GEF BALTIC SEA REGIONAL PROJECT
PHASE 1: 2003 – 2005

REPORT OF THE BSRP LL HISTOPATHOLOGY, PARASITOLOGY AND FISH DISEASES KICK-OFF MEETING

La Tremblade, France

8-12 March 2005

COMPILED BY

GALINA RODJUK

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

BSRP LL Histopathology, Parasitology and Fish diseases kick-off meeting took place on 8-12 March 2005 in La Tremblade (France) concurrently with ICES Working Group on Pathology and Diseases of Marine Organisms (WGPDMO). Five eastern experts from Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (for the account of BSRP), ICES WG Chair -Thomas Lang (Western expert) and ICES WG members took part in this meeting.

G. Rodjuk (BSRP LPM) gave a report on the Baltic Sea Regional Project.
Report, conclusions and recommendations are situated on the p.40-41,
www.ices.dk/reports/MCC/2005/WGPDMO05.pdf .

List of meeting participants.

Name	Institute	Phone	e-mail
Galina N. Rodjuk (manager of BSRP Lead Laboratory of Histopathology, Parasitology and Fish diseases)	Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO) 5, Dm. Donskogo Street 236000 Kaliningrad Russia	+48 58 6601617/ +48 58 6202165	ocemw@univ.gda.pl
Kaja Lotman	The Matsula National Park Administration, Penijoe 90305 Lihula Läänemaa Estonia	+37 25247899/	kaja@matsalu.ee
Muza Kirjušina	Division of Parasitology and Ichthyopathology State Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Centre 3 Lejupes str. Riga, LV-1076 Latvia	+371 7 620 718/ + 371 7 620 434	muza.kirjusina@vvmdc.gov.lv
Magdalena Podolska	Sea Fisheries Institute ul. Kollataja 1 81-332 Gdynia Poland	+48 58201728 (ext. 225)/ +48 58202831	bilbo@mir.gdynia.pl
Maciej Wolowicz	Laboratory of Estuarine Ecology Institute of OceanographyUniversity of Gdańsk Al. Marszałka J.Piłsudskiego 46 81-378 Gdynia Poland	+7 0112 225782 or +7 0112225369/ +7 0112 219997	rodjuk@atlant.baltnet.ru
Thomas Lang (Western expert, WGPDM Chair)	Bundesforschungsanstalt für Fischerei Institut für Fischereiökologie Deichstrasse 12 27472 Cuxhaven Germany	+49 4721 38034/ +49 4721 53583	thomas.lang@ifo.bfa-fisch.de

ANNEX 1.
Following text is a part of **REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PATHOLOGY AND DISEASES OF MARINE ORGANISMS (WGPDMO), 8–12 MARCH 2005 LA TREMBLADE, FRANCE. Full text is downloadable from http://www.ices.dk/reports/MCC/2005/WGPDMO05.pdf.**

16. Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP)

G. Rodjuk gave a report on the Baltic Sea Regional Project (http://www.ices.dk/projects/balticsea.asp). The project started in February 2004 and expected to continue for five years. The project is funded through the World Bank as part of the Global Environment Facility Programme (GEF). The first phase of the program will focus on Coordination. The main aim of the project is to strengthen institutional and technical capacity among countries bordering the Baltic Sea by improving and standardising national and regional cooperation and coordination for both coastal and open sea activities.
Aims of the project are:

- to develop a practical integration of institutes,
- to harmonise sampling techniques,
- to rationalize assessment and reporting
- to achieve a general upgrading and use of equipment and laboratories in a cost effective and quality-assured manner

The following BSRP Coordination Centres are be involved:

- CC Fish and Fisheries in Riga with 4 Leading Laboratories (LL);
- CC Ecosystem Health in Gdynia (Sea Fisheries Institute) with 2 LL and a 3rd recently established for Biodiversity studies. This CC will coordinate the work of the Lead Laboratory for histopathology, parasitology and fish diseases in Kaliningrad, Russia;
- CC Productivity in Riga with 2 LL and a newly established Co-Local Project Manager (LPM) position for management of Ships of Opportunity (SOOP) activities within BSRP;
- CC GIS/Data in Vilnius with a newly proposed co-LPM position for management of Multiple Marine Ecological Disturbances (MMED) component within BSRP;
- CC Socio-economy in Tallinn with newly proposed Co-LPM position for management of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) activities within C1 of BSRP.

Two initial meetings were held in Riga and Vilnius to establish a list of experts, a working plan and a list of equipment.

BSRP Fish Disease Monitoring

A component of the BSRP focuses on diseases, parasites and liver histopathology. The identified experts for fish disease monitoring are from the eastern countries are M. Podolska (Poland), G. Rodjuk (Lead laboratory, Russia), E. Bacevicius (Lithuania), M. Kirjusina (Latvia) and K. Lotman (Estonia).

