

1. Provide a report on the use of the guidelines in relation to one chosen area of the application of the Precautionary Approach

Norway

Although social and economic factors are incorporated into management decisions in general, largely in accordance with the NASCO guidelines, no major new management initiatives have been taken, e.g. changes in fisheries regulations or major new measures for habitat protection and restoration, to apply the guidelines in a more formal way.

2. Provide any suggestions for how the guidelines might be improved.

Norway has indicated that the guidelines are very useful and contribute, simply by being there, to a stronger awareness on these issues and to decision-making processes. The major difficulty, however, often lies in the lack of adequate data as a basis for those considerations. We think establishing a socio-economic Working Group by NASCO, as suggested by Norway at the 'Next Steps for NASCO' Working Group, would be an important step and an incentive to improve this data basis.