



Preface

Revisiting the role of zooplankton in pelagic ecosystems: 38th International Liège Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics, Liège, Belgium, 8–12 May 2006

The International Liège Colloquium on Ocean Dynamics is organised annually. The topic differs from year in an attempt to address, as much as possible, recent problems and incentive new subjects in interdisciplinary oceanography. Assembling a group of active and eminent scientists from various countries and different disciplines, the Colloquia provide a forum for discussion and foster a mutually beneficial exchange of information opening on to a survey of recent discoveries, essential mechanisms, impelling marks and valuable recommendations for future research.

The 2006 Colloquium was devoted to the role of zooplankton in the dynamics of ocean pelagic ecosystem and provided the opportunity for reviewing recent developments on Marine Zooplankton. Contributions including 58 oral presentations and 25 posters were organised in sessions on specific focus.

- Roles of the different zooplankton components in controlling pelagic food webs: respective roles of micro-, meso- and macro-zooplankton, gelatinous predators, and mixotrophs.
- Influence of long-term changes in physics and climate on the abundance and diversity of zooplankton.
- Influence of small-scale physical variability on the behaviour, dynamics and spatial distribution.
- Roles of zooplankton diversity and abundance on the recruitment of fish.
- Influence of fish predators on the structure and diversity of zooplankton and pelagic systems.
- Effects of zooplankton on biogeochemical fluxes.
- Recent developments in zooplankton modelling.
- Adaptation to extreme environments (e.g. deep sea, ice).
- New technologies (e.g. genetics, sampling).

The 38th Liège Colloquium provided a forum for discussing different approaches, including: field sampling, remote sensing, series

resulting from long-term acquisition, laboratory experiments and modelling exercises. Contributions concerning phytoplankton, fish, top predators (marine mammals and birds) and benthos were welcome as far as they address the theme of the Colloquium.

The areas of interest of the Colloquium included all oceans, but specific sessions will be devoted to areas like polar seas, Mediterranean and North Sea, open ocean or coastal environment. Sessions devoted to the standardisation and inclusion in data-bases of long-term field series and to syntheses from multidisciplinary programmes were organised. Since most of recent zooplankton research was involved in international, national and regional interdisciplinary programmes (e.g. GLOBEC, EUR-OCEANS, ICES, CIESM), papers with a synthesis aspect have been presented.

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