SYMPOSIUM 2025

OPERATIONALISING EUROPEAN ECOSYSTEM BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

#EBFMSymposium25

June 30 - July 3 2025 | Herman Teirlinckgebouw, Brussels

info@seawiseproject.org **seawiseproject.org** **SEAwise Project**

SEAwise has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000318

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CONVENERS

Symposium co-organised with:

ICES CIEM

SEAWISE

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean

DTU

Institute of Marine Research

ILVO
Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

EcoScope

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Symposium details

Wi-Fi: QR codes are available in every room to access the WiFi. Scan the code, give your telephone number and you'll get access.

Social Media: Please use #EBFMSymposium25 and tag us on LinkedIn: SEAwise Project

Registration: Registration opens at 10.00 on day one and from 09:00 on all remaining days.

Access to the plenary space: Access to the auditorium is on the ground floor. Doors will close when the conference starts and at the beginning of each session. If you arrive late or wish to re-enter the auditorium after this time, please come in quietly and take the nearest seat.

Timing: Organisers will begin guiding delegates back into the appropriate spaces 5 minutes before the sessions are due to start. Please take your seats quickly in order for the session to start promptly.

Refreshment Breaks: Tea and coffee will be served during registration and all breaks. No food is allowed in the auditorium. We recommend that you bring a water bottle.

Tuesday 1st July evening reception: At the end of day two, wine and soft drinks will be served from 18:00-19:30. Please vacate the venue promptly at 19:30 (and by 20:00 at the very latest).

Networking: Alongside a dedicated networking session on Day 2, there will be multiple interactive sessions, breaks, and a symposium dinner. A delegate list will be made available nearer the event.

Photographer: Photography will be taking place on all days of the symposium. If you do not wish to be photographed please inform a team member.

Q&A: There will be opportunities for questions with our speakers at the end of each session. In addition, you can find the previous session's speakers at the 'Speaker's Table' in the reception room, if you have further questions.

Accessibility: The Herman Teirlinck building has been rated an A+ label for accessibility as so is accessible for most people. If you have any specific accessibility needs, please do get in touch with the organisers.

Comfort: If you need more regular breaks or are uncomfortable sitting for too long, consider sitting closer to the doors, as this will allow you to come and go more easily without disturbing the speakers. If you leave the venue, remember to take your symposium name badge with you for re-entrance. The Herman Teirlinck building is a non-smoking venue.

Feedback: Shortly after the event you will be sent a link to an online evaluation survey.

Valuables: You may store bags and equipment in the cloakroom on the ground floor but we cannot take responsibility or guarantee their safety.

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Overview

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) recognises the need to enhance their derived social and economic benefits whilst actively minimising the impacts that fisheries have on the environment. While the benefits of EBFM are widely recognised, several core challenges pose barriers to its effective uptake in fisheries across Europe – from complexity and interdependencies to uncertainties and values.

Co-convened by SEAwise and key partners, including the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the **Operationalising European Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Symposium** will be held from 30 June to July 3 2025, in Brussels, Belgium, to document and synthesise available and new approaches to producing operational ecosystem based fisheries management advice in a European setting.

Co-organised by the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) and Denmark's National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DTU Aqua), the symposium will bring together experts from across the world with fisheries policymakers, managers and stakeholders to exchange ideas and innovative solutions in support of practical implementation of EBFM.

The symposium will provide an opportunity to review, discuss and evolve progress on operational EBFM in Europe, via a mixture of scientific oral and poster presentations, interactive and policy sessions, offering a unique opportunity for knowledge sharing and advancement in support of sustainable management of fisheries socio-ecological systems and operationalisation of EBFM.

