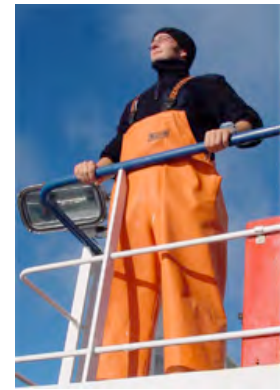


UNCOVER – The News 4

February 2008



Note from the Coordinator

Dear All,

I hope you had a good start into the new year. Within UNCOVER, the year started with some changes:

First of all, there is a change of two case study leaders. John Pinnegar (North Sea) and Hilario Murua (Bay of Biscay) have taken over new responsibilities in their institutes and unfortunately had to give up their commitments for UNCOVER.

However, good replacements were found: Finlay Scott (CEFAS) for the North Sea and Iñaki Quincoces (AZTI) for the Bay of Biscay have taken over the duties. In the name of the whole project team, I would like to thank John and Hilario very much for all their good work they have done for UNCOVER so far, and at the same time give a warm welcome to Finlay and Iñaki!

Secondly, don't be surprised by our new e-mail address. The German federal research centres were re-organised and from this year on, our Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries is part of the newly created Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institute (vTI), Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries. Now we are part of a large research institute dealing with agriculture, forestry and fishery.

Last but not least, Christian has shifted from a project-financed position to a permanent position in our institute, signifying also a change of his tasks. As a consequence, in the medium term he will have to reduce his management tasks within UNCOVER, although for the next months, especially until the interim report for the first reporting period is finished, he will continue to be the main responsible project manager. From May on, Harry V. Strehlow will take over most of Christian's

tasks in the day-to-day business of project management. Christian will however continue to guide the project management internally as long as this is needed and concentrate on the work in WP 6. Harry joined our institute in 2006 to work in the ERA-Net project MariFish. He is a studied agronomist and a fisheries sociologist by training, specializing on integrated natural resources management. He has a broad background in carrying out socioeconomic studies with small fishing communities and will carry out related studies within UNCOVER in the Baltic case study area, thus contributing to WP 5. Harry is, like Christian, a well organised person and a good communicator, and both of them will work together within UNCOVER, therefore I am sure that the management of our project will continue as smoothly as it used to be over the last two years.

The last year ended with the successful workshop on Tenerife in November, where we started the iteration process to combine results and models in a way that we will be able to formulate and test functioning recovery strategies. The next step in this crucial process will be another workshop the end of June in the UK. Before that, our next major task will be to demonstrate in the interim report to the Commission all the good work we have accomplished so far over the first two years of UNCOVER. Being right in the middle of UNCOVER, we can state that we are on the right track, now we will use the remaining time to put all the different parts in a meaningful way together.

Nils

Second workshop Tenerife

The second joined workshop within UNCOVER, "**Initial modules for each case-study specific or generic stock-recovery evaluation**" took place on Tenerife from 13 to 16 November last year. The workshop was a good start to evaluate the state of work within the workpackages and case study areas. All biological information (data and models) gathered and developed during the first 18 month of the project was exchanged among the different teams. The workshop was a crucial and important milestone (No. 11) during the UNCOVER project to start the iteration process and to combine the results.

The major goals of the workshop – reviewing the status of species-specific and generic stock recovery models and developing an action plan for further module development, testing and application – were achieved.

The **next joint workshop**, this time with all workpackages, including WP5, as well as case study areas will take place in the UK from **23rd to 27th June 2008**. It has been recommended by participants, to set up more time in the schedule where all involved scientists can work together on cross cutting questions and problems and

to bring all the relevant biological and ecological issues together.

Major topics for the next workshop will be:

- Common sessions of all or at least most WP's to integrate across case studies and WP's.
- Inclusion of WP5 to cover social, economic and governance aspects..
- Case study specific preparatory meetings recommended and planned in several cases already.

EU seminar

Christian von Dorrien presented the state of work and first results of UNCOVER at a one-day seminar "Fisheries Research in the 6th Research Framework Programmes - Review of knowledge" that was organised by DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs in Brussels on the 26th of November 2007. Presentations were also given by the projects BECAUSE, FISBOAT, EFIMAS and COMMIT. As a follow up the coordinators of the five projects forwarded a document to DG Fisheries that contained potential future research topics, identified by each of the projects.



Symposium 2009

The planning of the international symposium at the end of UNCOVER project at Rostock/Warnemünde in 2009 developed successfully: ICES has confirmed to co-sponsor the symposium, as well as the publications of the proceedings in the ICES Journal of Marine Science. Peter Shelton from DFO Canada has agreed to act as the third convener, besides Nils and Olav. And Niels Daan accepted to become the Guest Editor for the publication of the proceedings. Besides ICES, more co-sponsors like IMR Norway, DEFRA UK, DFO Canada and PICES have either already given a commitment or at least stated their willingness to co-sponsor the symposium.

Name changes

Please note the recent changes of institute names and acronyms, due to merges with other institutes:

Partner 1 (old: BFA-Fi, IOR) has merged with the newly created Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institute (vTI), Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries. Also the institute's name was changed to Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries, Institut für Ostseefischerei, and the acronym has changed to **vTI-OSF**.

Partner 5 (old: DIFRES) has turned into an institute at the Technical University of Denmark and has changed its name to National Institute of Aquatic Resources, in short **DTU Aqua**.

Partner 8 (IfM) has merged with Aalborg University and is now called Innovative Fisheries Management - an Aalborg University Research Centre. Aalborg University has taken over all rights and obligations from IFM and is now the formal member of the UNCOVER consortium.

Periodic report

The first official reporting period of UNCOVER ends after two years on the 29th of February 2008. Within 45 days, the project has to deliver a series of reports to the COM to demonstrate what we have achieved so far and to justify the funding we have got for our work. To ensure that the reports are ready in time, especially the workpackage leaders, but also the leading scientists and administrations from each participating institute have to work closely together over the next weeks. Christian von Dorrien (CvD) as project manager will prepare and distribute forms and tables that have to be filled out, according to the following schedule:

- 15.02. C-Forms sent to partners by CvD.
- 29.02. Templates sent to partners & WP leaders by CvD.
- 17.03. C-Form sent back to CvD by partners.
- 20.03. Templates sent back to CvD by partners.
- 10.04. Reports/C form sent to COM by CvD.

It would be great if all involved scientists will help the project coordinators as well as work package and case study leaders to make this task a success, many thanks!

Please,

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,

send a short text to

christian.dorrien@vti.bund.de, so that it can be presented to all, either on the website (intranet) and/or the next issue of this newsletter (around July 2008).