

Theme Session P

An integrated approach to research surveys: monitoring with a combination of sensors

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With the recent change in focus from single-species management towards the ecosystem-based management to fisheries, efforts have been made to tailor the information flow from research vessels to support a wide range of models and data products. Several countries are performing multipurpose surveys, sometimes coined "ecosystem surveys", and discussion on how to perform these surveys are timely. An important aspect of these surveys, and surveys in general, is how well the different sampling methods are capable of observing the relevant parameters. For example, bottom trawls are extensively used to observe demersal and semi-demersal fish, but occasionally the fish resides in the water column unavailable for the trawl (sensor), and sometimes the target species resides in non-trawlable or protected areas. Furthermore, differential catchability between species is problematic when comparing species, which is particularly relevant for ecosystem surveys. In this context, integration of different sensors, like trawl sampling, video platforms, acoustics etc., may provide improvements. We are interested in contributions that address catchability issues or detection probabilities, as these are important when combining or comparing the information from the different sensors or species. We would also like to encourage presentations that combine sensor data from other platforms, like satellite-remote sensing data, various sensor data from observatories, etc., with the ship-based survey data. We also accept contributions that address non-biological data, but we will prioritize contributions that link the various data to a model or data product relevant for management.