Posters and presentations will cover the following dedicated theme sessions:

- Sustainable management of social systems
- Sustainable management under changes in productivity of fished stocks
- Sustainable management of ecological effects of fisheries
- Spatial management for EBFM
- Management advice integrating predicted effects on social and ecological systems
- Operational scope of EBFM approaches

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Outline Sessions

Session 1: Why do we need operational Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management and what are the advice barriers holding us back?
Keynote: Mark Dickey-Collas (Marine consultant), Christine Röckmann (DGMARE)

Session 2: Sustainable management of social systems
Conveners: Marta Ballesteros (IEO-CSIC) and Isabella Bitetto (COISPA)
Keynote: Manuel Hidalgo (IEO)

Session 3: Sustainable management under changes in productivity of fished stocks
Conveners: Geir Huse (IMR) and Marie Savina-Roland (Ifremer)
Keynote: John Trochta (Institute of Marine Research)

Session 4: Sustainable management of ecological effects of fisheries
Conveners: Marija Sciberras (HWU) and Dave Reid (ICES)
Keynote: Caterina Fortuna (ISPRA)

Session 5: Spatial management for Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management
Conveners: Maria Grazia Pennino (IEO-CSIC) and Athanassios Tsikliras (AUT)
Keynote: Howard Townsend (Fisheries specialist)

Session 6: Management advice integrating predicted effects on social and ecological systems
Conveners: Lotte Worsøe Clausen (ICES) and Elisabetta Morello (GFCM)
Keynote: Eva Plaganyi-Lloyd (CSIRO)

Session 7: Operational scope of EBFM approaches
Conveners: Anna Rindorf (DTU Aqua) and Joost Paardekooper (former European Commission-DGMARE)

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Background, Aims and Structure

Background

Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) is tasked with the dual aims to ensure recovery and conservation of marine biodiversity, sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and fair and equitable sharing of benefits (CBD 2022) in a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy (EC 2019, EC 2020). The complexity and interdependency of the components in the ecosystem makes this task complicated to advice and decide on. The decisions are further complicated by the substantial uncertainty around the consequences of management measures under climate change and spatial management as well as differences in values and decision-making power of the multiple benefitting stakeholders.

Aims

The symposium will provide an opportunity for scientists, policymakers, managers and other stakeholders to review, discuss and evolve progress on operational Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management in Europe. By targeting a global international audience, the symposium will promote the exchange of knowledge on these topics within and beyond Europe.

Structure

Over four days, the symposium will focus on sustainable management of social and ecological systems in a changing world, the role of spatial management in attaining objectives and potential solutions for operational management advice for social and ecological systems. We encourage contributions from all geographic areas to enable discussions at a global scale of challenges and questions raised when operationalising Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management.

The symposium is organised as a combination of interactive sessions, plenary key note talks and dedicated sessions on each of the following themes:

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- Sustainable management of social systems.
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- Sustainable management of ecological effects of fisheries.
- Spatial management for EBFM.
- Management advice integrating predicted effects on social and ecological systems.
- Operational scope of EBFM approaches.

The sessions will include invited and contributed presentations of a format reflecting the specific session balance between presentations and interactive participation. Keynote speakers will give talks on the major themes. Keynote talks will be 30 minutes; all other talks will be 10 minutes including questions.
Authors will be limited to one oral presentation and one poster as senior author. Presentations must be given by the lead author. Poster sessions will be introduced with a brief description of each poster within the appropriate theme and topic session. The symposium will be conducted in English.

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Monday 30 June 2025

10:00	**Registration**	
11:00	**Session 1: Why do we need Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management and what is holding us back in operationalisation?**	**Session Chair: Anna Rindorf**, DTU Aqua
11:00	**Welcome**	**Nikos Zampoukas**, DGRTD
11:10	**Keynote**	**Mark Dickey-Collas,** Marine Science Consultant, former Chair of the ICES Advisory Committee: **Confronting comfortable chimeras: an advisory perspective on EBFM implementation**
11:30	**Keynote**	**Christine Röckmann**, Scientific Officer, European Commission, DGMARE: **TBC**
11:50	**Activity**	**Session 1 Interactive Group Activity**
12:50	**Lunch**	

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Monday 30 June 2025

14:00 **Session 2: Sustainable management of social systems**
Conveners: Marta Ballesteros (IEO-CSIC) and **Isabella Bitetto** (COISPA)

Session overview

Sustainable management of social systems is based on an evaluation of the benefits of fisheries along with the likely chance of achieving these benefits through specific fisheries management measures. Traditionally, evaluations of fisheries benefits have often focused on economic benefits, direct employment and to some extent governance. However, a variety of other social indicators have been developed in recent years, including impacts on and of large and small-scale fishers, effects on coastal communities, distribution of benefits, Carbon emissions and human health and nutrition. The models used to predict the effects of different management measures have concurrently increased in their ability to predict future changes and their realism has further improved through the inclusion of enhanced knowledge of fisheries and fisher behaviour, economic developments and aspects such as climate change in models. Session 2 reviews recent improvements to all of these topics.

