

## 6<sup>th</sup> Zooplankton Production Symposium – May 2016

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**2014/3/SSGEPD02** The **Symposium 6<sup>th</sup> Zooplankton Production Symposium** will be held during end of April/early May 2016, in Bergen, Norway with Atsushi Tsuda (Japan, for PICES), Padmini Dalpadado (Norway, for ICES), and Astthor Gislsson (Iceland, for ICES) as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established with members nominated by the ICES Working Group on Zooplankton (WGZE) and the SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Processes (SSGEPD) from among the ICES network of research institutes, and from relevant PICES Committees in order to assist the Conveners in planning the Symposium. In consultation with the Conveners, the ICES Secretariat will solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

### Supporting Information

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Priority:	The 6th ZPS has high priority for ICES because the previous symposia were organized in Asia (Japan 2007) and South America (Chile 2010) while now it is Europe's and North America's turn. It will increase the visibility of the ICES zooplankton research community and acknowledge the position of zooplankton as the key mid-water component and its importance for integrated ecosystem understanding.
Scientific justification:	Zooplankton play a pivotal role in polar, temperate and tropical marine ecosystems as well as in global biogeochemical cycles. They function as prey for commercially harvested fish, as grazers of primary production, and as drivers of carbon and nutrient cycles. Their population and community dynamics, including their growth, mortality, distribution, and diversity, structure the ecosystem. Zooplankton species may be target to commercial harvesting such as Antarctic krill and other midwater species. Consequences of an increasing interest to exploit resources at lower trophic levels is still poorly understood and require urgent, multidisciplinary research. At the same time, a changing environment influences their dynamics. Climate change is profoundly impacting marine ecosystems through changes in zooplankton. A combination of new technologies and techniques, together with classical in situ and laboratory studies, is required to understand changing ecosystems. In response to the need to understand zooplankton dynamics, their sensitivity to change, and the resultant effects on ecosystems, ICES and PICES are holding the 6th International Zooplankton Production Symposium as a forum to discuss zooplankton and their role in the global ecosystem.
Resource requirements:	A Conference fee will be imposed to cover the lion share of the expenses. Additional funding will be sought from the co-sponsoring partners and from possible industrial sponsors.
Participants:	The 5th Zooplankton Production Symposium 2011 in Chile was attended by ca. 300 participants. A similar number could be expected to attend the symposium proposed here from ICES and PICES member countries.
Secretariat facilities:	The Secretariat is asked to provide the registration and abstract submission facilities, as well as setting up the symposium website. Attendance of ICES Secretariat staff at the conference as well as the ICES President or a national delegate to open the conference is highly desirable.

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Financial:	A Financial contribution of 10.000 Euro is requested from SCICOM which contributes to the rent of conference facilities, travel and subsistence of keynote speakers or ICES conveners, and to support T&S for early career scientists.
Linkages to advisory committees:	The results of the conference are relevant for the ICES Advisory Committee.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	The symposium topic is relevant to all ICES "Ecology" Expert Groups as well as for the Expert Groups on Integrated Ecosystem Assessments. In 2016 there will also be held a scientific conference on small pelagic fishes. There are plans for the two to closely interact and have related events such as workshops on common topics.
Linkages to other organizations:	The symposium is jointly organized and sponsored with PICES. There are linkages to IOC as well as to GFCM.
Publication of proceedings	The ICES Journal of Marine Science is requested for the publication of the proceedings. Conveners agree to the 15-month turnaround schedule for publication.

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