Major human activities affecting Norwegian coastal marine ecosystems; present status and challenges



PICES Annual Meeting - Science Board Symposium 26. October 2009, Jeju, Korea



FUTURE: seeking to understand the responses of marine ecosystems in the North Pacific to climate change and human activities by addressing three major questions:

- 1)how does ecosystem structure and function determine an ecosystem's response to natural and anthropogenic forcing;
- 2)how do physical and chemical processes respond to natural and anthropogenic forcing and how are ecosystems likely to respond to these changes in abiotic processes;
- 3)how do human activities impact coastal marine ecosystems and their interactions with offshore and terrestrial systems.



"manage the coastal ecosystems of Norway with competing interests of commercial fishing, tourism, oil and gas development, aquaculture, and conservationists."

Content:

- Key process and habitat
- Areas of conflict
- Development of Management Plans & MSP
- Development of ESE Models
- Conclusion
- Relevance for FUTURE





North Pacific Marine Science Organization

A New Science Program for PICES

FUTURE

Forecasting and Understanding Trends, Uncertainty and Responses of North Pacific Marine Ecosystems

ision

To understand and forecast responses of North Pacific marine ecosystems to climate change and human activities at basin and regional scales, and to broadly communicate this scientific information to members, governments, resource managers, stakeholders and the public.

