

## People and the Sea VII - Maritime Futures 26-28th of June 2013, Amsterdam

Conference theme: Coastal shocks, disasters and recovery

Panel: Don't rock the boat: enhancing stewardship to reduce instability

### **ABSTRACTS**

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Climate change, climate variability and natural disasters are expected to increasingly impact upon fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ecosystem approach to fisheries promotes adaptation to such inevitable impacts and shocks, while at the same time reducing the impacts of fisheries (harvest and postharvest) upon the marine environment. Achieving a better understanding of such social-ecological interactions is one of the first steps towards building desirable resilience in small-scale fisheries. Interactions are presented and discussed in the context of knowledge mobilization to establish a foundation for building adaptive capacity and enhancing stewardship in small-scale fisheries.

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Schemes for participatory monitoring and evaluation such as Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management (SocMon) and others can be means of promoting social and institutional learning aimed at increasing adaptive capacity within fisheries systems. (SocMon) is a practical and flexible participatory monitoring and evaluation methodology developed specifically for coral reef and coastal management. It is part of a global initiative to enhance understanding of communities and their relationship to coastal and marine resources. Socio-economic information can help fisheries and coastal managers identify potential problems and shocks, mitigate negative impacts and focus management priorities accordingly to achieve management objectives. SocMon is therefore a means of promoting the use of social and economic data in fisheries and coastal management decision-making and its uptake provides the opportunity for improved fisheries and coastal management capacity and therefore conservation of coastal and marine resources. With strengthened capacity for management through socio-economic monitoring, fisheries and coastal managers, authorities, field staffs and communities will also increase their capacity for adaptive management through learning-by-doing. Due to the flexibility of the methodology, new variables for assessment and monitoring may be designed according to site need. Additionally, the opportunity exists for inter-site comparison – SocMon at the spatial level – through the development of core sets of indicators for building a sub-regional picture of the socio-economics of fisheries systems. Experiences with and lessons learned from the implementation of socio-economic monitoring in the English-speaking Caribbean and the potential of SocMon to inform adaptation to impacts and shocks are discussed.

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Stewardship and collective actions are strategies by which leading individuals and groups in small-scale fisheries may adapt to shocks and uncertainties. Perspectives are presented based on experiences from fisheries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Strategies range from enhancing organization and communication by the formation of networks of resource users (formal and informal) or new fisherfolk organizations to engage in decision-making areas, diversification on livelihoods, development of new institutional arrangement to promote alternative fisheries management approaches, the protection of specific habitats like breeding areas as well as the proposal of Marine Protected Areas both based on traditional ecological knowledge, and technological changes in fishing gears to reduce impact on ecosystems and biodiversity. Although government is partially or fully involved, better understanding and engagement arise from strategies fostered by fishers' organizations as well from the participation of bridging organizations such as universities and NGOs in outreach activities.