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## The missing link in our oceans: how zooplankton size spectra couple phytoplankton with fisheries

We are assembling a database of zooplankton size spectra measured using Optical Plankton Counters (OPC) and Laser Optical Plankton Counters (LOPC).

We have datasets from some locations around Australia, NE Canada, and the US, but there remain many gaps in these countries and elsewhere around the world. You might have collected your dataset and analysed it in a regional context, but combining it with other datasets collected over a range of environmental conditions and from areas with different productivity and fisheries yield will provide new insights into the underlying structure and functioning of marine ecosystems.

**Our aim is to write a global synthesis paper investigating how size spectra varies latitudinally, seasonally, with depth and nutrient status, and its relationship to fisheries. If you wish to make your OPC/LOPC data available in this collaboration, you would be offered authorship on this paper.**

Many of us have data on zooplankton size structure on our hard drives, some published and some unpublished. These data, archived properly and freely available where appropriate, would be an invaluable resource for the global research community, especially with the need for data in the future on global change.

We are suggesting 3 possible types of engagement you might consider:

- 1) Make your OPC/LOPC data for a global synthesis, be included as a co-author, and **lodge your data with a global repository after publication**
- 2) Make your OPC/LOPC data for a global synthesis, be included as a co-author, **but lodge your data with a global repository only after a specified period (e.g. 2 years)**
- 3) Make your OPC/LOPC data for a global synthesis, be included as a co-author, **but keep your data private**

Potential global data repositories are COPEPOD (<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/plankton>) and Pangea (<http://www.pangaea.de>)

We believe that a global synthesis paper identifying the underlying drivers of zooplankton size structure has the potential to be published in a high impact journal.

We thank you for considering this request and look forward to hearing from you.

Please forward this request to other potential collaborators.

Yours Sincerely

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