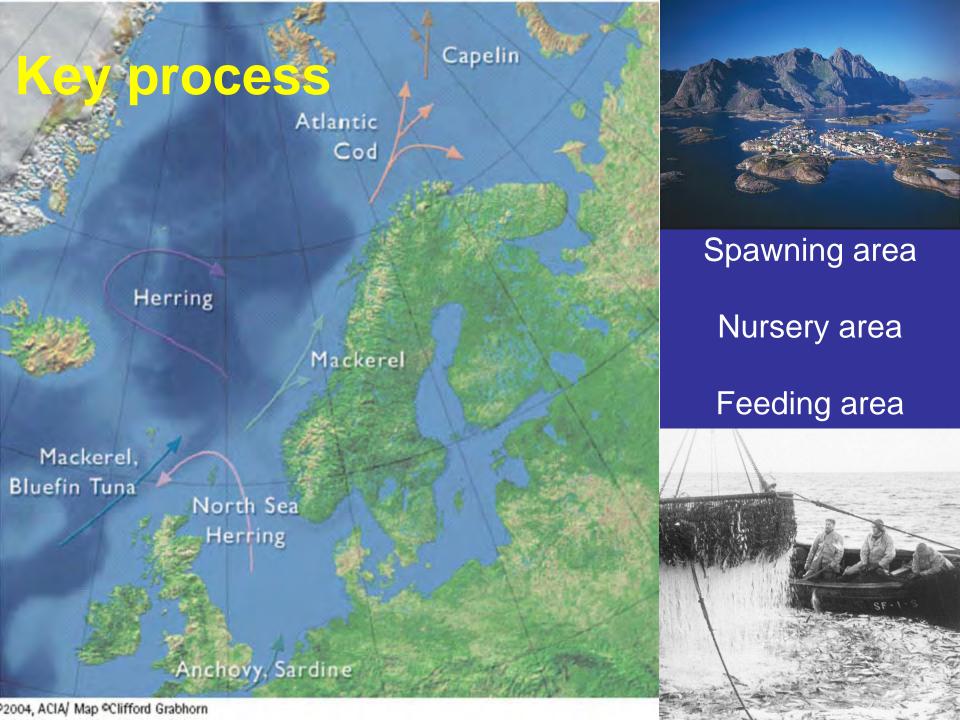
January 2008

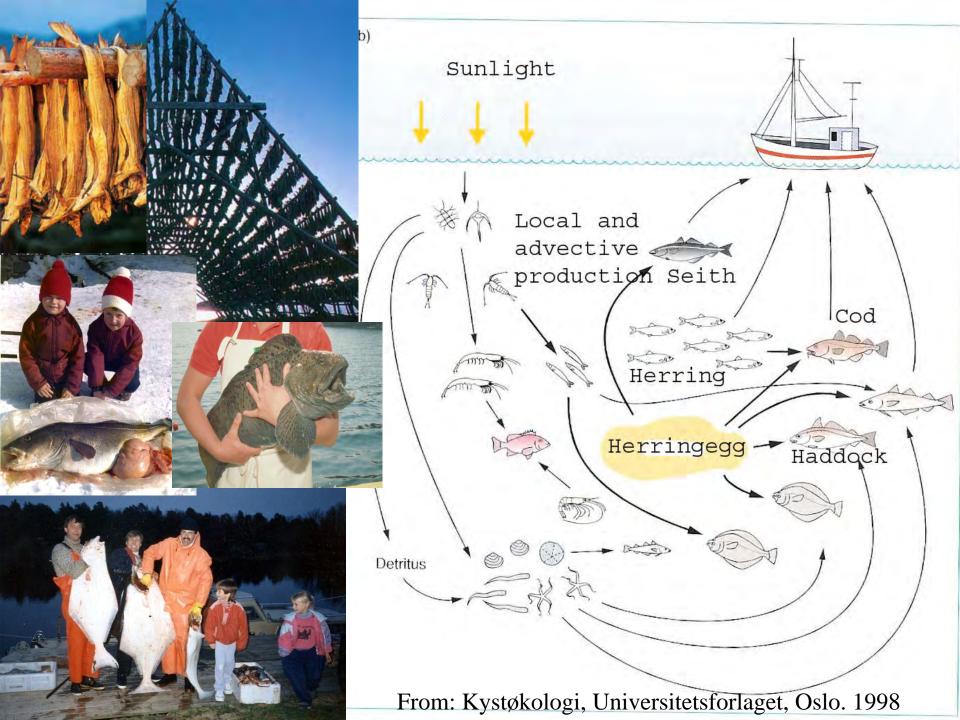
Final [Version 7]

Scientific Priorities:

Ecological interactions and connections between estuarine, coastal and offshore waters, the western and eastern Pacific, and the northern and equatorial Pacific;







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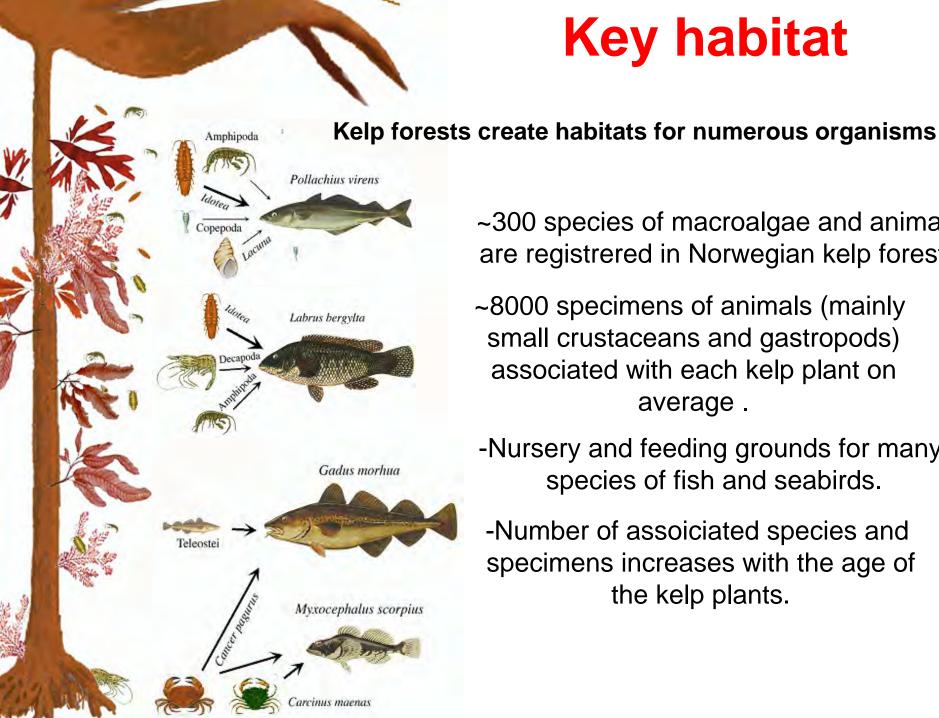
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High priority research topics:

The role of coastal zone habitat in population dynamics of commercially exploited species;



