

2019 Symposium on “Challenging the scientific legacy of Johan Hjort: Is it time for a new paradigm shift in marine research?”

2016/3/SSGEPD06 The Symposium: “Challenging the scientific legacy of Johan Hjort: Is it time for a new paradigm shift in marine research?” will be held from 12–14 June 2019 in Bergen (Hotel Scandic City), Norway. The Institute of Marine Research, Bergen; The International Commission for the History of Oceanography (ICHO) and ICES will be principal sponsors (potentially also the Research Council of Norway). Olav Sigurd Kjesbu, Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway; Vera Schwach, Nifu, Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, Oslo, Norway; Jennifer Hubbard, Department of History, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada, and Iain Suthers, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of South Wales, Australia, are conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group is to be established following discussions with the relevant networks of research institutes and universities, in order to assist the conveners in planning the Symposium. In consultation with the Conveners, the ICES Secretariat will be asked to solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

Supporting Information

Priority:	This symposium agrees with the vision and mission of ICES, including supporting activities as listed in the ICES Strategic Plan, especially the scientific basis for the understanding of variability in the productivity of marine ecosystems. This being said, the planned symposium deviates in many respects from earlier and up-coming symposia in that it will integrate a focus on the past and address the historic developments in marine fisheries research, both conceptually and methodologically, from the early days of the introduction of this research field to today’s advanced models, although in many situations still incomplete. Hence, this conference will bring together leading experts on marine history and marine research to “look to the past”, in order to see the linkages, understand more profoundly the current state of the art, and the way we address current challenges and problems. A central person in these respects is Dr Johan Hjort, “the father of modern marine research”, and instrumental in the establishment of ICES. This symposium will use the celebration of his 150 th year birthday as a catalyst to reflect on the past, and discuss ways forward, as outlined below.
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Scientific justification:	<p>In June 2019 we celebrate the 150-year anniversary of Johan Hjort (1869-1948), who introduced the fundamental theory for current fisheries science with his concepts of the roles played by strong and weak year classes in population structure and productivity. Since then a wide range of new methods and approaches have emerged to refine Hjort's theory, but today's knowledge of factors regulating stock dynamics, e.g. recruitment and migration dynamics, is still vague and thereby makes stock projections highly uncertain. Moreover, the urge to broaden up the standard routines in stock management programs to embrace today's holistic views, including ecosystem approaches to fisheries and on-going changes in the marine environment, implies an interdisciplinary co-operation. In order to move forward, the current situation asks for a dedicated search for new ideas and a new scientific framework. To stimulate and explore new directions forward in a free and creative atmosphere, in the spirit of Hjort, we invite marine researchers and historians of marine science to gather in this Bergen symposium, at the same place where Hjort launched his paradigm-changing publication in 1914.</p> <p>The intention with Challenging the scientific legacy of Johan Hjort is a truly interdisciplinary symposium. We think that we, by integrating data, information and perspectives from various scientific fields, will be able to reach a more advanced understanding of both marine life and the practice of marine science. Thus all sessions are set up as plenary sessions, and may contain scientific and scholarly contributions from various bodies of knowledge.</p> <p>Opening keynote: Ray Hilborn, USA</p>
Resource requirements:	The symposium will be funded by a Conference Fee and support will be requested from the Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, ICES, and other organizations and governmental agencies, such as The International Commission for the History of Oceanography (ICHO) and the Research Council of Norway.
Participants:	We anticipate that this symposium will attract about 150 participants from inside and outside the ICES community.
Secretariat facilities:	Advertising the symposium and communications..
Financial:	ICES cosponsorship includes financial support up to the amount of 10,000 Euros for early career scientists
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM and SCICOM will be asked for input on the symposium program and will be represented in the Steering and Organising Committees.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	The symposium topic is directly related to the remit of many ICES Expert Groups.
Linkages to other organizations:	The Symposium has relevance to all organizations that deal with the science surrounding stock productivity.
Publication of proceedings	A special issue of the ICES Journal of Marine Science would be desirable following the underlying and present close links to ICES.