Observations for seabird abundance and distribution were taken on dedicated strip transects near and away from the ice edge, as well as during most of the daylight transits between sampling regions. The expectation of finding high concentrations of seabirds at or around the ice edge was not met. In general, it seemed as if the northward migration of species may have been somewhat delayed, with the virtual absence of summer visitors from the southern hemisphere. Overall, there were very low densities of planktivorous seabirds across the study area (< 2% of the sightings), although there appeared to be good agreement between their distributions and the concentrations of zooplankton prey.

Acknowledgements: Many thanks to the following people who helped create this report: Drs. Phyllis Stabeno and James Overland (NOAA – PMEL), Drs. John Bengtson, Michael Cameron, Robert Lauth and Chris Wilson (NOAA – AFSC), and Dr. David Hyrenbach (University of Washington).

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The Year of the Euphausiid

By William Peterson, Tracy Shaw and Leah Feinberg

At PICES XIII (Honolulu, 2004), it was resolved that PICES scientists would work jointly, under the Biological Oceanography Committee, to implement a research project entitled "*The Year of the Euphausiid"*. The proposed idea was that, during a given year, scientists from all member countries would focus on an ecological study of *Euphausia pacifica*. This animal was selected for the project because of its important role in food chain processes in both oceanic and coastal waters around the Pacific. *Euphausia pacifica* are found throughout the North Pacific, thus this species is ideal for a pan-Pacific life history comparison, one of the goals of the CFAME (Climate Forcing and Marine Ecosystem Response) Task Team. One step toward achieving this goal is to develop standardized techniques for laboratory measurements of egg production and molting rates of living animals. To facilitate comparative studies, we distributed a handbook entitled "*Protocols for measuring molting rate and egg production of live euphausiids*" at PICES XIV (Vladivostok, 2005). A revised version of this document has been published on the PICES website under the "Projects" menu: http://www.pices.int/projects/Euphasiid/PICES%20Protocols%20COMPLETE.pdf. We are especially interested in receiving comments, particularly from those of you who have used these protocols on cruises in your waters.

Another recommendation at PICES XIV was that a synthesis paper be prepared and delivered at the PICES/GLOBEC Symposium on "*Climate variability and ecosystem impacts on the North Pacific: A basin scale synthesis*", in Honolulu, in April 2006. Such a paper entitled "A Pan-Pacific comparison of the biology of *Euphausia pacifica*", was presented by Tracy Shaw with co-authors Leah Feinberg, William Peterson, Alexei Pinchuk (U.S.A.), Kenji Taki (Japan) and Jaime Gómez-Gutiérrez (Mexico).

What are the next steps for "*The Year of the Euphausiid"*? We suggest meeting in Yokohama to determine if we are ready to form a PICES working group. We hope to see many modelers and zooplankton ecologists at such a planning meeting.

William (Bill) Peterson, Tracy Shaw and Leah Feinberg of the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon, posing on a carefully selected background of PICES posters. Bill works for NOAA Fisheries, Tracy and Leah work at Oregon State University. Their research focuses on climate effects on zooplankton, particularly euphausiids and copepods. They are currently in their eleventh year of year-round sampling on the Newport Hydrographic line off Newport, Oregon.