Workshop on "*Introduction to Rapid Assessment Survey Methodologies for Application in Developing Countries*"

Venue
- 'Marine Site', Kobe University Research Center for Inland Seas, Awaji Island, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan

Dates
- July 13-16, 2010

Sponsors
- North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)
- Fisheries Research Agency of Japan
- Kobe University Research Center for Inland Seas

Convenors
- Hiroshi Kawai (Kobe University, Japan),
- Thomas Therriault (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
- Hisashi Yokoyama (National Research Institute of Aquaculture, FRA Japan)

Description
Rapid Assessment Surveys (RAS) are one approach to quickly characterize the native, non-native and cryptogenic species present in different locations. Although specific methods vary slightly based on habitats being sampled or taxonomic groups being characterized, PICES WG-21 on *Non-indigenous Aquatic Species* developed methodologies that have been used within PICES member countries to identify non-indigenous species in both inter-tidal and sub-tidal habitats. Inter-tidal habitats have been sampled by a timed walk and quadrat/grab sampling methods, and sub-tidal habitats have been sampled using collectors (tunicate), trapping for macrofauna (primarily crabs) and a survey of the fouling communities on floating docks and their associated structure. Species-level identification can be done by traditional morphological taxonomy but more often it is becoming necessary to confirm these identifications using genetic markers. Given the global nature of biological invasions, it is important to engage those beyond PICES member countries. Thus, this demonstration workshop will provide participants with the tools to conduct surveys in their own countries and provide a context to why this type of activity is essential and how information on non-native species will be shared among developing and with PICES member countries. The assignment of status (native, non-native or cryptogenic) occurs following species identification.

Main objectives
- To provide a contextual perspective on why monitoring for non-indigenous species is important;
- To educate participants in RAS methodologies and demonstrate their application;
- To provide participants of an overview of the PICES WG-21 database and show how all can benefit from such an application.

Participation
- By invitation only