Key habitat

~300 species of macroalgae and animals

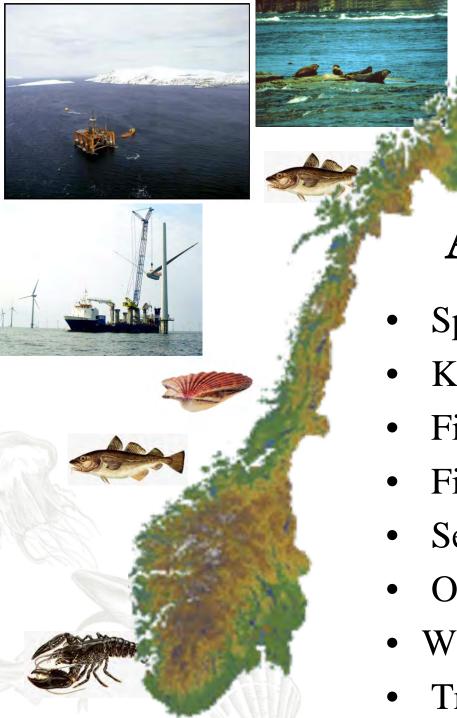
are registrered in Norwegian kelp forests

~8000 specimens of animals (mainly small crustaceans and gastropods) associated with each kelp plant on average.

-Nursery and feeding grounds for many species of fish and seabirds.

-Number of assoiciated species and specimens increases with the age of the kelp plants.





Areas of conflict

- Spawning and nursery areas
- Kelp harvest
- Fishing activity
- Fish farming
- Sea ranching
- Oil drilling
- Wind energy
- Transport (incl. Oil)



Management Plans & Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)



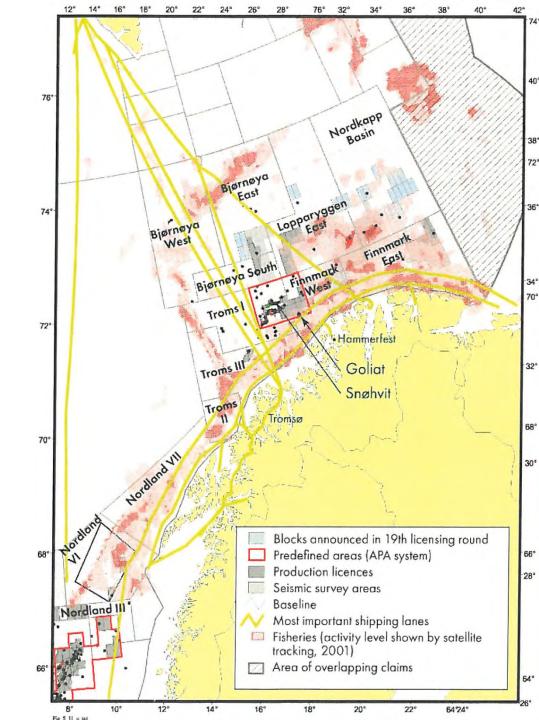
Offshore

Barent Sea Management Plan

Integrated Management of the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea and the Sea Areas off the Lofoten Islands

Contains elements as:

- Fisheries
- Oil & gas
- Transport (2010)