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Day 1 - Monday 30 June

14:10	**Keynote**	**Manuel Hidalgo,** IEO: **Carbon impact of fisheries: From mitigation towards a fair carbon management**
14:40	**Talk 1**	**Katia Frangoudes,** UBO Brest: Regional cooperation in EU Fisheries Management: Insights from Joint Recommendation Processes including stakeholders' visions
14:50	**Talk 2**	**Johanna (Sheila) Heymans,** EMB: Predicting public demand for fisheries regulation in Europe
15:00	**Talk 3**	**Matteo Chiarini,** COISPA: Fisheries Restricted Areas (FRAs) and social acceptability of selected management measures: the case of the Adriatic Sea
15:10	**Talk 4**	**Dimitra Syrou,** HCMR: Assessing fisheries governance quality in Greek waters through triple helix stakeholder perceptions
15:20	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 2 talks**
15:30	**Coffee**	

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Day 1 - Monday 30 June

16:00	**Talk 5**	**Isabella Bitetto,** COISPA: Enhancing bio-economic models, with fisher behaviour models
16:10	**Talk 6**	**Katia Frangoudes,** UBO Brest: Community-Level Impacts of EU Fisheries Policy: Comparative Profiles of the Guilvinec Fishing Community, France
16:20	**Talk 7**	**Marga Andrés,** AZTI: Small and large scale fisheries: Management strategy evaluation under future socio-economic scenarios
16:30	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 2 talks (Part 2)**
16:50	**Activity**	**Session 2 Interactive Group Activity**
17:40	**Conclusions**	**Closing statement for end of Day 1**

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 2 - Tuesday 1 July

09:00 **Welcome**

09:10 **Session 3: Sustainable management under changes in productivity of fished stocks**

Conveners: Geir Huse (IMR) and **Marie Savina-Rolland** (IFREMER)

Session overview

Productivity of fished stocks is constantly changing in response to environmental conditions and fisheries management must account for these changes to be sustainable in the long term. While interannual variability is considered in most management strategies, directional or step-like changes must be addressed using models tailored to evaluating management strategies under different environmental scenarios for which the likelihood of their occurrence is often not well known. Session 3 investigates improved predictive models of commercial stock productivity including environmental drivers to determine if their inclusion improves predictive ability and the sustainability of different management strategies.

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Day 2 - Tuesday 1 July

09:20	**Keynote**	**John Trochta,** Institute of Marine Research: **Good practices for incorporating environment-productivity relationships and scenarios for Management Strategy Evaluation: A summary of WKECOMSE**
09:50	**Talk 1**	**Tuan-Anh Bui,** UGent & ILVO: Small fish thrive, large fish compromise: effects of warming on reproductive investment of Northeast Atlantic Sole (Solea solea) populations
10:00	**Talk 2**	**Andrea Schiavo,** Politecnico di Milano: Climate change may enhance local larval connectivity but increase isolation in marine metapopulations: insights from European hake in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas
10:10	**Talk 3**	**Mollie Brooks,** DTU Aqua: Forecasting weight at age using environmental variables
10:20	**Talk 4**	**Stefan Neuenfeldt,** DTU Aqua: Hidden signals of density dependence in Eastern Baltic cod (Gadus morhua L.) revealed through stomach content and growth modeling
10:30	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 3 talks**
10:45	**Coffee**	

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Day 2 - Tuesday 1 July

11:15	**Talk 5**	**Markus Varlund Strange,** DTU Aqua: Integrating consumption by non-fish predators in stock assessments for more nuanced management advice
11:25	**Talk 6**	**Pierluigi Carbonara,** Fondazione COISPA: Spatial variability and climate impacts on red mullet (Mullus barbatus) growth in the Central Mediterranean Sea
11:35	**Talk 7**	**Bernhard Kühn,** Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries: Management implications of climate-induced changes in reference points for commercially-important North Sea stocks
11:45	**Talk 8**	**Marie Savina-Rolland,** IFREMER: Winners and losers under changing oceans
11:55	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 3 talks (part 2)**
12:10	**Activity**	**Session 3 Interactive Group Activity**
13:00	**Lunch**	

