

Project LMR-PEL-09-07

Acoustic survey methods and associated errors

Hydro acoustic surveys are used routinely to assess the status and map the distribution of several commercially important fish stocks in the region. These surveys are, however, prone to both systematic and random error arising from equipment and behavioural biases. Additionally, researchers working in the field of hydro-acoustics within the region generally lack the expertise and/or experience needed to analyse vast amounts of acoustic survey data efficiently. Owing to the lack of a research vessel to conduct dedicated TS work, as was requested in the original proposal, the focus has now shifted to training. In 2013 an interactive TS estimation course was held in Simon's Town, Cape Town. This gave scientists insights into many of the complex aspects of acoustics and for many this was the first time that they could visually observe the effects of different echosounder settings, position of targets in the beam and how echoes are formed. Plans are being put in place for further training during the course of 2014. A brief outline of future work is also provided.