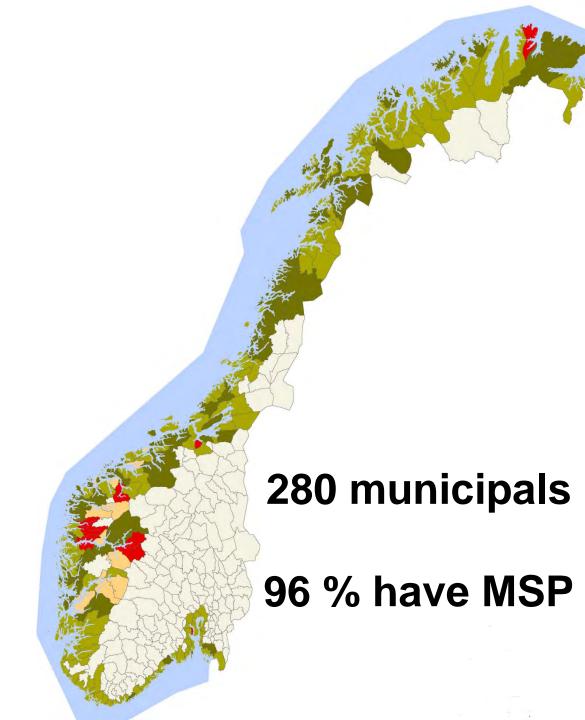




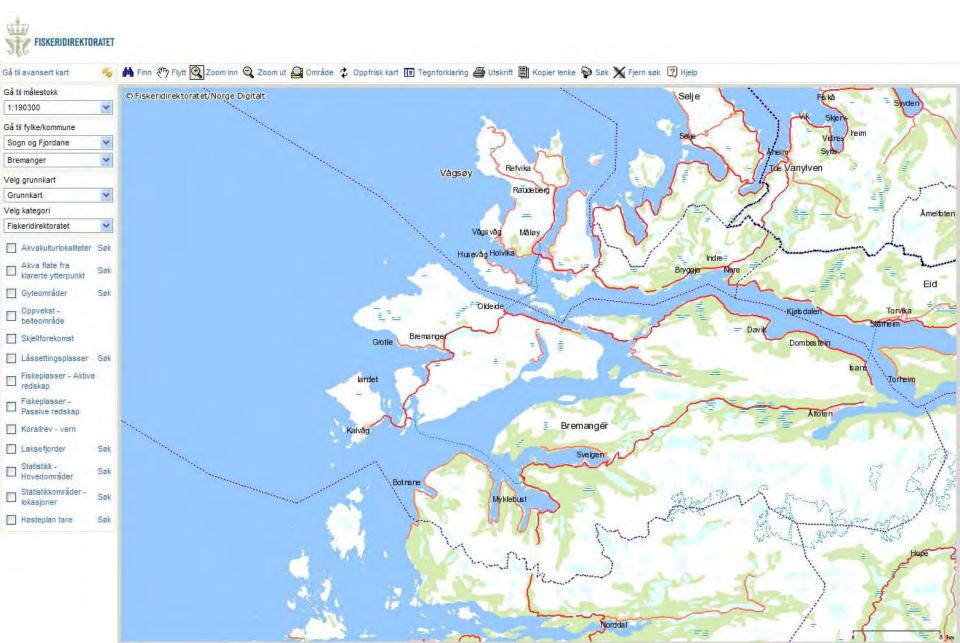
Coastal zone

Municipal level

- MSP
 - Fisheries
 - Aquaculture
 - Transport
 - Tourism
 - Energy
- Resource mapping
 - Habitat
 - Spawning areas
 - biodiversity



Bremanger municipal, western Norway







Added: Salmon fjord





Added: Spawning area for fish





Added: Locations for holding fish





Added: Locations for salmon farming





Added: Areas for kelp harvesting

National programme for mapping of Coastal marine habitat

- 15 key habitats, as:
 - Spawning areas for fish
 - Larger populations of oyster and clams
 - Large kelp-forests
 - Eelgrass-meadows

