

WGBEAM – Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys

2016/MA2/SSGIEOM11 The Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys (WGBEAM), chaired by Holger Haslob, Germany, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2017	4-7 April	Galway, Ireland	Interim report by 1 June 2017 to ACOM-SCICOM	New chair
Year 2018	10-13 April	IJmuiden, The Netherlands	Interim report by 25 May 2018 to ACOM-SCICOM	
Year 2019	1-5 April	ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark	Final report by 17 May 2019 to ACOM-SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	Science Plan codes	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Tabulate, report and evaluate population abundance indices by age-group for sole, plaice and dab and other species if required in the North Sea, Division VIIa, Divisions VIId-g, Divisions VIIIab and the Adriatic taking into account the key issues involved in the index calculation.	a) Science Requirements Length-at-age analysis b) Advisory Requirements Required to support indices for assessments c) Requirements from other EGs Specific questions from other EGs possible	3.2	Annually	WG report chapter
b	Further coordinate and standardize offshore and coastal beam trawl surveys in the North Sea and Divisions VIIa, VIId-g, VIIIa-b and the Adriatic, and update and publish the standard as a SISP protocol.	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements Required to ensure consistent approach within and between areas to meet EU directives.	3.1, 3.2	Annually	WG report chapter inshore manual offshore manual database (DATRAS)
c	Analyse the changes in mean length-at-age for sole in the North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel and Irish Sea. (continuation of WGBEAM work in 2014-2016)	a) Science Requirements The large WGBEAM dataset has the potential to elucidate temporal and spatial changes in population parameters. b) Advisory Requirements Indices are being used by assessments working groups and any changes to age structure of species of interest need to be investigated.	5.2	Expected output in 2017	WGBEAM 2017 update and ultimately ASC presentation

d	Provide index calculations based on DATRAS for dab in the North Sea, and plaice and sole in Divisions VIIa, VIId-g, VIIIa-b and the Adriatic.	Required to support indices for assessments	3.2	3 years	Provision of new index series to relevant WGs
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Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Supporting information

Priority	The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem affects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. Several indices produced by WGBEAM are already included in Category 1 stock assessments (NS sole, NS plaice, Biscay sole, NS dab since 2016) and data collected on beam trawl surveys are increasingly used to produce indices for Category 3 stock assessments. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	As WGBEAM directly calculates and discusses survey indices for stock assessments, and coordinates surveys from which data are used in other stock assessments, there is a clear linkage to ACOM and some of the stock assessment WGs under its coordination (WGNSSK, WGCSE, WGBBI, WGEF).
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of the EOSG. Joint sessions are sometimes organised (e.g. with WGCAN in 2014). It is also very relevant to the Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fisheries.
Linkages to other organizations	The work of this group is closely aligned with similar work in FAO.