

SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Functions (SSGEF)

2012/2/SCICOM09 The SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Functions (SSGEF), chaired by Graham Pierce, UK, will work by correspondence and meet twice during the 2013 ASC to:

- a) Facilitate interaction/collaboration between Expert Groups on cross-cutting issues of the Science Plan and/or coming from Strategic Initiatives (SSI) and/or generated by the EGs;
- b) Monitor the scientific activity of those Expert Groups falling under SSGEF in relation to the Science Plan, and suggest actions to enhance the contributions of expert groups to the needs of ICES, including the priorities identified in the Science Plan;
- c) Provide a synthesis of current contributions by SSGEF Expert Groups to the science underpinning implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, and on other relevant topics including (i) how ecosystem structure and function contribute to ecosystem services and (ii) use of long-term datasets held by SSGEF Expert Groups;
- d) In collaboration with other SSGs and SSIs, organize a topical session at the 2013 ASC to address one cross-cutting issue;
- e) Highlight the 2013 achievements of expert groups at the 2013 ASC.

SSGEF will report by March 2013 (mid-term meeting) and October 2013 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM.

Supporting Information

Priority	The SSG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer expert groups science to help fulfil ICES Science Plan
Scientific Justification:	<p>The work planned corresponds to actions meeting the mandate assigned to the SSG.</p> <p>a), b), c) and d) meet the objective of delivering the Science Plan as well as stimulating collaboration and communication within the ICES community and allowing the bottom-up flow of ideas to feed into and complement existing ICES priorities.</p> <p>The primary focus of SSGEF is necessarily those EGs falling under its jurisdiction but there is also a need to facilitate interactions between the different SSGs and with EGs falling under different SSGs (and indeed with EGs falling under ACOM) whose TORs overlap with the SSGEF frame of reference.</p>
Resource Requirements	Meeting room
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under SSGEF remit and participants to the ASC.
Secretariat Facilities	support secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SSGs and associated EGs; potentially also to EGs falling under ACOM
Linkages to other Organisations:	None specific