Lisbon, 2010, September, 15th

Ernesto Jardim <ernesto@ipimar.pt>
IPIMAR, Av. Brasilia, 1449-006, Lisboa
Portugal

Dear colleagues,

First of all let me introduce my self, I'm a fisheries scientist in IPIMAR, the Portuguese Laboratory for Marine Research. I've been involved in stock assessment and long term management plans of demersal species in the Northeast Atlantic and North Sea, in particular southern and northern hake stocks; I'm also a member of the FLR core team, dealing with data structures, exploratory methods, visual methods, literate programming, etc.

I will be the moderator of the coming SCSA practical session on stock assessment of demersal species. The role of moderator includes, amongst other issues, the definition of assessment methods and data to be used.

Your contacts were provided by the GFCM Secretariat as potential participants in the upcoming meeting. If you're not participating accept my apologies and ignore this letter. If you're aware of other colleagues that may be interested, please forward this message.

Otherwise, I will need some information from you to proceed with our work. Please provide the following for the assessments you're involved:

1. The datasets used last year in the format of the relevant software (by 24th September).
2. An update of these datasets to include 2009 data (by 24th September).
3. An update on any new available data this year (by 24th September).
4. A small powerpoint presentation (maximum 5 slides) with an assessment using the same model/software/options as last year **including** 2009 data (by 1st October).
5. A review of the stock assessment forms in order to identify inconsistencies or possible mistakes (by 1st October).

I've read the reports from previous years and it's my understanding that most scientists are comfortable with the assessments they're making. I'm sure all of us would prefer to have piles of data, lots of time and develop more sophisticated assessments, but considering the existing limitations a pragmatical approach has to be made. My suggestion for the moment is to run the same models with updated data and put effort on analyzing the consistency and robustness of the advice. If new data is available or if some scientists want to explore new models please let me know and we'll discuss which is the best way to progress.

Regarding working documents (WD) to be presented during the meeting, I'll need an abstract by the 1st of October. Depending on the number of WD, each will have a period of 10-15 minutes with 5-10 minutes discussion. I recommend these presentations to have 7-10 slides. If there are presentations that for some reason require more time, please add a small text arguing about the importance of the WD and I'll do my best to allocate more time.

Please reply to this message to my email with a copy to the GFCM Secretariat.

Yours,

Ernesto Jardim