

2012/3/SSGHIE04 A Symposium on “Oceans Past V” will be held from 18–20 May 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia, with Alison MacDiarmid, New Zealand and Brian MacKenzie, Denmark (TBC) as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be chaired by Prof. Poul Holm (Ireland, subject: history) and consist of the following members: Dr. Marta Coll (Spain, subject: ecosystems), Dr. Kathleen Schwerdtner-Manez (Germany, subject: socio-economy), Lembi Lõugas (Estonia, subject: archaeology) +1-2 members nominated by ICES. The local organizing committee is chaired by Henn Ojaveer and consist of representatives of three organizing universities (University of Tartu, Tallinn University and Estonian University of Life Sciences).

Supporting Information

Priority:	The symposium is highly relevant for ICES, both its science and advisory roles as the expected conference contributions i) provide new evidences on historical perspectives on living marine resources, their exploitation/consumption levels and related human behaviour, ii) help to identify types and patterns of marine populations and ecosystems response to various natural and anthropogenic forcings and evaluate consequences in an interdisciplinary manner (by involving expertise in various disciplines in marine research, archaeology, mathematical modeling and socio-economy), and iii) assist to further identify historical baselines and assist setting quantitative targets for ecosystem-based management.
Scientific justification:	<p>The expected conference presentations should contribute to all three major topic-areas of ICES Science Plan 2008-2013: Understanding Ecosystem Functioning (Biodiversity and the health of marine ecosystems, Top predators (marine mammals, seabirds, and large pelagics) in marine ecosystems), Understanding Interactions of Human Activities with Ecosystems (Impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems; Population and community level impacts of contaminants, eutrophication, and habitat changes in the coastal zone), Development of options for sustainable use of ecosystems (Contributions to socio-economic understanding of ecosystem goods and services, and forecasting of the impact of human activities).</p> <p>The expected conference presentations are also directly linked to ICES advisory role by advancing our understanding on how the exploited ecosystems and their components have performed over time, incl. as a result of climate and various human drivers. This would assist ICES to incorporate historical knowledge from times when human impact was low to develop further management options and propose mitigation options to address, for instance, climate change effects. As several conference contributions are expected to originate from outside ICES-area and/or disciplines currently not well-represented in ICES work (e.g., archaeology, socio-economy), it would allow ICES to broaden its knowledge base and strengthen cooperation with scientists from ICES partner organisations such as CIESM and PICES.</p>
Resource requirements:	In addition to the conference fee (which amount is not decided as yet), financial contribution is expected from the host institute (University of Tartu) in the amount of ca. 10 000 eur. Other potential sources of co-financing will be sought as well.

Participants:	Conference participants are expected to represent wide range of geographical regions globally, by incl. Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and several regional seas with coverage of Europe, Asia, Northern and Southern America and Australia/New Zealand
Secretariat facilities:	Secretariat help might be needed to promote the conference and encourage scientists involved in ICES partner organisations (like CIESM, PICES etc.) to attend the conference.
Financial:	We would like ICES to contribute 10 000 eur to cover several key costs related to the conference.
Linkages to advisory committees:	The symposium topic is directly linked to the remit of the ICES Advisory Committee by contributing to the knowledge pool on assisting to identify historical baselines for marine ecosystem management, track development of fisheries technology over time, assess changes in marine ecosystem and its components state as a result of multiple human activities, and contribute to success/failure stories on recovery and conservation efforts on exploited populations, species, habitats and ecosystems.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	The symposium topic is directly related to the Working Group on History of Fish and Fisheries, WGHIST. In addition, linkage exists to any ICES expert group(s) dealing with historical aspects of marine ecosystem and its sub-components.
Linkages to other organizations:	History of Marine Animal Population's network (contact: Poul Holm); potential also for CIESM and PICES, but not contacted as yet
Publication of proceedings	Selected manuscripts will be submitted to the ICES Journal of Marine Science. The volume will most likely not exceed 250 pages. Conveners agree to the 12 month turnaround schedule for publication.