

# CROSS-SITE STUDIES OF FOOD WEBS IN THE LTER NETWORK

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STIMULATED BY:

NSF SPONSORED WORKSHOP ON FOOD  
WEBS; PINGREE PARK, CO, SEPT. 12-17

SUGGESTIONS IN THE LITERATURE  
THAT THE LTER NETWORK COULD  
HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STUDY  
OF FOOD WEBS; COHEN ET AL. 1993.  
IMPROVING FOOD WEBS. ECOLOGY 74(1)

IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING LOGICAL  
AREAS FOR CROSS-SITE COMPARISONS

ATTENDED BY:

26 PEOPLE FROM 11 LTER SITES

## OBJECTIVES:

DETERMINE STATUS OF RESEARCH ON TROPHIC DYNAMICS AT LTER SITES

DISCUSS POSSIBLE CROSS-SITE COMPARISONS USING EXISTING DATA

DEVELOP IDEAS TO INITIATE CROSS-SITE MEASUREMENTS OR EXPERIMENTS

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- SURVEYED LTER SITES FOR STATUS OF FOOD WEB STUDIES (RESULTS BEING COMPILED)
- DEVELOPED HIERARCHY OF MEASUREMENTS (INVENTORIES → ABUNDANCE/SIZE/BIOMASS → FEEDING LINKS → PROCESS RATES → REGULATION) NECESSARY FOR DIFFERENT LEVEL OF FOOD WEB ANALYSIS
- DEVELOPED LIST OF SAMPLE QUESTIONS AND POSSIBLE CROSS-SITE COMPARISONS

- DEFINED DESIRED CHARACTERS OF CROSS-SITE STUDIES: FOCUS ON EMERGENT PROPERTIES, START SMALL, INCORPORATE NEW TECHNOLOGY WHEN POSSIBLE, USE EXISTING DATA, MAKE IT SIMPLE, CHEAP, AND LOW-IMPACT (i.e. LIDET-LIKE)
- WITH STREAM ORGANIC MATTER WORKSHOP (T. CROWL, J. MEYER) DECIDED TO INITIATE COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF FUNCTIONAL FOOD WEBS AT 11 SITES: NTL, SEV, LUQ, AND, CWT, ARC, BNZ, VCR, CPR, PAL, + KNZ.
- ALSO WITH STREAM WORKSHOP, DECIDED TO DEVELOP A CROSS-SITE EXPERIMENT USING  $N^{15}$  AS A TRACER
- IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BIODIVERSITY AD-HOC WORKSHOP(I), DECIDED TO CALL FOR INVENTORIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA AT ALL LTER SITES IN COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL OR REGIONAL EXPERTS OR INSTITUTIONS.