

**SOME INITIAL COMMENTS ON THE WCRL SEA MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION'S SUGGESTIONS FOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE
COMING INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

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Document WG/09/05/WCRL19 submitted by the West Coast Rock Lobster Sea Management Association lists many issues that indeed warrant further discussion. In the context of the coming International Workshop, however, it is important to appreciate that time is limited, so that care must be taken to structure the event to make the best use of the time of the external invitees, and in particular to avoid having “local debates” during the event to which those invitees are not really able to contribute. In this context, the following thoughts are offered.

- A Task Group should be appointed to work through Document WG/09/05/WCRL19 to refine the manner in which the issues raised are cast, so as to optimise the effectiveness with which they can be addressed during the Workshop.
- A number of issues are raised which fall partially, if not completely (e.g. the query re accounting of annual levies in 2.1 – 3)), within in domain of other than the scientific arm of MCM only. MCM members of the WCRL WG should be requested to approach those MCM sectors to ascertain their reaction to discussion of these issues at the Workshop. *Inter alia*, even if the Workshop were to do no more than hear comments from the invited external scientists on their experiences elsewhere with issues such as co-management, it would be foolish not to plan the Workshop so that there was a specific session devoted to such discussions which was held at a time when relevant MCM officials from other than their scientific arm were available to attend.
- Some, at least, of the issues raised need to be expanded and set in a form that better allows the external scientists to apprise and comment meaningfully upon them. For example, under 2.2-2) regarding CPUE, there needs to be discussion provided detailing the existing CPUE standardisation approach, why it is considered that this is unable to correct for the effects argued, and

suggesting what further data would need to be collected routinely to allow it to be able to do so.

- Some issues raised beg computations to address how seriously they might affect estimates pertinent to management decisions. Such computations need to be specified and if possible carried out *before* the meeting, so that their results are available to assist discussion, particularly as it is unlikely (given the relative shortness of the meeting) that much will be possible by way of initiating and completing computations within the period of the Workshop itself. For example, it is conceivable (see under 2.2-1)) that tagging causes slower somatic growth – but before commencing possibly lengthy discussions of options for a major experimental program to address this further, computations should be carried out to determine, say, to what extent a constant bias in tagging-based estimates of somatic growth rate would impact estimates of sustainable yield.
- If there are instances of local misunderstandings (for example 2.2-7) re the benefits of running the west coast model from 1870 may be such a case), these need to be sorted out *before* the Workshop, in the interests of effective use of the time of the invited scientists. If there are indeed local differences in views, it is important that brief documents summarising the reasons for each side's views are prepared, and if possible pre-circulated to the invitees, so that there is a readier basis for them to be informed of the situation before debate on the issue concerned starts at the event.