

SCOR/IOC Working Group 119:

***'Quantitative Ecosystem Indicators
for Fisheries Management'***

by Philippe Cury (1) & Villy Christensen (2)

1) IRD Research Associate at UCT and MCM, UCT Oceanography Department,
Rondebosch 7701, South Africa. Email: curypm@uctvms.uct.ac.za

2) University of British Columbia, Fisheries Centre, 2204 Main Mall,
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z4. Email: v.christensen@fisheries.ubc.ca

Abstract:

The definition of quantitative indicators for marine ecosystems from an environmental, ecological and fisheries perspective could provide a comprehensive bridge between the different scientific disciplines themselves, but also could constitute an efficient way to communicate those results for management purposes. The exploitation of renewable resources must respect marine diversity and ecosystems functioning, and we must direct our efforts, as scientists, toward reconciling long-term environmental, ecological, economical and social objectives and short-term constraints. In order to establish an international network of scientists interested in developing ecosystem indicators in different fields and disciplines for the marine environment an initiative has recently been launched through a joint SCOR/IOC Working Group 119 on 'Quantitative Ecosystem Indicators for Fisheries Management'. Its general objective is to develop theory to evaluate changes in marine ecosystems (both states and processes) from environmental, ecological and fisheries perspectives. It is the intention during a period of four years (2001-2004) to define generic indicators that can be used for marine ecosystems and to apply them to a variety of ecosystems in order to evaluate their usefulness. This is expected to lead to new and refreshing insights, which will be essential for defining and evaluating new ecosystem management goals.

Information regarding the SCOR/IOC WG-119 is available at www.ecosystemindicators.org

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