

# **Can International and National Cooperation Improve Fisheries Data Collection?**

**Jørgen Dalskov**

**Danish Institute for Fisheries Research  
DK-2920 Charlottenlund, Denmark**

## **Abstract**

Fish and shell fish stocks extend across borders (EEZ's) and sea areas. In some sea areas many coastal nations exploit the same stocks and for some highly migratory species their distributions cover very large areas and involve a significant number of coastal nations.

At present scientific advice is often not as useful as it should be due to the lack of adequate basic data. Improved monitoring, bringing in more detailed, complete and reliable data is thus of crucial importance for the development of fisheries science and thereby better advice towards sustainable exploitation of the marine resources.

In European waters, where a significant number of nations exploit the same species some of which being highly migratory, close international cooperation and coordination of fisheries monitoring is essential. This calls for agreement on a common development of standards for data collection from the commercial fishery and coordinated employment of research vessels. Exchange of expertise between research institutes has to be routinely put into effect. Furthermore, national and international cooperation with the fishing industry and other stakeholders has to be implemented for a better understanding of the whole data collection process and the quality assertion of adequate basic data.

This presentation discusses some of the initiatives taken in Europe. Successful as well as less successful experiences are shared, new approaches demonstrated and future possible goals are outlined.