



set net method

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Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (IMBER)

National Marine Fisheries Service, USA (NOAA Fisheries)

North Pacific Research Board, USA (NPRB)

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Japanese Society of Fisheries Oceanography (JSFO)

Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (JSFS)

SYMPOSIUM CONVENORS

Jürgen Alheit (ICES), Germany;

Yoshioki Oozeki (PICES), Headquarters, FRA, Japan

SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE

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SYMPOSIUM COORDINATORS

Alexander Bychkov (PICES)

Adolf Kellermann (ICES)

KEY DATES

March 24, 2016

Symposium website opens

April 25, 2016

Solicit workshop proposals through symposium website and email lists

June 1, 2016

Workshop proposal submission deadline

July 15, 2016

Workshop acceptance notification

October 1, 2016

Abstract submission deadline

Financial support application deadline

Early registration deadline

December 1, 2016

Abstract acceptance notification

Financial support grant notification

March 6–11, 2017

Symposium and associated workshops

VENUE

The symposium will take place at the Victoria Conference Centre (<http://victoriainconference.com/>).



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

DRIVERS OF DYNAMICS OF SMALL PELAGIC FISH RESOURCES

MARCH 6–11, 2017 VICTORIA, CANADA

<http://www.pices.int/smallpelagics2017.aspx>

All print images are from the book "Mie-ken suisan zukai" (1883) and demonstrate different fishing methods for sardines: beach seine (front cover and panel 1), purse seine (panels 2 and 3), dip net (panel 4) and set net (back cover). Authorization to reproduce these images was generously granted by the Mie Prefectural Museum (Japan).



beach seine method

SCOPE

Populations of small pelagic fish (SPF) such as sardine, anchovy, herring, capelin, mackerel and others 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. In 1983, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) organized an international symposium titled “*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). The symposium was a major success and inspired many research efforts on SPF for the next three decades. It was the first time many of those attending the symposium were confronted with the phenomenon of SPF population abundances varying synchronously, between close to extinct populations and extremely high abundances, in many unconnected regions of the global ocean. This is a phenomenon we are still attempting to understand, as the distances between the small pelagic stocks are large, atmospheric and ocean connections are weak and unclear, and mechanisms are unresolved. There has been no global symposium on SPF since 1983, and the international exchange of information about SPF has declined since the end of the Small Pelagics and Climate Change (SPACC) project of GLOBEC in 2008.

The goal of the 2017 symposium is to revitalize global international cooperation on investigations of SPF and to identify, discuss and develop a framework to address unanswered questions such as the impact of climate and/or fishing pressure on the resilience of small pelagic populations using a comparative approach. Because of the importance of environmental and anthropogenic drivers on small pelagic resources, the participation of experts in physical oceanography, climate, and socio-economics is essential.



purse seine method

SYMPOSIUM STRUCTURE

This event will consist of:

- Morning plenary sessions to provide overarching keynote presentations and to introduce topics for the concurrent sessions to be convened on the same day, and an afternoon summary plenary session on Day 5;
- Concurrent topic sessions every day, following a morning plenary session;
- Post-symposium concurrent workshops.

Scientific sessions will include invited and contributed papers. Contributed papers will be selected for oral and poster presentations.

Posters will be on display for the entire duration of the symposium. The evening poster sessions/receptions are planned for Day 2 and Day 4 when poster presenters are expected to be available to answer questions.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

A core set of topic sessions identified by the Scientific Steering Committee include:

- Session 1:** Environmental control of spatio-temporal changes in population size, distribution and migration of small pelagic fish in the ecosystem context
- Session 2:** External drivers of change in early life history, growth and recruitment processes of small pelagic fish
- Session 3:** The role of small pelagic fish in food web dynamics between plankton and top predators
- Session 4:** Comparison of methods for assessment of small pelagic fish populations
- Session 5:** Future challenges for ecosystem-based management of highly variable fish populations
- Session 6:** Small pelagic fish and humans – social, economic and institutional dimensions



dip net method

WORKSHOPS

The scientific community is invited to propose workshops (from half-day to a full day) to be held March 11, 2017. Those interested in submitting a proposal must fill out the form on the symposium website by June 1, 2016. Notification of proposal acceptance will be sent by July 15, 2016.

OUTCOME

The symposium organisers will strive to publish several special issues in journals such as *Progress in Oceanography*, *Fisheries Oceanography*, *Deep-Sea Research* and *Journal of Marine Systems*.

SOCIAL EVENTS

A number of networking opportunities are expected for the symposium week:

- Welcome Reception on Day 1 (March 6)
- Evening poster sessions/receptions on Day 2 (March 7) and Day 4 (March 9)

REGISTRATION, ABSTRACTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

On-line registration and abstract submission will open on March 1, 2016. Please consult the symposium website for registration and abstract submission details.

Limited funds are available to assist early career scientists (less than 35 years of age or less than 5 year post PhD) and researchers from developing countries to attend the symposium. Application procedure can be found on the symposium website.