

REPORT OF THE ADVISORY PANEL ON *MICRONEKTON SAMPLING INTER-CALIBRATION EXPERIMENT*

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the Advisory Panel on the *Micronekton Sampling Inter-calibration Experiment* (MIE-AP) prepared to submit a draft of the final report at the time of 2008 Annual Meeting. However, the necessity of conducting additional sample analyses from the MIE-1 and MIE-2/3 cruises caused a delay in the preparation of the draft report. Consequently, the Advisory Panel decided to postpone the draft submission until PICES-2009. A brief description of the analyses, presently ongoing, follows.

MIE-1

Scientists participating in MIE-1 have finished identification of all fish and squid specimens collected during the cruise, but they still have some crustacean samples to identify. Although about half samples have already been analyzed, currently the complete size- frequency analyses of all crustaceans and other plankton from remaining samples are underway. The addition of more samples will provide higher statistical power in the comparative analysis by reducing the deviation of data.

To date, three papers directly from the results of the cruise are at different stages of preparation (sampling gear comparison, comparison between nets vs. acoustics, and fish larvae).

MIE-2 and 3

Comparison of sampling efficiency for dominant fish species has been finished for both of the cruises. But that for euphausiids, including size-frequency distribution, is underway. Scientists at Hokkaido University analyzed acoustic data obtained during the MIE 2/3 cruises, including density estimate and geostastical analyses of fish/euphausiids. Publication of two papers are anticipated from the gear comparison (one for comparison of sampling efficiency of fish by different fishing gears; another for euphausiids), and one paper from the net/acoustic comparison. Scientists at Hokkaido University analyzed acoustic data obtained during the MIE 2/3 cruises, including density estimate and geostastical analyses of fish/euphausiids.

Apart from these analyses, Japanese scientists made a cruise to test J-QUEST, an integrated system to visualize and quantify micronekton, in August 2008. A topical issue for this year is a new lighting apparatus which is invisible to fish and therefore does not affect fish behavior. The development of J-QUEST will be summarized in the final report.