

## **ICES projects coordinated by Jan Thulin.**

The Baltic Sea Regional Project, **BSRP**, is now up and running for full speed. During this, its second year, all Coordination Centres (5) and Lead Laboratories (10) have been established and staffed. The number of contracted persons now accounts to 23. The day to day work is led by the Assistant Coordinator (CIAC), Andris Andrushaitis, based in Riga, Latvia. A series of activity reports have been produced of which the reports of the four ICES SG:s in support of the implementation of the BSRP, the SGBEM (modelling); SGBFFI (fisheries); SGEH (ecosystem health); SGPROD (productivity), as well as the "Report by BSRP Component 1: "Baltic Large Marine Ecosystem Activities" to the Baltic Sea Steering Group, May 2005", are the most important. They are all found at the ICES homepage. The first phase of the BSRP will end 1 July 2006 and preparations for the second project phase, which will last until 1 July 2008, is now going on.

The EU-project **BONUS** which is an acronym for "Baltic Sea Science – Network of Funding Agencies" is connected to the BSRP. Thus, ICES, has been contracted to be responsible for the BONUS Task 2.5 "Ideas for potential future transnational research schemes". The project will run 2003-2008 with a budget of 170 000 Euros and the main activities of ICES should have been during 2006-2008. However, the EC have offered BONUS to participate in the so called Article 169 work, which in the case of the Baltic should aim at creating a joint Baltic Sea research Programme. The Executive Committee of the BONUS have decided to accept this offer and work for a possible start of a 5 year EU-project "BONUS-169" with an estimated start during 2008 and with an EU contribution of 100 million Euros. ICES and BONUS Task 2.5 has been given the task to produce a draft Science Plan. This plan is supposed to convert the research needs arising from the management bodies into scientific questions, which the science community can respond to with research ideas. In practical terms, the Science Plan will be the material for future calls for proposals. The Science Plan should be based on and structured according to the following Workpackages: 1. Natural forcing including climate impact; 2. Eutrophication; 3. Sustainability of living resources; 4. Biodiversity; 5. Pollution and Ecosystem Health; 5. Sustainable socio- and ecological economy; 6. Synthesis and dissemination; and 7. Management and infrastructure. For the purpose of producing a first draft of this Science Plan ICES has employed Chris Hopkins for three months. The plan should be finalized before the end of 2005 and a first draft will be discussed in the Baltic Committee during the ASC 2005.

A second EU project, **SAFMAMS** (Scientific Advice for Fisheries Management at Multiple Scales), has recently been connected to the BSRP/ICES activities. The objective of this project is to draw insights from existing research projects and management processes on the most useful forms of scientific advice for marine environmental management and to communicate those insights to scientists and decision makers. SAFMAMS will begin with a focus on fisheries management in Northern Europe, while simultaneously developing a network to expand this discussion into broader questions of marine environmental management. The three year project is coordinated by The Institute for Fisheries Management and Coastal Community Development (IFM), Denmark, and will engage BSRP/ICES for 5 man-months over the period with a budget of 87 000 Euros. A Kick-off meeting will be held in conjunction with the ICES ASC.