The SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Surveys Science and Technology (SSGESST), chaired by Nils Olav Handegard*, Norway, will work by correspondence, WebEx meetings and direct meetings during the 2013 ASC to:

**General ToRs (for all SSGs)**

a) Provide guidance to constituent EGs to ensure relevance to the Science Plan;
b) Identify gaps and overlaps in the EG base, and consolidate and form new EGs as appropriate;
c) Review the scientific products delivered by EGs to ensure the maintenance of appropriate quality standards;
d) Advise SCICOM on the form and substance of the ASC, symposia and workshops;
e) Ensure communication among Steering Groups and their constituent EGs;
f) Establish and nurture collaborations within and outside the ICES community;

**Overarching ToRs for SSGESST**

g) Develop, maintain, standardize, consolidate and advance assessment surveys as necessary and appropriate;
h) Encourage and support creativity and innovation which focuses on applications of advanced technologies for observing, monitoring and surveying marine ecosystems;
i) Improve and advance existing survey capabilities to develop and implement integrated surveys and monitoring systems in support of the EAM through fishing gear technology innovations, innovative technology and other approaches; and

j) Evaluate and mitigate the impacts of fishing on marine ecosystems through innovative conservation engineering, with a particular focus on bycatch reduction and development of fishing and survey gears which minimise fuel consumption and habitat damage;
k) Encourage cooperation and collaboration with the fishing industry and other stakeholders in addressing ToRs g), h), i) and j) and develop specific ToRs as appropriate

**Specific ToRs for 2013**

1) Organize SSG meetings which will take place during the ASC to discuss EG accomplishments and plans for 2014, with a focus on the overarching ToRs specified above;
m) Review and finalize draft document entitled “Strategic Perspective on Survey Expert Groups”. Develop ToRs for actions in the in 2013 to implement the strategies described in this plan;

n) Review reports of WGFAST and EGs reporting to WGFAST relative to ToR h; develop new ToRs for WGFAST and take other action as necessary in support of this ToR;

o) Review reports of WGFTFB and EGs reporting to WGFTFB relative to ToR j; develop new ToRs for WGFTFB and take other action as necessary in support of this ToR;

SSGESST will report by March 2013 (SCICOM midterm meeting) and October 2013 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM.

**Supporting Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>The SSG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer expert groups science to fulfill ICES Science Plan</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Justification:</td>
<td>The work planned corresponds to actions meeting the mandate assigned to the SSG. a) and b) meet the objective of delivering the Science Plan as well as stimulating collaboration and communication c) and d) meet the objective of elaborating a 5 year plan updated annually. In addition d) further develops science directions to meet future advisory needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resource Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under SSGESST remit and participants to the ASC, ACOM.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat Facilities</td>
<td>support secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>None specific</td>
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**Linkages to Advisory Committees**

<table>
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<th>Linkages to other Committees or Groups</th>
<th>ACOM</th>
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**Linkages to other Organisations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linkages to other Organisations:</th>
<th>None specific</th>
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**Work Plan 2013**

1. WebEx meetings will take place during the first quarter (January - March) and third quarter (June - August) of each year and additionally as necessary

2. Specific ToRs defined above will be addressed during these WebEx conferences and by correspondence during the year

3. Key dates include meetings of WGISUR, WGFAST, WGFTFB, WGISDAA and all other EGs reporting to SSGESST