

Symposium on “Drivers of dynamics of small pelagic neritic fish resources” – 2017

2013/3/SSGEF06 A Symposium on “Drivers of dynamics of small pelagic neritic fish resources” will be held from 6–11 March 2017 in Victoria BC; Canada, with Jürgen Alheit (Germany; ICES), N.N. (PICES), Miguel Bernal (GFCM, requested), Ramiro Sanchez (CTMFM, Argentina), and Salvador Lluch-Cota (Mexico) as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established with members nominated by relevant Working Groups or other relevant bodies of the sponsors in order to assist the Conveners in planning the Symposium. In consultation with the Conveners, the ICES Secretariat will solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

Supporting Information

Priority:	The symposium will support the strategic goals of ICES with respect to the High Priority Research Topics: (i) understanding ecosystem functioning, (ii) understanding of interactions of human activities with ecosystems, (iii) development of options for sustainable use of ecosystems. It is highly relevant because it enhances the cooperation of ICES with other major leading organisations with respect to small pelagic fishes.
Scientific justification:	<p>Populations of small pelagic neritic fish such as sardine, anchovy, herring, capelin or mackerel provide about 25 % of the total annual yield of capture fisheries, and the well-being of many coastal communities around the world, particularly in developing countries, depends critically on these resources. Their population sizes exhibit notoriously extreme fluctuations in abundance and distribution due to the impact of environmental and anthropogenic influences. In spite of many internationally coordinated research efforts, we still do not have sufficient knowledge about the drivers of their recruitment and the effects of the interplay between environmental and anthropogenic factors.</p> <p>In 1983, FAO and IOC had organized “The Expert Consultation to examine Changes in Abundance and Species Composition of Neritic Fish Resources” in San José, Costa Rica (FAO Fisheries Report 291, 1983, 3 Volumes). This symposium was a great success and inspired many research efforts on small pelagic fishes for the next three decades. The most memorable presentation was that of Prof. Tsuyoshi Kawasaki on “Why do some pelagic fishes have wide fluctuations in their numbers? Biological basis of fluctuation from the view point of evolutionary ecology”. It was the first time many of us were confronted with the phenomenon of synchronous population fluctuations of small pelagic fish populations the causes of which we still try to unravel.</p> <p>Four major themes - with respect to small pelagic neritic fish populations - should be the subject of the proposed symposium :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental control of productivity and distribution• Early life history and recruitment processes• Trophodynamic role between plankton and top predators in different ecosystems• Management and economics <p>Because of the importance of environmental drivers the participation of experts in physical oceanography and climate issues is essential.</p> <p>There has been no other global symposium on small pelagic fishes since 1983 and the flow of information on a global scale on this theme has been much reduced since the end of the GLOBEC project in 2008. The goal of the symposium is to re-vitalize the global international cooperation and to clarify burning questions such as impact of climate or resilience to fishing pressure of small pelagic populations using a comparative approach. The symposium will build on the results of the preceding symposium on Climate Change and Fish in Santos (2015) and of the more regional meetings on Forage Fish organized by ICES in Nantes (2012) and the AFS in Quebec (2014).</p>
Resource requirements:	Organizing a symposium entails significant resource requirements, all of which will be met by the Conference Fee.

Participants:	As small pelagic fishes have a world-wide distribution, it is anticipated that about 300 participants will come from all major oceans and adjacent regional seas.
Secretariat facilities:	The ICES Secretariat will be involved in general professional and secretarial support in cooperation with PICES Secretariat, and both Secretariats may provide direct assistance during the Symposium.
Financial:	The conveners request a financial support from ICES of 10,000 € and from PICES of 10,000 CAN\$. These amounts will be dedicated to funding of the Book of Abstracts, rent of conference facilities, travel and subsistence of keynote speakers or ICES conveners, and to support for early career scientists. It is expected that other sponsors will also contribute. The significant resource requirements will be met by the imposition of a symposium fee.
Linkages to advisory committees:	Some symposium topics are directly related to the remit of the ICES Advisory Committee.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	The symposium theme is directly related to the remit of all ICES Expert Groups dealing with small pelagic fishes, SICCM and SSGEF.
Linkages to other organizations:	The symposium is directly relevant to PICES, GFCM, FAO, IOC and CTMFM (Joint Technical Commission of the Maritime Front, Argentina and Uruguay), all of which should be asked to act as sponsors.
Publication of proceedings	The conveners plan to use the ICES Journal of Marine Science and additional journals such as Special Issues of the Journal of Marine Systems and Progress in Oceanography for the proceedings. The expected turnaround time for the IJMS will be respected.