Fisheries Management in the Face of Climate Change: the Case of the Arctic

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The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment: Policies more important than warming.

What are the implications of global warming for fisheries management in the Arctic?

Outline

- Institutional context
- Arctic fisheries
- Policy implications

Institutional context

- Levels of governance: Global, regional, national
- Objectives
- Policy measures: Science, regulations, enforcement
- Two sets of issues: Mitigation and adaptation

Arctic fisheries

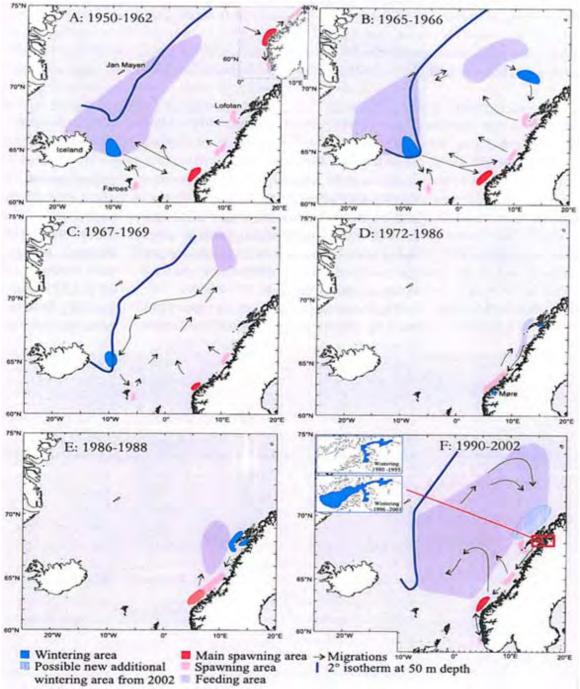
- No commercial fisheries in Central Arctic Ocean
- Substantial commercial fisheries in Sub-Arctic seas
- The littoral states
- The fisheries
- The management regimes: science, regulations, enforcement

Policy implications of climate change

- Mitigation: Reduction of emissions
- Adaptation: Adapting to change in the natural environment

An example

- The developments in the law of the sea: boundaries in the ocean
- Fish move
- The Norwegian spring spawning herring example



Skjoldal (ed). 2004, p. 215

Conclusions

- The capacity to adapt depends upon rates of change
- Healthy stocks makes change easier
- Good management still the essential thing
- Existing institutions in the NEA have proved capable of adapting in the past