



Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing World

7th - 11th May 2012  Edinburgh, Scotland

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Correspondence Details

Title (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss)	Dr
Family Name:	von Dorrien
First Name:	Christian
Department (if applicable):	Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries
Company Name:	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute
Address:	Alter Hafen Sued 2
City:	Rostock
Zip/Postcode:	D-18069
Country:	Germany
Telephone: (e.g. +44-141-331-0124)	+49-381-8116106
Email Address	christian.dorrien@vti.bund.de

Please reconfirm your email address christian.dorrien@vti.bund.de

Abstract Title (max 150 chars)

Developing Fisheries Measures for Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ

Abstract Text (max 2500 chars)

To fulfill the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive of the European Union (EU), EU Member States are establishing a consistent network of protected areas in their exclusive economic zones (EEZ) to conserve and restore marine biological diversity. In the German EEZ of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, ten Natura 2000 sites were proposed to the European Commission, comprising approximately 31% of the German EEZ area. The German ministries in charge of nature conservation and fisheries in the EEZ commissioned a scientific working group to develop proposals for fisheries management measures in these Natura 2000 sites. Three primary areas of conflict between

fishing activities and conservation objectives were identified in the German Natura 2000 sites: (1) Impacts of mobile bottom-contacting fishing gears on reef and sandbank benthic habitats and their typical benthic species in the North Sea; (2) Bycatch of seabirds in static gears, especially bottom set gillnets and entangling nets in the Baltic Sea; (3) Bycatch of harbour porpoise in static gears, mainly bottom set gillnets and entangling nets in the North and Baltic seas. We analyzed latest data available about fishing activities of various national and international fleet segments in the marine Natura 2000 sites, applying a combination of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and logbook data. Based on these results, scenarios for planning management measures and assessments of possible consequences for the fisheries affected, like potential loss of revenues per site and measure, were developed by the working group. Thus we contributed to the development of options for fisheries management for each Natura 2000 site that appear to be best suited to ensure the implementation of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive in the German EEZ.

Topics

A.3 A.3 - Reconciling fisheries and marine management needs with conservation objectives

Abstract Authors

von Dorrien, Christian, Institute of Baltic Sea Fisheries, Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Rostock, Germany, christian.dorrien@vti.bund.de (Presenting); Sell, Anne, Institute of Sea Fisheries, Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Hamburg, Germany, anne.sell@vti.bund.de; Schulze, Torsten, Institute of Sea Fisheries, Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Hamburg, Germany, torsten.schulze@vti.bund.de