

COUNTRY: CANADA

Project Title: GLOBEC Canada

Source of Information:

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Project Description:

GLOBEC Canada seeks to examine how living marine resources are affected by variability of their physical environment. Marine ecosystems undergo large interannual to decadal fluctuations. These large swings affect almost every fishery, and are becoming apparent in time series of ocean climate and plankton indices. The time scale is such that human impacts in terms of economic and societal dislocation, can be very large. There is much evidence for an underlying causal connection through physical environmental forcing of variations in ocean productivity. Unfortunately, timely diagnosis and management response are hampered by insufficient knowledge of intermediate causal linkages.

The multidisciplinary integration of field and modelling studies in GLOBEC Canada will increase our causal-level understanding. The relevance of GLOBEC includes, but is not limited to, climate change trends associated with global warming. A major focus will be on interannual to interdecadal fluctuations and their effects on target populations through recruitment variability of individual species and changes in overall community structure. Simultaneous research programs are being conducted for the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Canada.

2004 Update:

Funding for the initial 4 year programme (Phase 1) finished in 1999, a detailed description of the project can be found in GLOBEC Special Contribution No.4. A proposal for a second 4 year programme which built upon the first phase was rejected by the Canadian Academic funding agency. Project results have been published in a number of journal articles, including several special collections (e.g. see Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 56(12), 1999; and 58(4), 2001). "GLOBEC-like" activities are presently being conducted as regional or individual projects (see for example <http://www.stratogem.ubc.ca/>). For further information on GLOBEC Canada please contact:

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