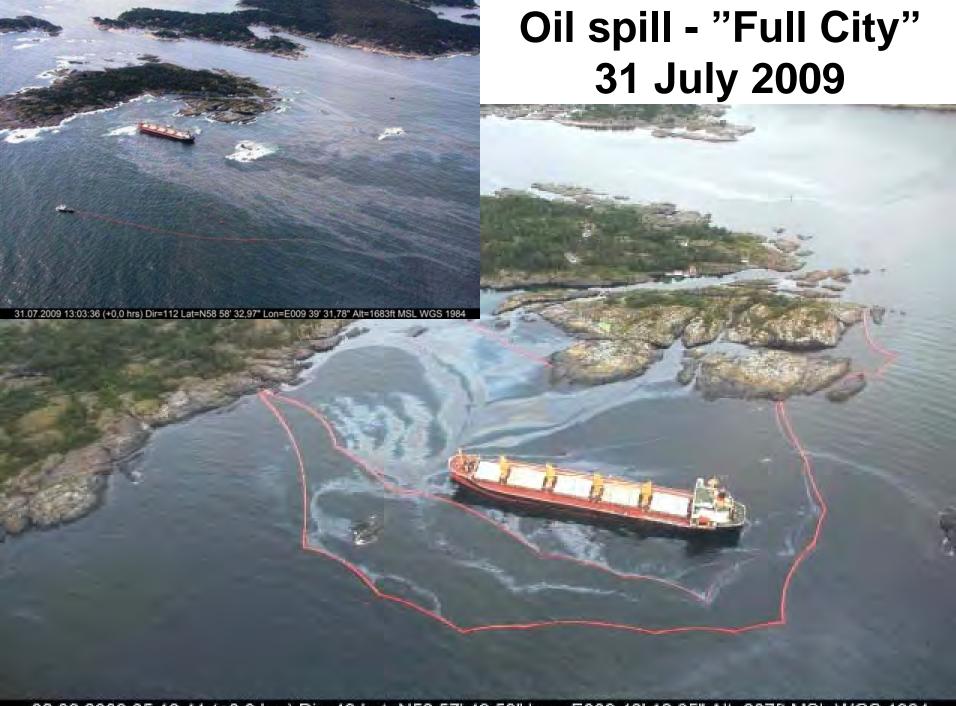


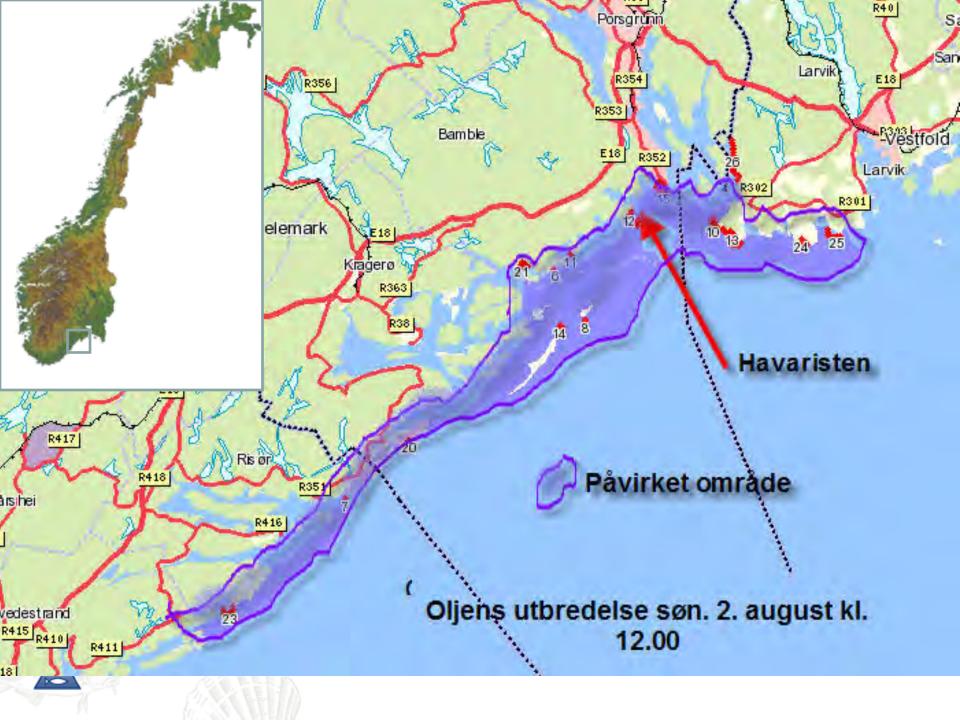
 Mapping the different habitats combining a set of modern scientific approaches with ecological information from the fishermen



Why is this important? two examples









Siting of aquaculture operations

- Increasing competition for space and recipient capacity
- Holistic management tool needed for space allocation and adjustment to carrying capacity
 - (GIS, simulation of carrying capacity)
 - Must include menitoring of environmental impact
 - Must include the major environmental impacts (organic impacts, diseases, medicines etc)

How to address these interactions in the future?

