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Theme: Aquaculture

Session: WeA3 - Environment

Title: **Aquaculture in the coastal zone: pressures, interactions and externalities**

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Abstract: Aquaculture worldwide has grown rapidly, and while this has brought socio-economic benefits to particular regions there is persistent concern over its environmental impact and sustainability. Within Europe there are quite marked regional variations in the intensity of marine aquaculture, and the fact that this occurs in areas where there is already pressure on coastal resources from competing activities suggests that the scope for conflict is considerable. In this presentation, the DPSIR (Driving forces - Pressure - State - Impact - Response) framework is used to explore the issues and to suggest policy solutions. It is argued that the way institutions (government agencies, firms, consumers) respond to the externalities of aquaculture will depend on the information they receive; if that information is inadequate or unbalanced, wrong decisions will be made. These considerations underscore the important role of performance indicators, chosen and constructed so that unbiased and essential information on aquaculture can be communicated to all interested stakeholders and decision-makers.