



The Joint Workshop of the ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour [WGFTFB] and the Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology [WGFAST] (JFATB), will be held on Wednesday, April 21

WGFAST and WGFTFB meet every three years to hold a joint session, known as the JFATB, in conjunction with their annual meetings. The topics of the Joint Session attempt to reflect mutual interests of the groups, who share a common history and have substantial overlap in their interests.

Three keynote speakers have accepted invitations to present to the Joint Workshop. We are pleased to announce that Egil Ona (Norway) will address the history of fisheries acoustics and its use in fisheries and science, Anne Christine Utne Palm (Norway) will address the biology of fish vision, and Haraldur Einarsson (Iceland) will discuss technical aspects of pelagic trawling.

We encourage presentations of relevance to the WGs, specifically related to:

- **Methods and challenges associated with sampling the midwater and mesopelagic zones.**

*This session will bring together technical presentations on the use and performance of midwater gear. Midwater trawls are the primary tools used to groundtruth echosigns in many acoustic surveys, yet little is known about their technical and fishing performance. Sampling the mesopelagic zone, particularly in the context of ecosystem surveys, presents additional challenges due to the wide range of species and sizes that need to be considered.*

- **Methods to identify and quantify the uncertainty introduced by trawl size and species selectivity in multispecies surveys.**

*Understanding catchability and detectability of species can present several challenges to surveys, experimental work, and fishing. Survey gears can be used to groundtruth acoustic signals and determine acoustic detectability, and alternatively acoustics and other remote sensing methods can be used to assess the performance of fishing gear*

*and species catchability. The different methods can also be combined to obtain more comprehensive views of the ecosystem due to the different areas they sample. This session will include presentations that address these various issues.*

- **Tools of the Trade: Methods and technologies for sampling and observing fish and fishing gear.**

*This session will bring together topics that focus on recent, not so recent, or developing methods and technologies that offer new insight into the interactions between sampling gear and organisms, that improve ergonomics and efficiency of catch sampling and processing, and that address common issues with data processing, such as machine learning frameworks for autonomous detections. We welcome short presentations of sampling gear and instrumentation (camera systems, measuring boards, etc) in all stages of development.*

*Hope to see you in Bergen, your co-chairs*  
Stéphane Gauthier (Canada) and Mike Pol (USA)