

SESSION: (B4) S2D forecasts for decision making

(B4-01)

Climate Predictions for Fisheries Applications

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The productivity and distribution of fish populations is strongly influenced by climate variability. The inability of fisheries managers to anticipate such environment-driven fluctuations in fish dynamics can lead to overfishing and stock collapses. Here we demonstrate how recent advances in global dynamical climate prediction systems have allowed for skillful sea surface temperature anomaly predictions at a scale useful to understanding and managing fisheries. Such predictions present opportunities for improved fisheries management and industry operations. Pioneering case studies demonstrating the utility of seasonal climate predictions to inform fisheries decisions will be highlighted. We conclude by offering remarks on priority developments required for the expanded use of climate predictions for fisheries management.