

Title: Comparative dynamics of populations in the Baltic Sea and Gulf of St. Lawrence ecosystems (J)

Conveners: Michele Casini (Sweden) and Daniel Duplisea (Canada)

The Baltic Sea and Gulf of St. Lawrence are large temperate-boreal estuarine ecosystems of similar size. The populations occupying mid-upper trophic levels (zooplankton, invertebrates, fish, sea birds, marine mammals) in these systems have undergone major changes in recent decades and are expected to be strongly influenced by the on-going global change. This session invites contributions which will improve our understanding of the influence of perturbations (e.g. fishing, climate variability, eutrophication, hypoxia) on population dynamics which can aid the development and implementation of an ecosystem approach to management in these systems.

Contributions which address the following topics, particularly involving comparisons between systems, are welcome:

- physical, biochemical and anthropogenic influences on community and species key rates and characteristics (e.g. recruitment, growth, distribution, mortality, condition and maturation);
- interactions within and between species (competition, predation, cannibalism) at mid-upper trophic levels;
- disentangling the influence of fishing and other driving forces (e.g. climate variability) on population development and ecosystem structure;
- analysis of empirical and modelled community and ecosystem indicators.

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