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Day 2 - Tuesday 1 July

14:00 **Session 4: Sustainable management of ecological effects of fisheries**

Conveners: Marija Sciberras (HWU) and **Dave Reid** (ICES)

Session overview

Fisheries impact the ecological system through impacts on retained species, bycaught (non-retained) species, habitats, food webs and marine litter and quantifying the link between these impacts and fishing effort is key in providing managers med options which ensure ecological sustainability. In session 4, we investigate how the links can be quantified using tailored methods for different parts of the ecological system with differences in data availability along with recent improvements estimation of bycatch risk for sensitive species and habitat impact. Further, approaches to illustrating effects across several species together will be welcomed.

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Day 2 - Tuesday 1 July

14:10	**Keynote**	**Caterina Fortuna,** ISPRA: **Bycatch of Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species**
14:40	**Talk 1**	**Anna Rindorf,** DTU Aqua: Variation in the ecological status of European marine ecosystems under different fisheries management strategies: Will all our wishes come through?
14:50	**Talk 2**	**Gert Van Hoey,** ILVO: Saving our seafloor habitats: what will it take?
15:00	**Talk 3**	**Walter Zupa,** COISPA: Seafloor Disturbance and Benthic Status under Fishing Pressure in the Adriatic and Western Ionian Seas: Management-Oriented Analysis
15:10	**Talk 4**	**Maria Teresa Spedicato,** COISPA: Distribution and change in seafloor macro-litter in European seas and the pressure induced on key species groups
15:20	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 4 talks**
15:35	**Coffee**	

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Day 2 - Tuesday 1 July

16:05	**Talk 5**	**John Trochta,** Institute of Marine Research: Using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to examine impacts of changing gear selectivity on bycatch and escape mortality
16:15	**Talk 6**	**Mollie Brooks,** DTU Aqua: How bycatch rates of ETP species vary spatiotemporally and with covariates
16:25	**Talk 7**	**Ioannis Keramidas,** Aristotle University of Thessaloniki AUTH: Evaluating ecosystem model (EwE) derived indicators to track climate change impacts in the Aegean and Eastern Ionian Seas
16:35	**Talk 8**	**Geir Huse,** IMR: Towards robust operationalisation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries under climate change and increasing use of the sea
16:45	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 4 talks (Part 2)**
17:00	**Activity**	**Session 4 Interactive Group Activity**
17:50	**Conclusions**	**Closing statement for end of Day 2**
17:55	**Networking**	**Networking & Poster Session**

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 3 - Wednesday 2 July

09:00 **Welcome**

09:10 **Session 5: Spatial management for Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management**

Conveners: Maria Grazia Pennino (IEO-CSIC) and **Athanassios Tsikliras** (AUT)

Session overview

Spatial management is a key tool in achieving the aims of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management and hence, evaluations of the impacts of closures with different extents and locations to achieve the objectives are crucial in a knowledge based decision making process. Knowledge and models of the impact of factors such as climate change, protected areas and other maritime activities on the spatial distribution of fish and fisheries and the resulting changes in ecological and social costs and benefits of fisheries is essential to these evaluations. The models can be used to evaluate social and ecological impacts of fisheries management measures including spatial management strategies aiming to decrease the catch of juveniles and choke species, ensure food availability for predators, reduce impact on sensitive species and habitats, decrease CO2 emission (carbon footprint), and increase socio-economic benefits for fishers.

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Day 3 - Wednesday 2 July

09:20	**Keynote**	**Howard Townsend,** Fisheries specialist: Spatial Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management: From Scientific Advances to Implementation Realities
09:50	**Talk 1**	**Logan Binch,** Wageningen University and Research**:** Projecting Ecosystem Impacts of Spatial Developments and Climate Pressures in the North Sea Using OSMOSE
10:00	**Talk 2**	**Irida Maina,** HCMR: Evaluating Fisheries Management Scenarios for the Eastern Ionian Sea
10:10	**Talk 3**	**Isabella Bitetto,** COISPA: Bio-economic spatial modelling: evaluation of viable management measures in Central Mediterranean Sea
10:20	**Talk 4**	**Jean-Noël Druon**, Joint Research Centre - European Commission: A spatiotemporal decision tool for fishers, starting with bycatch mitigation
10:30	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 5 talks**
10:45	**Coffee**	

