

**Title: Role of sea ice in polar ecosystems (B)**

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Current climate models (and observations) indicate that polar ecosystems will change significantly in coming decades. With the current concerns about climate changes it is important to understand the significance of sea ice in polar ecosystems. Sea ice is a major component of polar marine ecosystems. As ice cover changes, it can have significant impacts on marine organism. These can include:

- changes in mixing of oceans (lack of cover);
- loss of habitat for ice-dwelling organisms;
- temperature- and salinity changes (e.g., melt).

Since 2007/2008 is the period of the International Polar Year (IPY) it would facilitate interaction between the ICES and IPY communities. Contributions should discuss issues such as:

- Physical processes related to sea ice;
- Plankton production;
- Ecological role of ice edge;
- Pelagic-benthic coupling;
- Sea ice as marine mammal habitat;
- Earth Observation approaches.

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