

2011/3/SSGSUE01 The “5th International Otolith Symposium 2014 (IOS2014)” will be held during October 2014 at Palma, Mallorca Island, Spain, with Beatriz Morales-Nin (Spain) and Audrey Geffen (Norway) as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established with members nominated by relevant Working Groups or other relevant ICES bodies from among the ICES network of research institutes in order to assist the Conveners in planning the Symposium. Additionally the Scientific Steering Group will be completed with members of the organizing Committees of previous IOS Symposia to gain from their experience and a local Committee to support the organization.

In consultation with the Conveners, the ICES Secretariat will solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations like NAFO, CIESM and FAO-GCPM.

Supporting Information

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Priority:	Otolith analyses underpin a majority of the work in ICES, from stock assessment for Advice, to multiple applications in Science. For example, historical data on individual age and growth are used to chart changes in productivity or fishery induced evolution, and otoliths recovered from stomach contents or feces are important in evaluating trophic interactions as part of ecosystem-based management.
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Scientific justification:	<p>The aim of the International Otolith Symposium is to explore the use of calcified tissues as tools to support management and define indicators at environmental, community, population and individual levels. This will be the 5th in a series of independent symposia which have been convened, beginning in 1993, to encourage the exchange of information and expertise and promote the development of new techniques and applications for otolith-based analysis in ecology, management, and conservation. This international forum is the centre for the exchange of information on developments in the field. New techniques of analysis, statistical treatment, and indeed new areas of application are all presented in this forum. Regular attendees are often the prominent users of otolith analyses in their home institution, and many are active in ICES work. This is also the premier venue for interaction between ICES scientists and those working in other parts of the world. North America, Japan, Taiwan, and Australia are particularly active in advancing otolith techniques, and exchange of ideas and information is crucial to improving the science in the ICES community.</p> <p>The Symposium will consist of a 5-day venue with one day dedicated to two parallel workshops: a) ICES workshop on age determination issues for relevant species and b) Image analysis developments and models for otolith shape analysis.</p>
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Resource requirements: Albeit it is difficult to make precise estimates three years in advance of the event, conveners drafted a preliminary budget that comprises the following items (in Euros):

Renting venue facilities	20.000
Catering health brakes	15.000
Conference dinner	18.000
Printed material, extra pages plus S&H JMS etc.	5.750
T&S Invited speakers	15.625
Student grants, awards, conference bags	57.375
TOTAL	131.750

We envisage the following registration fees: 400 € for early registration, 500 € for late registration and 200 € for students.

In a conservative estimate of 250 participants and 25 students this may represent a minimum of 105000 € income.

Additionally we will seek support from the Spanish regional and state grant programmes on 2012 for Symposiums by the Science Ministry and from the Balearic Islands Government. We will explore the support for South American Spanish speaking countries scientists through the Ministry of External Affairs programmes. Support in kind will be provided by IMEDEA and the University of the Balearic Islands.

We will seek support for the Shape Analysis Workshop from commercial enterprises producing Image Analysis Systems.

Participants: The IOS series started in Hilton Head (USA) in 1993, followed by IOS1998 in Bergen (Norway), IOS2004 Townsville (Australia) and IOS2009 Symposium held in Monterrey (USA). In general attendance ranged between 250-350 participants. IOS2009 counted with 268 registrars from 36 countries showing the interest on the Symposium in a time of economic crisis. We hope that by 2014 an economic recovery will help to increase the participation. Besides, Mallorca being a main touristic destination with low budget air connections, it would facilitate participation of European ICES countries.

Many ICES expert groups can be expected to be represented among the presenters. Two of the workshops are specifically organised in recognition of topics important in ICES work (ICES Age workshop, and otolith shape analysis). Eight members of the preliminary international steering committee are scientists closely involved in ICES activities, and it is likely that more than 50% of the participants will report on research directly relevant to ICES members. This will also be an important opportunity to showcase the research of the ICES community to a global audience.

Secretariat facilities: Conveners ask for support for development and maintenance of the conference webpage to allow for registration, abstract and paper submission, payment of registration and general management of the Symposium. During the conference professional English-speaking assistance will be required for the registration and venue management. Assistance is requested to advertize the Symposium using the ICES communication and dissemination channels, and to contact other international organizations to gather support for IOS2014.

The ICES Ageing Workshop would require assistance to be organized and developed.

Financial: In addition, financial support of 10K Euro is requested for T&S for the invited speakers preferably from ICES member countries, for the book of abstracts and other printed material, and for travel support for early career scientists, preferably from ICES Member countries.

Linkages to advisory committees: There is direct linkage to the ICES Advisory committee (ACOM), see the "scientific justification" section.

Linkages to other committees or groups:	This symposium topic is directly related to the remit of several ICES Expert Groups which may support the symposium.
Linkages to other organizations:	Other organizations which hold an interest in the Otolith Symposium include PICES, CIESM, FAO-CGPM
Publication of proceedings	<p>The convener request to use the ICES Journal of Marine Science for the proceedings. The volume is expected to exceed 250 pages adding a probable extra cost of 2020 €. The symposium budget includes funding for the extra pages, to be covered by the registration fee income. The conveners Beatriz Morales-Nin and Audrey Geffen will be the guest editors, and it is accepted that the publication schedule will conform to the 15-month turnaround schedule for publication.</p> <p>Each previous IOS had a special issue published according to the organizing committee origin; for instance there were special issues in Journal of Fisheries Research on 2000, Marine and Freshwater Research in 2005 and Environmental Biology of Fishes in 2010.</p>
