

Theme Session D

Physico-chemical aspects of ocean acidification in the ICES area

Conveners: David J. Hydes, UK, Jon Olafsson, Iceland, and Alberto Viera Borges, Belgium

Theme Session report

Of the three theme session conveners only one, Jón Ólafsson, attended the ICES ASC. Adi Kellermann, Head of Science of the ICES secretariat, kindly joined in chairing the session.

There were only 4 presentations in the session. Two were about observations and their interpretations, one had a focus on observation methods with basic results and one was on modelling processes in several NE-Atlantic regions. The presentations thus covered fields which are actively pursued in research on ocean acidification. It would have been desirable to have more presentations. However, none of the presentations strictly followed the theme of the session so there is scope for extended or other topics at future ASC's. The theme session might have been more inviting with the word "chemical" replaced with "biogeochemical".

The session followed the invited plenary lecture of Richard Feely on ocean acidification. This influenced the general discussions at the end of the session in a very positive way as he kindly joined the session. Judging by the session attendance of about 60 and from the discussion, there is great interest in the subject of ocean acidification and its consequences.

Taking this session together with Feely's plenary lecture it is clear that ocean acidification is likely to affect the ICES area and will do even more so in the future. Much current research is conducted on the biological consequences of ocean acidification from plankton to fisheries. Future coverage of the subject in ICES work and in the ASC is a matter for consideration.