According to a tentative workplan, the following species were identified for inclusion in the off-shore monitoring program: cod (*Gadus morhua*), flounder (*Platichthys flesus*), herring (*Clupea harengus*) and sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*). Species to be monitored during coastal surveillance include bream (*Abramis brama*), roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) and flounder.

The idea is that the Baltic Sea fish disease monitoring should be part of an integrated monitoring programme, encompassing e.g. studies on coastal and offshore fish stocks and biodiversity, biological effects of contaminants (biomarker approach), on biodiversity and physical and chemical measurements. The fish disease monitoring programme should be coordinated by the WGPDMO and should ultimately be incorporated in the revised HELCOM monitoring programme. It was proposed that the ICES Marine Data Centre should act as central database for the Baltic Sea Project.

Plans for an ICES/BSRP Sea-going Workshop on Fish Disease Monitoring in the Baltic Sea

Since there is an apparent need to further intercalibrate methodologies to be used for fish disease monitoring in the Baltic Sea, it was suggested to hold a sea-going practical workshop under the auspices of ICES/BSRP with specialists in this field and with trainees from the eastern countries. On invitation by T. Lang (Germany), the workshop is scheduled for 10-14 days in December 2005 on board the German RV 'Walther Herwig III'. It will be organised and co-convened by T. Lang (Fed. Res. Centre for Fisheries, Inst. of Fishery Ecology, Cuxhaven, Germany) and G. Rodjuk (BSRP LL for fish diseases, parasites, histopathology, AtlantNIRO, Kaliningrad, Russia). The ICES Study Group on Baltic Ecosystem Health Issues in support of BSRP (SGEH) and the ICES Working Group on Pathology and Diseases of Marine Organisms (WGPDMO) will be involved in the programme planning. Links to the HELCOM expert network for coastal fish monitoring will be sought.

The major objectives of the workshop are to:

- provide training and intercalibration related to methodologies applied in fish disease monitoring in the Baltic Sea,

- further develop and assess health indicators and indices appropriate for monitoring and assessment purposes,
- establish a closer collaboration between institutes involved in fish disease monitoring in the Baltic Sea,
- build the basis for incorporation of fish disease surveys into the revised HELCOM monitoring programme.

According to the present planning, the workshop will start in Kiel, Germany, and will end in a port in the eastern Baltic Sea yet to be decided.
12 scientist will participate, including training experts (on methodologies for fish disease surveys in the Baltic Sea, externally visible diseases/parasites, liver histopathology, data assessments, quality assurance) and trainees from Baltic Sea countries, with priority given to eastern BSRP countries.
The major target fish species will be flounder (*Platichthys flesus*), herring (*Clupea harengus*), sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) and cod (*Gadus morhua*). These species will be sampled on a transect with selected sites representing different environmental conditions. If appropriate, samples can be taken for subsequent lab-based measurements, e.g. on biomarker responses (e.g. as part of the planned BSRP BIODEMO Project on Biological Effects of Contaminants).
The plans for the workshop will be presented and reviewed at the next ICES SGEH meeting in November 2005 in Kaliningrad, Russia, at the Meeting of the ICES Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment (ACME) in Copenhagen, June 2005, as well as at the ICES ASC/Statutory Meeting in September 2005, Aberdeen, UK.
Cost implications for BSRP: funding (travel and per diem) will be required for scientists from the eastern recipient countries. Funding will also be needed for a representative from the BEQUALM lead laboratory on fish diseases and liver histopathology at CEFAS, Weymouth, UK, whose participation is essential in order to guarantee compliance with the BEQUALM quality assurance activities. Ship time, accommodation and food on board, the use of equipment as well as time allocation by western experts constitute a significant in-kind contribution by western countries.

Conclusions

1. The WGPDMO appreciated the progress made in the development of the fish disease component of the Baltic Sea Regional Project (BSRP).
2. In particular, it endorsed the plan to hold a sea-going workshop on fish disease monitoring in the Baltic Sea in December 2005.
3. BSRP activities related to fish disease monitoring should be carried out in close collaboration with the WGPDMO.

Recommendations

The WGPDMO recommends that:

i. an ICES/BSRP Sea-going Workshop on Fish Disease Monitoring in the Baltic Sea co-convened by T. Lang (Germany) and G. Rodjuk (Russia) shall be held in December 2005 on board the German RV 'Walther Herwig III'. Its objectives are to

   - provide training and intercalibration related to methodologies applied in fish disease monitoring in the Baltic Sea,
   - further develop and assess health indicators and indices appropriate for monitoring and assessment purposes,
   - establish a closer collaboration between institutes involved in fish disease monitoring in the Baltic Sea,
   - build the basis for incorporation of fish disease surveys into the revised HELCOM monitoring programme.

ii. future progress made in relation to the Baltic Sea Regional project (BSRP) be reviewed by WGPDMO at its 2006 meeting (ToR for 2006).