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Day 3 - Wednesday 2 July

11:15	**Talk 5**	**Jonas Letschert,** Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries: Scenarios of spatial fishing closures indicate lower but more concentrated fishing effort for southern the North Sea
11:25	**Talk 6**	**Olivier Le Pape,** Institut Agro, Ifremer, A win-win-win for fish and fisheries? Restoration of habitats key to improving stocks, catches and marine ecosystems
11:35	**Talk 7**	**Francois Bastardie,** DTU Aqua: Anticipating how spatial fishing restrictions in EU waters perform to protect marine species, habitats, and dependent fisheries
11:45	**Talk 8**	**Elliot Brown,** DTU Aqua: Marine Protected Areas as tools in European ecosystem-based fisheries management: Existing compatibility, objective misalignment, and potential for future fisheries objectives
11:55	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 5 talks (part 2)**
12:10	**Activity**	**Session 5 Interactive group activity**
13:00	**Lunch**	

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Day 3 - Wednesday 2 July

14:00 **Session 6: Management advice integrating predicted effects on social and ecological systems**

Conveners: Lotte Worsøe Clausen (ICES) and **Elisabetta Morello** (GFCM)

Session overview

Providing operational management advice on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management requires the integration of impacts on and of fisheries for larger areas under different management strategies. The integration should be based on quality assured predictive knowledge of key ecological, economic and social processes and account for interannual variability to be able to predict the risk of different management measures to various social and ecological concerns. Session 6 invites examples of applications of management strategy evaluation frameworks with appropriate consideration of uncertainty and parameter correlation. The evaluations can examine the degree of attainment of agreed objectives and risks under future and present environmental conditions, different fisher behaviour models and management dependent selectivity patterns in multispecies-multifleet models.

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 3 - Wednesday 2 July

14:10	**Keynote**	**Éva Plagányi-Lloyd,** CSIRO: **From simulations to successful operationalisation of management advice that achieves Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management**
14:40	**Talk 1**	**Isabella Bitetto,** COISPA: Climate-Resilient Management Strategies: Impacts on Ecosystems and Fisheries Economics in Mediterranean Sea
14:50	**Talk 2**	**Jochen Depestele**, ILVO: Optimizing effort of mixed demersal fisheries to maximize sustainable yield and protect seafloor integrity in the Celtic Seas
15:00	**Talk 3**	**Dorleta Garcia,** AZTI: From Single Stocks to Ecosystems: Advancing Fisheries Management with Mixed fisheries Models
15:10	**Talk 4**	**Paco Melià,** Politecnico di Milano: A multi-criteria approach to support decision making in ecosystem-based fisheries management
15:20	**Talk 5**	**Leire Ibaibarriaga,** AZTI: Operationalising EBFM: Insights and Reflections from the Bay of Biscay case study
15:30	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 6 talks**
15:45	**Coffee**	

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OPERATIONALISING EUROPEAN ECOSYSTEM BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Day 3 - Wednesday 2 July

16:15	**Talk 6**	**Nis Sand Jacobsen,** DTU Aqua: Time varying reference points as a pathway to include ecosystem processes in fisheries management
16:25	**Talk 7**	**Gavin Fay,** University of Massachusetts Dartmouth: Prototype management strategy evaluation for ecosystem-based fisheries management in the Northeast USA
16:35	**Talk 8**	**Daniel Howell**, Institute of Marine Research - Norway: Incompatible objectives and the limits of scientific information
16:45	**Talk 9**	**Alexander Kempf,** Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries: Data and models to support the implementation of ecosystem based fisheries management in the North Sea - Yes we Can!
16:55	**Q&A**	**Q&A for Session 6 talks (Part 2)**
17:10	**Activity**	**Session 6 Interactive Group Activity**
18:00	**Conclusions**	**Closing statement for end of Day 3**
19:30	**Dinner**	**Symposium Dinner**

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Day 4 - Thursday 3 July

09:00 **Welcome** **Welcome to Day 4**

09:10 **Session 7: Operational scope of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management**
Conveners: Anna Rindorf (DTU Aqua) and **Joost Paardekooper** (former European Commission-DGMARE)

Session overview

Session 7 is an interactive session tailored to discussing the operational scope of the topics addressed during the symposium. The sessions are initiated with a summary of the impressions of each session (presentations as well as group sessions) delivered by invited speaker.

