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Theme: Policy & Management

Session: TuB3 - Prices

Title: **Global Ex-Vessel Fish Price Database: Construction and Applications**

Author(s): Ussif Rashid Sumaila , A. Dale Marsden , Reg Watson , Daniel Pauly

Abstract: We describe the first effort at creating a global ex-vessel fish price database. We then demonstrate potential applications of the database by linking it to the Sea Around Us project's spatially defined catch database, which makes it possible to attach catch values to species both in time and space. There is currently no single database available publicly where interested members of the public, researchers and managers can easily find ex-vessel prices of the world's major commercial fish species. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) publishes product and processed fish prices but not ex-vessel prices. For the purposes of fisheries management, it is clear that ex-vessel prices are crucial since they motivate fishers to go fishing. Our preliminary results indicate that the average real price of fish (and invertebrates) as a whole increased between 1950 and 2001. The estimated global real value of catch was about 24 billion USD in 1950; it increased steadily to about 90 billion in the early 1970s, then increased more slowly to a peak of 100 billion at the end of the 1980s, and declined to about 80 billion in 2000. The top 15 fishing countries cumulatively account for 79% of total real catch value, with Japan leading the pack even though its catch is declining.