

Developing the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities for the Baltic Sea (C)

Conveners: Andris Andrushaitis (Latvia), Eero Aro (Finland), and Christian Möllmann (Germany)

The Baltic Sea is a test area of ICES for the implementation of an ecosystem approach to the management of human activities (EA). An important step towards this goal was the implementation of the GEF Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP) with its marine productivity, ecosystem health, fish and fisheries, socio-economic and governance modules. BSRP has significantly strengthened the environmental assessment and monitoring systems needed to implement an EA for the Baltic Sea. Further, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments have been started in a cooperation of ICES, BSRP, and HELCOM. These preliminary analyses show significant changes in ecosystem structure and functioning caused by natural and anthropogenic drivers. However, the process of translating the knowledge about ecosystem state and development into products usable by managers remains largely unclear. This session will review the progress made in the Baltic towards implementing the EA and especially invites papers providing ideas on conceptualizing the use of environmental information in an ecosystem-based management. As close cooperation with environmental commissions, stakeholders, NGOs, etc., is essential in this process, we welcome especially contributions by these parties.

Andris Andrushaitis, Institute of Aquatic Ecology, Latvian University, Daugavgrivas 8, LV-1048 Riga, Latvia, e-mail: andris@hydro.edu.lv

Eero Aro, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, P.O. Box 2, FIN-00791 Helsinki, Finland, e-mail: eero.aro@rktl.fi

Christian Möllmann, Institut für Hydrobiologie und Fischereiwissenschaft, Olbersweg 24, DE-22767 Hamburg, Germany, e-mail: christian.moellmann@uni-hamburg.de