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Day 4 - Thursday 3 July

09:20	**Talk 1**	**Athanassios Tsikliras**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki: Barriers to advice on operationalising Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management
09:40	**Talk 2**	**Marta Ballesteros,** IEO-CSIC: Sustainable management of social impacts of fisheries systems
10:00	**Talk 3**	**Marie Savina-Rolland,** IFREMER: Sustainable management when productivity of fished stocks changes
10:20	**Talk 4**	**Geir Huse,** IMR: Sustainable management of ecological effects of fisheries
10:40	**Coffee**	

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Day 4 - Thursday 3 July

11:10	**Talk 5**	**Elisabetta Morello,** GFCM**:** Spatial advice for Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management
11:30	**Talk 6**	**Anna Rindorf,** DTU Aqua: Combining fisheries management advice for social and ecological priorities
11:50	**Group Session**	**How do we ensure that scientific knowledge becomes operational in supporting EBFM decisions**
12:40	**Reporting**	**Reporting back**
13:10	**Lunch**	

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Day 4 - Thursday 3 July

14:10	**Group session**	**What is the role of science in ensuring that public perception reflects scientific advice?**
15:00	**Reporting**	**Reporting back**
15:30	**Postcards**	**Reflections**
15:45	**Closing**	**Anna Rindorf, DTU**

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SCIENTIFIC POSTERS

Hans Polet, ILVO - Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	The fishing fleet as platform for data collection enabling the EBFM
Quentin Benitez, Laboratorie d'Océanoligie et de Géosciences	Identifying environmental factors influencing Downs herring larval survival using a Lagrangian individual-based larval transport model
Jarufu Abdurazaki Abduswamadu, SOATanzania	Sustainable management under changes in productivity of fished stocks
Monica Gonzalez, Spanish Oceanographic Institute	Disentangling climate and parental effects on recruitment of southern stock of European hake (Merluccius merluccius)
Georgia Papantoniou, Hellenic Centre of Marine Research	Cumulative and interactive effects of climate warming and multi-gear fishing on the Eastern Ionian Sea ecosystem using EwE
Grete E. Dinesen & Anna Rindorf, DTU Aqua	Bottom trawling and hypoxia impacts on macrofaunal communities in the North Sea and Baltic Sea transition area
Giovanni Romagnoni, COISPA	Between sustainable sea urchin fisheries and marine forest conservation: advancing the multi-threshold management framework.
Walter Zupa, COISPA	Climate Change Adaptions of Demersal Fisheries in the Adriatic and Ionian Sea

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Jonas Letschert, Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries	The impact of offshore wind farms on fishing effort in the North Sea
Giovanni Romagnoni, COISPA	Effects of existing and proposed spatial fisheries management measures on the deep-water ecosystem of the Adriatic and Western Ionian seas
Christopher Weller, DPPO	Sandeel in Space: Spatial management of fish stock dynamics and displacement in transboundary fisheries
Adrian Mencia, AZTI	Identification of key environmental variables to predict future distribution of European hake populations
Vasiliki Sgardeli, HCMR	Simulating Fleet Dynamics and Ecosystem Responses in the Eastern Ionian Demersal Fishery
Mikaela Potier, IFREMER	Dynamic and durability of exploited ecosystems
Maria Angeles Torres, Instituto Español de Oceanogra	Ecosystem Modelling as a Key Driver for Adaptive and Ecosystem-Based Marine Management in Iberian Waters - The EWE4GES Network
Donna Dimarchopoulou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki AUTH	Indicators of ecosystem overfishing in European waters

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SCIENTIFIC POSTERS

Ioannis Keramidas, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki AUTH:	Evaluating EC Action Plan measures for the Aegean Sea using spatiotemporal modelling
Amina Tifoura, Spanish Institute of Oceanography	Maintaining the Health of Commercial Stocks: The Role of Biological Traits and External Factors
Anxo Paz, Spanish Institute of Oceanography	Assessment Complexity vs Applicability: The Case Study of the Cannibal European Hake in the Atlantic Iberian Waters
Julia Calderwood and Sebastian Uhlmann, ILVO	Introducing a new Horizon project: Marine Beacon

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Registration

We urge interested participants to pre-register with us via our On-line Pre/Registration as early as possible, even if you have not made firm travel arrangements, so we can plan our events more efficiently. The Registration Fee applies to the Symposium sessions and workshops. Registration is not considered complete until the Registration Fee is received.

