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**Mutual Understanding Agreement between the Otolith Research Laboratory
(ORL) Bedford Institute of Oceanography and
Instituto de Fomento Pesquero (IFOP)**

- I. ORL and IFOP propose to work together as part of the Canada – Chile Cooperation Agreement, on issues of joint concern regarding age estimation on marine resources with emphasis on fish stocks. The following collaborative research topics are agreed upon for the upcoming year (2006):
 - 1) The historic samples of otolith, including their biological and fishery data base
 - 2) Comparisons of the study methodologies used on both laboratories, and capacity building
 - 3) Comparison of sample preparation techniques, storage and capacity building
 - 4) Comparison of the methods used to quality control in age determination
 - 5) Fish Age Validation studies based on historic storage samples
 - 6) Development of promotion and educational materials

- II. IFOP and ORL will continue collaborating towards the shared goal of conservation of marine resources improving the knowledge of age determination on fish stocks to best advice the regulatory agencies.

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