Workshop Announcement

Natural Mortality: Theory, estimation and application in fishery stock assessment models

The Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment Methodology will host a workshop on ***Natural Mortality: Theory, estimation and application in fishery stock assessment models*** **in Seattle, WA, USA, March 23-27, 2020.**

The Natural Mortality Workshop is the fifth in a series organized by CAPAM as part of its *Good Practices in Stock Assessment Modeling* Program for improving fishery stock assessments. The workshop is sponsored by NOAA and the University of Washington.

The primary goal of the workshop is to provide advice and guidance on practices for modeling natural mortality in fishery assessments. The focus is on model specification, parameter estimation, and management consequences. The 5-day forum will include an interactive modeling session, keynote and research presentations, and focused discussions. The meeting will be chaired by Owen Hamel, NWFSC, NOAA. Major topics include:

- Life History Theory
- Approaches to modelling natural mortality (*size/age-based natural mortality, gender-specific, time-varying, spatial variation, confounding with other parameters, diagnostics*)
- Multispecies approaches to estimating single-species natural mortality rates
- Consequences of error in natural mortality rate modelling
- Modelling natural mortality in Rockfish (*Sebastes*) stock assessments
- Modelling natural mortality using the Stock Synthesis modelling framework

Scientists are encouraged to present work from both ongoing research efforts, as well as completed studies. Attendees who plan to present research need to submit a presentation title and abstract (one-page maximum) by January 15, 2020 (earlier submission is encouraged). A special issue in the journal *Fisheries Research* is planned for papers developed from the workshop. Presentations will have a 20-minute maximum and 10-minute question period. For general information concerning the overall workshop, please contact the Chair (owen.hamel@noaa.gov), and/or visit the CAPAM website (www.CAPAMresearch.org) for updated information.