

The Economics of Rebuilding Fisheries - a Norwegian Perspective

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Abstract

The OECD fisheries committee is finalizing a project on the economics of rebuilding fisheries. The focus of the study has been the economic and institutional aspects of the rebuilding process, and the main objectives were to identify economic, social and governance components underpinning successful rebuilding based on the experiences of OECD countries, and to develop a set of practical and evidence based principles and guidelines for designing and implementing fisheries rebuilding plans. Norway has contributed to this project with a review of the Norwegian policy on fisheries rebuilding programs, supported by case studies on the rebuilding of the Northeast Arctic cod and Norwegian Spring Spawning herring. The case of the cod fishery is an example of a successful rebuilding where many challenges are accounted for, including joint management (with Russia), segmented fleet structure (trawlers and coastal vessels), regional differences and distributional issues. The rebuilding process stressed to secure a precautionary level of fishing mortality, while at the same time restructuring the fishing fleet to secure economic viability. The outcome is a significant improvement from both a biological and economic point of view. The backdrop for fisheries management and rebuilding across the OECD-member countries is not uniform, and this has also been one of the main challenges when developing a set of principles and guidelines that could be adopted by consensus in the fisheries committee. This paper presents the overall OECD-project with a particular emphasis on the Norwegian cases and experiences.