

Dear Colleague

We invite you to submit an abstract to the international symposium on “Coping with global change in marine social-ecological systems”, which will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, 8-11 July 2008.

Note the Abstract deadline is **1 February 2008**, and the Early Registration deadline is 1 April 2008.

The primary sponsors of this symposium are the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics program (GLOBEC: www.globec.org); the European Network of Excellence for Oceans Ecosystem Analysis (EUR-OCEANS; www.eur-oceans.eu), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

To date, confirmed co-sponsoring organisations include the Institut de recherche pour le Développement (IRD, France), Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER), the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES; www.pices.int), the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR; www.jhu.edu/~scor), the Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research program (IMBER; <http://www.imber.info/>), and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES; www.ices.dk).

The central goals of the symposium are to share experiences across disciplines and to identify key next steps and common elements and approaches that promote resilience of marine social-ecological systems in the face of global changes. This involves:

- 1) exploring conceptual issues relating to social-ecological responses in marine systems to global changes;
- 2) analysing case studies of specific examples of social-ecological responses in marine systems to significant environmental changes manifested locally;
- 3) synthesising the work of natural and social scientists and building comparisons of social-ecological responses in marine ecosystems subjected to major environmental variability;
- 4) developing innovative approaches to the use of science and knowledge in management, policy and advice;
- 5) identifying lessons for governance for building resilient social-ecological systems.

Details on the symposium organisation, Scientific Steering Committee members, scientific sessions, etc. are available at the symposium web site www.peopleandfish.org. This site also includes downloads of the poster and brochure – a direct link to the brochure is <https://www.confmanager.com/communities/c846/files/focus4/flyer.pdf>.

We also invite you to send word of this symposium to your colleagues who might be interested in its topics.

Please visit the web site, and do not hesitate to contact myself or other members of the steering committee if you have any questions.

Best wishes –

Ian Perry (for the Convenors and Steering Committee)

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