

CHAIRPERSON'S INTRODUCTION

G.P. Jenkins

*Department of Zoology and Victorian Institute of Marine Science
University of Melbourne
Parkville VIC 3052*

Welcome to the session on feeding, growth and condition of fish larvae. We will try to make the session as relaxed and informal as possible. The format will consist of talks of about 5 minutes duration with discussion at the end of each and, if time allows, a general discussion at the end of the session. Those with pertinent questions are welcome to interject if they wish.

Today's talks are really a precursor to the workshop on recruitment over the next two days. Today we are talking about the factors which lead to recruitment variability, that is, factors which affect mortality of larvae. Feeding, growth and condition are all important factors in larval mortality. The other important factor which we will not talk about much today is predation. We must remember that there is probably an interaction between feeding, growth and predation in that poorly fed, slow growing larvae will spend longer in the larval phase of high predation mortality.

One observation today is that the average age of the panellists is probably much lower than the average age of fish biologists in general. This may be due to the fact that this area of research has only become popular in Australia in the last ten years or so. Therefore there is now a vanguard of young fish biologists working in this area.

Without further ado, we'll begin the session.