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Theme: Policy & Management

Session: ThE1 - Co-management 1

Title: **Husbandry or hunting? Prospects for co-managed fisheries based on artificial reefs in the Algarve (Portugal)**

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Abstract: Fisheries exploited under open-access conditions create externalities, resulting in a range of problems associated with over-capitalisation and stock depletion. One answer to this is to shift the mode of production away from hunting and towards husbandry, an approach which becomes feasible where some control can be exercised over the resource and the harvesting pressure to which it is subject. Physical structures in the form of artificial reefs make such control a practical possibility, but the way these might be managed so as to support a sustainable fishery is by no means obvious. To investigate this further, the views of commercial fishermen who use the artificial reefs in the Algarve region of Portugal were canvassed and their opinions sought specifically on the prospects for co-management. In general, it was found that for each of the three different geographical areas where the ARs were deployed, there were different views on the establishment of management measures. The reasons for this may be related to the fact that each skipper had different incentives, once they were subjected to different fishing conditions (e.g. target species, fishing area and hauls, gear, vessel, crew, etc). Different fishing incentives reflect no consensual agreements in terms of possible management measures to adopt. However, a trade-off solution could be obtained for both area closure and users, and the use of scientific expertise consultancy (e.g. weight-length studies for the target species found in each reef area) could help managers in the establishment of an adequate measure to be adopted for the season closure option.

Key-words: Artificial reefs, commercial fisheries, management, weight-length studies