

Linking oceanographic physical features with biological production and fish habitat potentials (G)

Conveners: Pierre Petitgas (France), Corinna Schrum (Norway), and Charles Hannah (Canada)

Oceanographic physical features are known to structure the marine environment. Modelling physical–biological interactions has made sufficient progress that the linkages are better understood and their consequences at larger scales can be understood. This theme session will review the state of the art and examine future directions in linking biological processes to physical features through mechanistic, stochastic, or behavioural processes. Inductive as well as deductive approaches will be considered. Physical–biological interactions occur at all scales, but the session will emphasize the consequences of meso-scale interactions. The session will create an opportunity to scrutinize physical forcing effects all along the food web from plankton to fish.

Papers relevant to the session will link physics to biology and will concern:

- Physical features characterizing biologically productive areas or retention areas;
- Fish habitats, including mapping, spawning, growth, larval mortality;
- Planktonic production and trophic pathways on fish habitats;
- Linkages to other ICES groups and other international organizations.

Pierre Petitgas, IFREMER, Laboratoire d'Ecologie Halieutique, B.P. 21105, FR-44311 Nantes Cedex 03, France, e-mail: pierre.petitgas@ifremer.fr

Corinna Schrum, University of Bergen, Geophysical Institute, Allegaten 70, NO-5007 Bergen, Norway, e-mail: corinna.schrum@gfi.uib.no

Charles Hannah, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2, Canada, e-mail: hannahc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca