

**Title: Incorporating microbial dynamics in studies of shelf ecosystems (A)**

**Conveners: John Steele (US), Franciscus Colijn (Germany), and Carlo Heip (the Netherlands)**

Recent advances in marine microbial ecology have made us aware of the complexity of these processes and their importance for all stages of ecosystem productivity. In particular, the JGOFS program that focused on the open ocean, revealed the biogeochemical loops linking “new” and “recycled” production that determine the export to higher trophic levels. We need to transfer these general insights to the complicated environment of shelf and slope ecosystems, and link them to research on plankton, benthos and fish. We expect to bring together researchers from these new sub/disciplines with representatives of relevant ICES activities.

Specifically the Theme Session would explore:

- 1 ) The biogeochemical processes and their physical drivers;
- 2 ) The microbial ecology including the viral-bacterial/phytoplankton interactions;
- 3 ) The factors determining export of organic matter from the microbial web to higher levels.

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