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Does Capacity Analysis Help us Meet Fishery Policy and Management Objectives?

A special group of Thalassorama contributions organized by:

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There is a United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization International Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity where countries agree to, among other things, periodically provide measures of their fishing capacity. For the past several years, many fisheries economists have conducted a significant amount of research measuring capacity in several different ways. However, even after considerable effort to measure capacity has been made, policies such as buyback schemes to reduce capacity have not achieved their goals. The purpose of this special Thalassorama section is to look more closely at questions such as:

- 1) Do capacity measures provide useful information for the policy process?
- 2) Is it possible to refocus the work to provide more useful results?

The papers published herein result from a special roundtable discussion which I organized, held at the XIIIth biennial conference of the International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET), which took place in Portsmouth, UK, in July 2006. The discussion, led by the authors of these contributions, was aimed at providing an analysis of just these questions. It is hoped that the discussion within the papers, and the subsequent discussion generated by them, will further the policy process in this important area.

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