Registration by 1 June 2025:

Full symposium 180 Euros (Single day, no social events 25 €)
Thursday policy discussions are open to all but require registration to ensure room for all participants

The full fee covers coffee, lunch, reception, and the conference dinner.

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Special Issue Publication

ICES Journal of Marine Science will publish a special issue based on the symposium in January 2027. The issue will cover contents from the symposium's theme sessions, alongside a general introduction.

Participants may submit work presented at the symposium for publication in the special issue of the ICES Journal of Marine Science. Manuscripts can be submitted at any time from January 1st 2025 to December 31st 2025. Papers will be released as they are accepted for publication (i.e., not held until the final completion of the special issue).

The submission process will follow the standard process for the IJMS, please read the "How to get published in ICESJMS". Please indicate in your cover letter that the submitted manuscript is intended for the Operationalising European Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Symposium special issue and associate your submission with the symposium by selecting it from the drop-down menu during the submission process.

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Venue

The symposium will be held at Herman Teirlinckebouw, Brussels, Beligium

Avenue du Port / Havenlaan 88, 1000 Brussels

More information on how to reach Herman Teirlinckgebouw

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Sponsors

The symposium is sponsored by DTU Aqua, ILVO and the SEAwise project.

DTU Aqua is the National Institute of Aquatic Resources at the Danish Technical University. The institute conducts research, provides advice, educates at university level and contributes to innovation in sustainable exploitation and management of aquatic resources. You can read more about DTU Aqua here.

ILVO is the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The institute works toward food systems that are healthy in all respects, from production to processing to consumption, firmly embedded in a healthy environment and characterized by fair socioeconomic relationships. You can read more about ILVO here.

The SEAwise project works to deliver a fully operational tool that will allow fishers, managers, and policymakers to easily apply Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) in their own fisheries. With the input from advice users, SEAwise identifies and addresses core challenges facing EBFM, creating tools and advice for collaborative management aimed at achieving long-term goals under environmental change and increasing competition for space.

SEAwise operates through four key stages, drawing upon existing management structures and centred on stakeholder input, to create a comprehensive overview of all fisheries interactions in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean. Working with stakeholders, SEAwise acts to:

- Build a network of experts - from fishers to advisory bodies, decision makers and scientists - to identify widely accepted key priorities and co-design innovative approaches to EBFM.
- Assemble a new knowledge base, drawing upon existing knowledge and new insights from stakeholders and science, to create a comprehensive overview of the social, economic, and ecological interactions of fisheries in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean.
- Develop predictive models, underpinned by the new knowledge base, that allow users to evaluate the potential trade-offs of management decisions, and forecast their long-term impacts on the ecosystem.
- Provide practical, ready-for-uptake advice that is resilient to the changing landscapes of environmental change and competition for marine space.

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The project links the first ecosystem-scale impact assessment of maritime activities with the welfare of the fished stocks these ecosystems support, enabling a full-circle view of ecosystem effects on fishing productivity in the European Atlantic and Mediterranean. Drawing these links will pave the way for a whole-ecosystem management approach that places fisheries at the heart of ecosystem welfare.

In four cross-cutting case studies, each centered on the link between social and economic objectives, target stocks and management at the regional scale SEAwise provides:

- Estimates of impacts of management measures and climate change on fisheries, fish and shellfish stocks living close to the bottom, wildlife bycatch, fisheries-related litter and conflicts in the use of marine space in the Mediterranean Sea,
- Integrated EBFM advice on fisheries in the North Sea, and their influence on sensitive species and habitats in the context of ocean warming and offshore renewable energy,
- Estimates of effects of environmental change on recruitment, fish growth, maturity and production in the Western Waters,
- Key priorities for integrating changes in productivity, spatial distribution, and fishers' decision-making in the Baltic Sea to create effective EBFM prediction models.

You can read more about the SEAwise project here.

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