

fish tales

a Deep Sea 2003 conference update

Issue One April 2003



Can deep sea fisheries be managed sustainably?

The sustainable management of fishing in the deep sea is likely to be one of the leading issues at the Deep Sea 2003 conference in Queenstown, New Zealand in December.

Chief Scientist at the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries and Conference Convenor John Annala believes it will be a key talking point among the up to 500 scientists, industry, fisheries managers and policy makers and representatives from other sectors attending the event from around the globe.

"Delegates will be able to report to the forum on the sustainable management of deep sea fisheries from their own corner of the world which will be invaluable because it is quite possible there might be different circumstances in the waters off Southern Africa compared to Europe or New Zealand. The information shared will give us all a clearer understanding of the global situation and enable us to discuss the way forward.

"The sustainability of deep sea fisheries is an integral issue each country faces with significant long-term implications, therefore most probably a hot topic of conversation at Deep Sea 2003."

The future governance of deep sea areas on the high seas is also likely to be high on the agenda.

"At present no one governs it: there are limited enforcement, compliance or legal tools to manage deep sea fisheries around the world. Addressing this problem and establishing clear guidelines for maintaining the deep sea and its habitat will be another key issue up for debate."

Report recommendations from Deep Sea 2003 will be published by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation which Annala says has a high standing in the international community. He hopes the conference outcomes will then be used by policy makers as a draft platform for international agreements.

Other themes to be discussed at Deep Sea 2003 include: technology requirements, compliance and monitoring, review of existing policies and instruments, harvesting strategies for resource management, population biology and resource assessment.

Global sponsors

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited, NIWA from New Zealand, has been confirmed as a major sponsor. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) based in Australia and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) have been confirmed as supporting sponsors. More sponsors are currently being finalised.



World experts to speak

Dr André Punt, an internationally renowned expert on marine population dynamics and harvesting theory, has been confirmed to deliver a keynote address at the conference. Dr Punt, a Research Associate Professor with the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, has been involved in research on marine population dynamics, stock assessment methods, and harvesting theory since 1986, and has published over 80 papers and 300 technical reports in peer-reviewed literature.



Other confirmed speakers are:

Dr Andy Rosenberg from the University of New Hampshire, Dr John Gordon from Oban in the UK, Dr Wendy Craik, the Chair of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Professor Douglas Johnson from Canada, Dr Mori Hayashi from Japan and Dr Michael Lodge from the International Sea Authority.



Extended programme

Interest in Deep Sea 2003 has been so phenomenal that an extra day has been added to the programme. The conference was scheduled to run from the 1-4 December but will now run until the 5th, paving the way for more extensive discussion on each of the conference themes.



Founding sponsors



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



1-5 December 2003
Queenstown, New Zealand
www.deepsea.govt.nz

FAO's committee on fisheries gives support to Deep Sea 2003

The Convenors of Deep Sea 2003 welcome the support of the FAO, Committee on Fisheries (COFI). Members attending the twenty-fifth Session of COFI in Rome on 24–28 February 2003 expressed support for the convening of Deep Sea 2003 as a means to begin the process of addressing a number of areas including deep sea management issues.

At one of the largest COFI meetings held in recent times participants from over 100 fishing nations met to discuss a range of issues relating to the management of international fishing.

Members are concerned at the current level of deep sea fishing given the lack of knowledge of the resources and clear management responsibility for deep sea areas and discrete deep sea resources.

The agenda for the next Session of COFI, to be held in early 2005, will include a report on the results of the conference.

COFI is a subsidiary body of the FAO and is the only global inter-governmental forum that discusses issues relating to major international fisheries and aquaculture. COFI has links with various governments, regional fisheries bodies, and international and national non-governmental organisations and those involved in fishing. Its members are FAO members although non-members may also attend as observers.



Call for papers

Papers are now being called for the conference and should be submitted in the required format on one of the eight event themes by the 30th of May 2003. All abstracts will be considered with the programme committee informing the successful participants by the end of July at the latest. For more information on the themes and the submission process visit www.deepsea.govt.nz.



Queenstown, New Zealand – the ultimate destination



Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, overlooked by the majestic Southern Alps, the town is internationally recognised as New Zealand's premier visitor destination.

A wide range of activities are available from the daring to the less extreme including: bungy jumping, white water rafting, walking in the

mountains or historic gold mining villages of the region, four wheel drive treks, lake cruises and gallery tours. Excellent restaurants and shopping, along with a vibrant night life are easily accessible, not to mention sampling wine from the southern most vineyards in the world which have received international acclaim.



Bring the family

Your partner and children will be well looked after while you attend the conference. A partners programme of fun/sight seeing activities is being organised along with a separate kids programme, giving you peace of mind that all is well while you delve into the murky depths of the Deep Seas.



New Zealand tours

Exciting tours of New Zealand are being organised as pre and post conference events. Watch this space for more information.



Deep Sea 2003 conference registration opens in May - to register online go to the conference website, www.deepsea.govt.nz.

Coming up in the next edition of Fish Tales

- *The latest news on speakers, papers and sponsors*
- *More hot tips for your Queenstown holiday*
- *Pre-conference meetings being organised*
- *Conference registration open*
- *A brief guide to New Zealand Conference sponsors*

For conference updates go to www.deepsea.govt.nz.



DEEP



SEA 2003

Conference

1-5 December 2003

Queenstown

New Zealand

www.deepsea.govt.nz

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