

REPORT OF THE
Working Group on Recruitment Processes

By Correspondence

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International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
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1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Working Group on Recruitment Processes (Co-Chairs: Dr P. Pepin, Canada and Dr R.D.M. Nash, UK) will work by correspondence in 2001 to:

- a) review multidisciplinary projects dealing with recruitment research, with attention to providing a synthesis of the projects and highlight unresolved issues which deserve further consideration;
- b) consider the results of the SGPRISM's examination of the STEREO project, along with concurrent and subsequent investigations;
- c) review the development of new approaches or techniques used in the study of factors and processes that influence the development and survival of fish eggs and larvae in relation to recruitment of the formation of year-class strength;
- d) consider a synthesis of recruitment issues presented at the SAP symposium;
- e) evaluate an analysis of simulations exploring the effects of stock structural factors on the parameters of stock-recruitment relationships with a view to preparing a case for a Study Group on evaluating the impact of these factors on stock projections;
- f) consider a synthesis of the 2000 Theme Session on "Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Recruitment Processes" to be prepared by the Session's Convenors.

WGRP will report by 1 August 2001 for the attention of the Oceanography and Living Resources Committees.

2 REPORT

The Group did not meet during the course of the year and communication among members was very limited. A number of members did participate in the meeting of the Study Group on the Incorporation of Process Information into Stock-Recruitment Models (SGPRISM) (ICES 2001). The advances made by SGPRISM clearly show that much progress has been made in the knowledge concerning the influence of environmental and biological processes on stock-recruitment relationships and that methodological issues must also be considered in applying this new knowledge. However, the results from the SGPRISM meeting held in 2001 also indicate that considerable work still has to be done in order to effectively incorporate the results from process studies into population assessment and management schemes. Since the terms of reference for the WGRP deals with the review of major ongoing research activities, it was felt that the Working Group should identify areas where sufficient progress has been achieved with the objective of developing a workshop dealing with specific case studies. The workshop would follow the approaches set forth in meetings of SGPRISM as well as those of the Retrospective Workshops of the WGCCC.

In addition to the activities associated with the Study Group, the Working Group has been consulting with the Chair of the Working Group on Cod and Climate Change (WGCCC) (Dr K. Drinkwater, Canada) about plans of the Oceanography Committee (OCC) for some of the Working Groups under its auspices to hold joint meetings in 2002. The WGCCC has planned to hold a Workshop on the Transport of Cod Larvae. It was felt by both Working Groups that this topic was of great interest to the terms of reference of both groups as well as that of SGPRISM that meetings should be arranged for maximum interaction between the two Working Groups. We agreed to recommend that concurrent meetings of the WGRP and WGCCC be held in Copenhagen on 18–19 April 2002. This would be preceded by the Workshop on the Transport of Cod Larvae on 15–17 April 2002, at the same location. The two Working Groups could then identify a 2–4 hour period when a joint session could be beneficial, if it is deemed necessary.

2.1 Recommendations

The Working Group on Recruitment Processes (Co-Chairs: Dr P. Pepin, Canada and Dr R.D.M. Nash, UK) will meet on 18–19 April 2002 in Copenhagen to:

- a) review multidisciplinary projects dealing with recruitment research, with attention to providing a synthesis of the projects and highlight unresolved issues which deserve further consideration;

- b) consider the results of the SGPRISM's examination of the STEREO project, along with concurrent and subsequent investigations;
- c) evaluate an analysis of simulations exploring the effects of stock structural factors on the parameters of stock-recruitment relationships with a view to preparing a case for a Study Group on evaluating the impact of these factors on stock projections, and in the light of results from the Workshop on the Transport of Cod Larvae held immediately prior to the meeting;
- d) consider a synthesis of the 2000 Theme Session on "Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Recruitment Processes" to be prepared by the Session's Convenors as well as a synthesis of recruitment issues presented at the SAP symposium held in December 2000;
- e) identify areas in the study of recruitment processes where sufficient progress has been achieved with the objective of developing a workshop dealing with specific case studies;
- f) review the development of new approaches or techniques used in the study of factors and processes that influence the development and survival of fish eggs and larvae in relation to recruitment of the formation of year-class strength.

3 REFERENCES

ICES 2001. Report of the Study group on the Incorporation of Process Information into Stock-Recruitment Models. ICES CM 2001/C:02, 50p.