

Workshop: The Continuous Plankton Recorder survey and long-term observations of plankton ecosystems in the North Pacific

Convenors: Hiroya Sugisaki (National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, FRA, Japan), Sanae Chiba (JAMSTEC, Japan) and Tsuneo Ono (Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, FRA Japan)

Invited speaker: Sonia Batten (Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science, UK/Canada)

Sponsored by North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

Supported by Fisheries Research Agency of Japan

Venue: National Research Institute of Fisheries Science, Fisheries Research Agency (Yokohama, Japan)

Dates: September 30 – October 1, 2009

Description

Continuous Plankton Recorders (CPR) were invented in the 1920s by Sir Alister Hardy and first used during the Discovery cruise. Since then, they have been used for many decades to sample plankton mainly in the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas and many time series studies using CPR data have been published. CPR activities were started in the late 1990s in the North Pacific and there are now ten years of plankton data available. Variations in ecosystems caused by climate change or global warming effects have been of great concern globally in recent years. Long-term plankton observation data sets are especially useful to monitor and analyze the changes and variability of ocean ecosystems. CPR research is considered a valuable method to continue to monitor the status of the global ocean ecosystem, because it is internally consistent and cost-effective.

Main objectives of this workshop are to:

1. Review the recent status and result of Pacific CPR activities;
2. Introduce the long-term plankton observation activities in the western North Pacific in order to compare with CPR activities;
3. Discuss the potential of CPR to enhance the research for monitoring of Pacific ecosystem status.