Development of ESE Models

Environment (E), Social (S) and Economy (E)

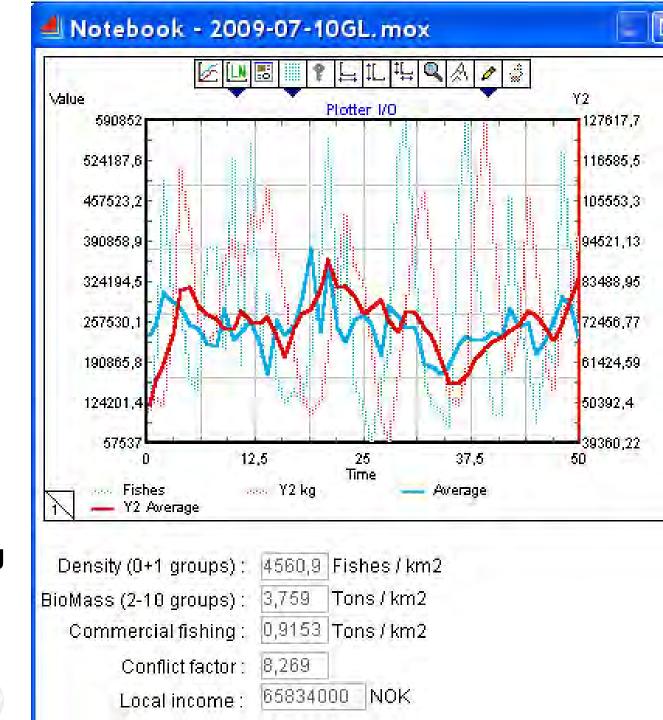




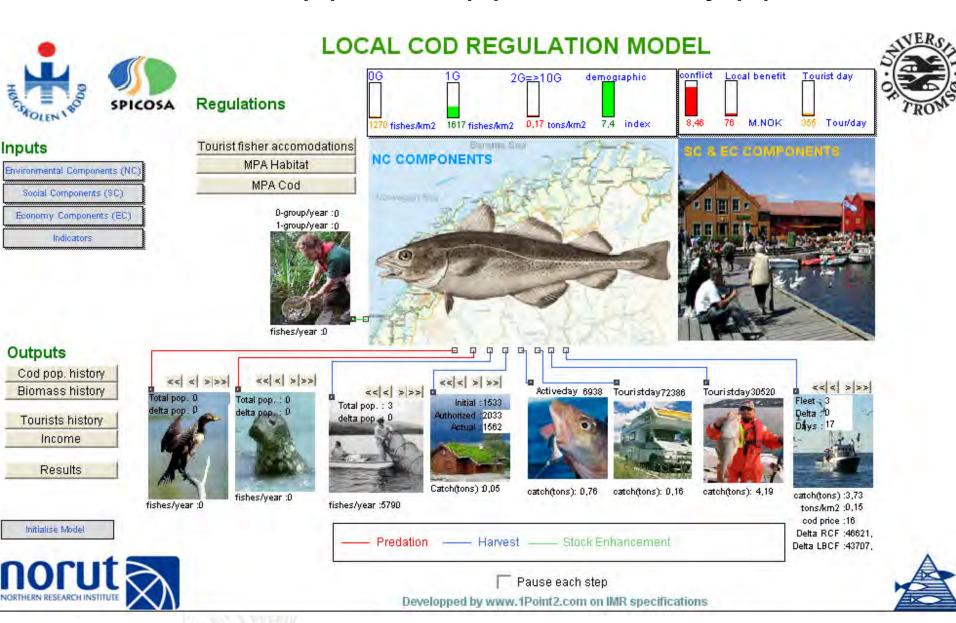
The Policy Issue:

Increase local economic benefits from tourism, while minimizing negative impacts on local coastal cod stock, and conflicts with local users of the fjord system.

The aim of the modeling is to make a tool that can help policy-makers and regulators by revealing connections between factors and trade-offs between objectives.



ExtendSim model interconnects three separate components: Environment (E), Social (S) and Economy (E) - ESE



Conclusion

- Study the ecological interactions and connections between estuarine, coastal and offshore waters
- Study the role and functions of coastal zone habitat and its inhabitants
- Management Plans & MSP is needed
- Develop models that link ecological, social and economic aspects of Coastal Zone
 Systems (ESE)

Relevance for FUTURE: Develop ESE Models for Coastal Zone Systems

Socio-economic and political factors

- Regional level
- National level
- Local level
- Industries and actors



Ecological, Social and Economic (ESE) model

model

Ecosystem factors

- Offshore
- Coastal
- Terrestrial
- Specie
- Habitat



How do human activities impact coastal marine ecosystems and their interactions with offshore and terrestrial systems



Policyimplications



