

2012/3/SSGHIE03 The “Johan Hjort Symposium on Recruitment Dynamics and Stock Variability”, will be held from 7–9 October 2014 in Bergen, Norway with the Institute of Marine Research, Bergen and ICES as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established following discussions with the relevant ICES network of research institutes in order to assist the Convener(s) in planning the Symposium. In consultation with the Convener, the ICES Secretariat will be asked to solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Throughout its history, ICES’s activities have focussed on providing the scientific basis for the sustainable management of fisheries resources. At the heart of this science is understanding the main drivers of annual and longer-term variability in the productivity of stocks, and now also the ecosystems that support them. Characterizing and understanding recruitment variability was the focus of much of Johan Hjort’s work, as exemplified by his seminal 1914 publication. This conference will bring together the world’s leading experts on recruitment variability to discuss where we have gone since Hjort (1914) and where we are - and should be - going in the next 100 years. Thus, the theme of this conference goes to the very heart of all of ICES’s activity and should, naturally, be accorded a high priority.
Scientific justification:	Johan Hjort was a founder of the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and central in the establishment of the ICES. He was Director of IMR from 1900-1916. He was the Norwegian delegate at ICES from 1902 to 1938 and was President from 1938-1948. 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of the publication of Hjort's seminal work, Hjort, J. (1914) “Fluctuations in the great fisheries of northern Europe, viewed in the light of biological research. Rapports et Procès-Verbaux des Réunions du Conseil Permanent International pour l’Exploration de la Mer, 20:1–228”. This book presents and develops hypotheses about the factors that determine year-class strength. These hypotheses are still the focus of research to this day (e.g. critical period hypothesis; transport hypothesis...). As a demonstration of this reality, Hjort (1914) is one of the most highly cited articles in marine and fisheries science and it continues to accrue 50-60 new citations every year. Further, articles that have taken the concepts proposed by Hjort further (e.g. the match-mismatch hypothesis; member-vagrant hypothesis...) are also among the most highly cited works in marine science. This conference will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Hjort (1914). The overarching theme is the factors that underlie variability in the productivity of marine ecosystems and how that influences the population dynamics of commercially exploited species. This theme is closely connected to a very high percentage of all ICES science activity.
Resource requirements:	The symposium will be funded by a Conference Fee and support will be requested from the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, ICES, and other organizations.
Participants:	We anticipate that this symposium will attract 200-300 participants from inside and outside the ICES community.
Secretariat facilities:	Advertising the symposium and communications..
Financial:	Financial support of 10,000.00 Euro is requested from ICES. These funds will be used to support keynote speakers and early career scientists.
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM and SCICOM will be asked for input on the symposium program and will be represented in the Steering and Organising Committees.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	The symposium topic is directly related to the remit of many ICES Expert Groups.

Linkages to other organizations:	The Symposium has relevance to all organizations that deal with the science surrounding recruitment variability.
Publication of proceedings	A special issue of the ICES Journal of Marine Science is already under development by the Editor-in-Chief. Given the high profile of the theme, and many of the contributors, Oxford University Press has generously offered to relax the page limit for this issue and to make all articles freely available for download at no cost to ICES or authors.
