

2nd International Workshop
Body size and ecosystem dynamics:
Implications for conservation and management of natural
resources

The Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Strömstad, Sweden
(<http://www.tmbi.gu.se/>) **June 1-6, 2009**

Organiser: Andrea Belgrano (Swedish Board of Fisheries, Institute of Marine Research)



Co-organisers: Bo Ebenman (Linköping University) and Tomas Jonsson (University of Skövde)

OUTLINE

The processes generating the trophic structures of ecosystems and how these structures in turn affect the vulnerability of ecosystems to different kind of perturbations are central issues in ecology. Much recent research has centred on the role of bottom-up versus top-down processes in controlling the structure and dynamics of ecosystems, the risk and extent of trophic cascades following species loss, and the role of top predators for the robustness and resilience of ecosystems. Several recent studies points to the importance of considering the distribution of body sizes within ecosystems when exploring these issues.

The second SIZEMIC workshop aims to generate a dialogue between theoretical, experimental ecologists, and socio-economics researchers engaged in ecosystems management and conservation to discuss the current use of size-based food web models and their integration into a framework for an ecosystem-based management of natural resources.

The workshop encourages participants from different backgrounds to participate in active discussion beyond the current research boundaries and develop novel approaches and ideas that will form the base for new and exciting research avenues.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The workshop will begin each day with stimulating talks from internationally recognised ecologists including: Eric Berlow (University of California, Merced, USA), Chris Carbone (Institute of Zoology, London, UK), Carlos Melian (NCEAS, Santa Barbara, USA), Jon Norberg (Resilience Center, Stockholm, Sweden), Ken Frank (DFO, Canada), Owen Petchey (University of Sheffield, UK).

PARTICIPATION BY SIZEMIC COMMUNITY

We welcome participants at the workshop to give talks in the topic areas outlined below, and ask you to give your preferred topic area in your application to attend the meeting (along with a title and abstract). Please note that it will not be possible for all participants to give talks, due to the limited time available. Giving a talk is not a precondition to take part in the part in the workshop. If too many talks are offered, the meeting organisers will make a judgement as to which are most relevant to the themes of the meeting.

TOPICS

- 1) Trophic cascades in food webs– effects of climate change and decreasing abundances of top predators. *Key-note speaker: Chris Carbone*
- 2) Resilience and resistance of size-based food webs to perturbations – identifying keystone species and keystone links. *Key-note speaker: Eric Berlow*
- 3) Ecosystem-based management of natural resources using size-based approaches (including applications to Baltic Sea). *Key-note speaker: Carlos Melian*
- 4) Macroecological patterns and the impacts of climate change and exploitation. *Key-note speaker: Ken Frank*
- 5) Ideas about size-based adaptive management in linked ecological and socio-economic systems. *Key-note speaker: Jon Norberg*

Concluding session. *Key-note speaker: Owen Petchey*

VENUE AND TRAVEL

Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences (University of Gothenburg), Strömstad, Sweden
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Dates:

Working groups, June 1-3, 2009:

Monday, June 1	Arrival in afternoon/evening, get together food/wine
Tuesday, June 2	Working group activities
Wednesday, June 3	Working group activities

Workshop, June 3-6, 2009:

Wednesday, June 3	Arrival in afternoon/evening, get together food/wine
Thursday, June 4	Talks and discussions (themes 1 and 2)
Friday, June 5	Talks and discussions (themes 3 and 4)
Saturday, June 6	Talks and final discussion (theme 5), lunch and departure of participants

HOW TO ATTEND?

Please provide on the application form:

1. a short CV
2. a brief explanation of why would like to attend
3. if you would like to make a contribution please indicate which topic areas

Please send your application by email to andrea.belgrano@fiskeriverket.se **no later than Sunday, March 15th, 2009!**

Once applications are processed we will notify all attendees in early April 2009. Delegates will then receive information packs and travel advice.

We have funding to contribute to accommodation and some travel expenses for successful European applicants; non-European participants are welcome on a self-funding basis. Please state if you can partially or fully cover your own expenses. Delegate expenses will be reimbursed following the workshop. There is a maximum attendance of 50.

SIZEMIC CONTACTS

For other general inquiries about SIZEMIC, contact:

Chair of Steering Committee: Richard Law (r11@york.ac.uk)

Programme Coordinator: Julia Blanchard (julia.blanchard@cefas.co.uk)

ESF Science Officer and Administrator: Bernard Avril (bernard.avril@esf.org) and Ellen Degott (edegott@esf.org) or sizemic@esf.org

Visit the SIZEMIC Programme websites: www.sizemic.org and www.esf.org/sizemic