physical and biological processes in different case study areas took place.

Among the main activities in **WP 4** was the linking of already existent operating models describing the "real" system to the management evaluation tools implemented in FLR. As one way to achieve this, routines were developed, to enable the Gadget model of the Barents Sea ecosystem to be used from within FLR. Other activities were the preparation of the first modelling workshop (see below).

WP 5 is a little bit ahead of schedule. The expert workshop about the international review of successful recover plans was carried out in July. The review is currently being revised by MRAG. Field work for two social impact assessments in Spain was completed. Detailed analyses of these data, as well as one SIA in France and Denmark are planned for the next six months.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Modelling Workshop

The first Modelling Workshop of the project UNCOVER took place at AZTI Pasaia, San Sebastian (Spain), from 17-18 October 2006.

The workshop was planned as milestone n<sup>o</sup>. 6 to specify the technical requirements for input into the FLR framework and to discuss the priorities for evaluation. Future modelling strategies and common goals within UNCOVER were defined. The FLR ("Fisheries library in R") is a collection of tools in R that facilitates the construction of bio-economic simulation models of fisheries and ecological systems. It has been chosen within UNCOVER as the main tool for the construction of simulation models for evaluation of fisheries management strategies.

Major topics of the workshop were:

1. Introduction to FLR
2. How to model base-case-scenarios
3. Identify extensions needed to answer WP and CS questions
4. Common format for exchange of data, functions and model outputs (i.e. coordination between work packages and case studies)

## Outreach

At the **ICES Annual Science Conference** in Maastricht, activities related to UNCOVER have been presented on three occasions:

**Katja Enberg** from IIASA (together with Erin Dunlop, Mikko Heino and Ulf Dieckmann) gave a presentation titled "Ecological and Evolutionary Recovery of Exploited Fish Stocks", in Session H ("Evolutionary effects of exploitation on living marine resources"). She presented first results of a study that used an individual-based eco-genetic model that combined population dynamical and evolutionary processes. The model was parameterized for a cod-like life history. To identify the effects of evolutionary change on recovery processes a model population's response to fishing with and without evolution was explored. Preliminary results highlight the importance of accounting for the life-history changes caused by fisheries when trying to understand and predict the recovery of exploited stocks.

In session R ("ICES advice in a changing world"), **Sigrid Lehuta** (together with Pierre Petitgas and Stephanie Mahévas) from IFREMER gave a presentation titled "Assessing the potential effect of management scenarios for Anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) fishery of the Bay of Biscay using ISIS-Fish simulation tool" (ICES CM 2006/R:11). This paper presents the results of the investigations on the anchovy fishery dynamics using ISIS-Fish. The Bay of Biscay Anchovy population was chosen as a case study in the UNCOVER project. Its spatio-temporal dynamics and its great commercial importance in the pelagic Bay of Biscay fishery make this population a relevant case study of the Uncover project in the current moratory context. The preliminary results obtained show that ISIS-Fish can be a useful tool for the analysis of biological and exploitation

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processes as well as to understand and assess the impact of stock recovery plans.

In the same session R, **Christian v. Dorrien** presented objectives and the workplan of the UNCOVER project (ICES CM 2006/R:1).

### Management News

A draft Consortium Agreement between contractors was developed and is currently circulated for comments and approval.

The leaflet is under development, but slightly delayed due to other tasks. As a consequence of technical problems with the hosting, the launch of the new website is now planned for January.

### Outlook

#### Task 1.1 Workshop

This workshop will take place in Copenhagen 30 January - 1. February 2007 to plan the activities within task 1.1 of WP 1. Further details can be obtained from Jonna Tomkiewicz (jt@difres.dk) and Gerd Kraus (gkr@difres.dk).

#### 2nd Steering Committee meeting

The second Steering Committee meeting will take place in Copenhagen at 1. February 2007, back-to-back with the task 1.1 workshop. For details contact Christian v. Dorrien (christian.dorrien@ior.bfa-fisch.de)

#### WP 2 workshop

A WP2 workshop to co-ordinate the future work will be held in late spring/early summer 2007 in Copenhagen hosted by DIFRES. Suggestions for issues for the agenda, or a date or specific time window should be sent to Brian MacKenzie (brm@difres.dk) and Gerd Kraus (gkr@difres.dk).

If you have any **information** about

- relevant achievements, first results, etc. within UNCOVER, or
- interesting news about other projects, developments, etc. that are relevant for our project work,

please send a short text to me (christian.dorrien@ior.bfa-fisch.de), so that it can be presented to all, either on the website (intranet) and/or the next issue of this newsletter.



### Season's Greetings!