

Working Group on Economics (WGECON)

2020/FT/HAPISG04 The **Working Group on Economics** (WGECON), chaired by Arina Motova, UK, J. Rasmus Nielsen, Denmark; and Olivier Thébaud, France, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2021	14–18 June	Online meeting		
Year 2022	DATE June (tbc)	In-person or online (TBD)		
Year 2023	DATE June (tbc)	In-person or online (TBD)	Final report by December to SCICOM	Potentially introduce additional chair(s) to ensure transition towards future WGECON

ToR descriptors

ToR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Build additional capacity for economic science in ICES, giving consideration to research and institutional needs in all ICES member countries, as well as useful connections to international marine/ fisheries economics organisations such as IIFET, NAAFE and EAFE.	This builds on the initial scoping exercise within ICES carried out by WGECON, expands the capacity building efforts, and ensures coordination of activities with other international bodies and links to the wider scoping work in the Strategic Initiative for the Human Dimension (ICES SIHD).	6.3; 6.4; 7.3	Years 1,2 and 3	Annual e-evaluation and final report sections on coordination activities
b	Identify and report on economic data-related needs and priorities for short and longer-term economic data collection, access and analysis; and where possible propose systems to collect missing data.	To aid prioritisation in data collection, management and analysis, to enable quantitative analyses and estimates of economic issues. The ToR links to ICES Data Centre and National and international economic data collection requirements (e.g. EUMAP).	3.1; 3.2; 4.2	Years 1,2 and 3	Final report section on prioritisation and continued scientific review paper
c	Demonstrate the approaches, methods, tools and information flow needed to provide analysis of trade-offs relating to	To develop toolboxes, expertise and processes to support potential future advice requests and development of ecosystem	5.3; 6.1; 7.6	Years 1,2 and 3	Final report section on developments and potential scientific manuscript

	ecosystem-based management of fishing (EBFM).	overviews and integrated ecosystem assessments. This includes collaborations with WGSOCIAL.			
d	Assess and report on economic aspects of commercial fishing and its management for selected regions in the ICES area.	To support future potential advice requests and development of ecosystem overviews, using a case study approach. This requires identification of robust indicators to describe economic status and performance.	6.6; 7.1; 7.2	Years 1,2	Final report section on case-study based identifications and assessments, and potential scientific manuscript
e	Coordinate the provision of economic indicators and analysis as part of integrated socio-ecological evaluations in support of EBFM.	Building on results from ToRs b), c) and d), to contribute to the development of a framework for integrated assessment of alternative scenarios for marine fisheries, as part of broader ecosystem-based management approaches, within ICES.		Year 2, 3	Final report section on economic contribution to integrated assessment framework (case-study based)

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	<p>Continue work started by WGECON in 2018-2020 on identifying needs for economic science in ICES, data gaps and opportunities to provide trade-off analysis, building the ICES capacity to integrate economic dimensions in fisheries management advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate the case study work identified in 2020, and request data from ICES Member States to address these where necessary; - In collaboration with especially ICES WGSOCIAL, analyse possible ways to introduce human dimensions into Ecosystems Overviews (EOs) by e.g. mapping ports of fishing operation and bringing fisheries at sea to national territories dimensions to identify coastal / fisheries dependent communities; - Continue sharing methodologies of economic data collection / analysis and modelling, and integrated assessment with other ICES working groups and ICES SCICOM and ACOM. <p>Produce e-evaluation report.</p>
Year 2	<p>Progress case study work and inclusion of human dimensions in EOs and develop manuscript(s) presenting results. Continue sharing methodologies of economic data collection / analysis and modelling, and integrated assessment with other ICES working groups and ICES SCICOM and ACOM.</p> <p>Produce e-evaluation Report</p>
Year 3	<p>Finalise case study work. Finalize manuscript(s). Discuss and plan strategies and concrete steps for future work. Produce Final Report</p>

Supporting information

Priority	Nations are concerned about fish stocks and marine ecosystems not least of which because
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of their contribution to human wellbeing and economic welfare. The economic dimension should be an integral part of marine science and scientific advice regarding the use and conservation of marine resources.

Demand for science and advice to address economic considerations is increasing, but ICES does not engage many economists or address economic issues in many member countries in its existing work. The efforts of the [Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension \(SIHD\)](#) with ICES have served to raise the profile of economics and social aspects in relation to fisheries in the last few years, but, with a few exceptions, SIHD efforts are not comprehensively supported and informed by the work of the ICES EG. Further, among the ICES groups addressing economic issues, only WGECON focuses on the development of fisheries economic metrics and core fishery economic analyses that are demanded in parts of the ICES network (e.g. further development of ecosystem overviews) and, in some cases, by clients for ICES management advice.

The need to expand the engagement of ICES in economics was also reflected in the outcomes of many recent meetings, especially the "[Understanding marine socio-ecological systems](#)" (MSEAS) Conference which ICES co-sponsored in Brest in 2016, as well as the results from the ICES working group on Integrating Ecological and Economic Models (WGIMM). Other drivers include high level aspirations for Blue Growth in [European countries](#) and [globally](#), the interest in accounting for economic objectives such as Maximum Economic Yield as well as for the United Nations [sustainable development goals](#) in management advice, and a desire to understand economic consequences of human-induced changes in the sea ([WGHIST](#)). There is also recognition in ICES, and from our clients, that it would be desirable to add economic metrics to ICES [ecosystem overviews](#) and better recognise people and their livelihoods as part of the ecosystem.

Resource requirements	The group will rely on ongoing international and national research projects with active involvement of WGECON members. The additional resources required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 20–30 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Standard support to EG.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and group under ACOM	There are currently no linkages with ACOM, but the EG is working on providing standards for economic advice, on top of the biological advice, which should be relevant to ACOM. The EG will be ready to address advisory requests if these are forthcoming and possible to achieve with available efforts.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The subject area of this EG has close linkage with at least the following ICES groups: WGSOCIAL, WGMIXFISH, WGSEDA, WGIMM, WGSPA, WGSEDA, WGRMES, WGNARS, WGHIST, WGBESEO and the Strategic Initiative SIHD, as well as the ICES IEA groups. The working group has initiated strong cooperation and relationship with WGSOCIAL.
Linkages to other organization	International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET), North American Association, of Fisheries Economists (NAAFE), European Association of Fisheries Economists (EAFE), EU Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
