

Marine Chemistry Working Group (MCWG)

2015/MA2/SSGEPI02 The Working Group on Marine Chemistry (MCWG), chaired by Koen Parmentier, Belgium, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2016	7–11 March	Galway, Ireland	Interim report by 15 April to SSGEPI	
Year 2017	6–10 March	Hamburg, Germany	Interim report by 15 April to SSGEPI	
Year 2018	5–9 March	Vigo, Spain	Final report by 1 May to SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Respond to requests for advice from Regional Seas Conventions (e.g. OSPAR, HELCOM, ICES Data Center, EU) as required.	Science or Advisory Requirements.	1, 13, 20, 21, 25, 31	3 years	Advice, revision, as appropriate
b	Review developments in MSFD and WFD, in particular regarding new (emerging) and priority (hazardous) substances and associated EQS values, conversion factors and other issues regarding monitoring for Descriptor 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10.	Follow-up on this matter is key in order to constructively guide the development process for environmental quality criteria.	1, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 31	3 years	Advice, Environmental Quality Standards or Environmental Assessment Criteria, conversion factors, scientific review on emerging contaminants and risks involved
c	Report new developments in QUASIMEME (Quality Assurance in Marine Environmental Monitoring in Europe), and provide information on other proficiency testing schemes with relevance to MCWG.	Availability of high quality proficiency testing is vital to produce reliable results.	20, 21, 27, 31	3 years	Provide guidance for proficiency testing
d	Marine litter and its role as a potential source of contaminants: i) Report on new information regarding marine litter as a potential source of contaminants, with particular focus on field studies reporting elevated contaminant levels associated with plastics. ii) Present available information	Effects of marine litter are poorly understood, and all additional information will increase our understanding of all processes involved.	1, 13, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27	3 years	Review paper in collaboration with the WG on Marine Litter.

	on contaminant desorption from plastic in the digestive system after uptake.				
e	Summarise and synthesise relevant information from other expert groups on the interface to MCWG., incl. WGMS, WGBEC, WGEEL, WGSE, WGOH, WGPME	MCWG has always been very active in trying to interconnect different WGs, although response has often been very limited. The collaboration with WGMS is exemplary.	13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27	3 years	Joint meetings, corporate advice, TIMES paper
f	Ocean acidification: Report from data, research and developments in Ocean Acidification and address recommendations to MCWG	Ocean acidification, understanding how important it is, and being able to quantify its impact is crucial for a variety of scientific disciplines, and for ocean health.	1, 4, 13, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 31	3 years	Data overview, TIMES publication
g	Report on QUASIMEME assessment of chlorophyll data, in particular regarding comparability of data and potential implications for existing measurement guidance, and to collect information in preparation of TIMES.	The aim is to solve problems for data comparability that exist for decades concerning chlorophyll measurements.	13, 25, 31	Year 1 & 2	Publication in TIMES: manuscript on chlorophyll determination methods
h	Report on intercalibration exercises on passive sampling and review data with a view to adjustment of background assessment concentrations; obtain information regarding the use of Cfree as a proxy of the effects of non-polar compounds, with a view to determining EACs, and review information on mixture toxicity derived from passive sampling/dosing.	PS seem inevitable in order to assess GES, as several EQS cannot be checked by standard methods. The possibility of Passive Dosing seems key in assessing mixture toxicity.	13, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 31	3 years	Improved quality control on delivered data
i	OSPAR request: MCWG and WGMS are requested to report on the selection and de-selection of hazardous substances of concern to coastal and marine waters in the OSPAR maritime area. Reporting should: 1) Identify and collate information on projects, activities and sources of information	Reporting should be done to ensure that in the new and emerging hazardous substances in the marine environment (of the OSPAR maritime area) that are of general concern to coastal and marine waters are identified, so that appropriate action can be taken by OSPAR. The work by MCWG and			MCWG and WGMS are requested to provide an intermediate report on progress of work by 10 March 2017 for the attention of ACOM. Based on feedback to the ICES Secretariat from OSPAR HASEC, update and finalize their work

2)	<p>Review the information to identify new and emerging substances, identify information gaps and recommend what further work is needed.</p>	<p>WGMS should build on and be coordinated with the already established EU WFD Watch List process and the relevant OSPAR List. Reporting should also take into account other research programmes that screen substances in the marine environment, e.g. through passive sampling, tissue analysis, sediment sampling etc.</p>	<p>by 12 October 2017 and report to ACOM.</p>
----	---	---	---

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	<p>Respond to requests under ToR a</p> <p>Progress work towards completion of the remaining ToRs</p>
Year 2	<p>RESPOND TO REQUESTS UNDER TOR A</p> <p>Progress work towards completion of the remaining ToRs</p>
Year 3	<p>RESPOND TO REQUESTS UNDER TOR A</p> <p>Report on the remaining ToRs</p>

Supporting information

Priority	<p>This group maintains an overview of key issues in relation to marine chemistry, both with regard to chemical oceanography and contaminants.</p> <p>MCWG provides input across the field of marine chemistry, which underpins the advice given by ICES, and also supports the work of national and international collaborative monitoring programmes, e.g. within OSPAR</p>
Resource requirements	<p>The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed.</p>
Participants	<p>The Group is normally attended by some 20–25 members and guests.</p>
Secretariat facilities	<p>None.</p>
Financial	<p>No financial implications.</p>
Linkages to ACOM and group under ACOM	<p>Yes</p>
Linkages to other committees or groups	<p>WGMS, WGBEC</p> <p>OSPAR/ICES study group on Ocean Acidification (SGOA)</p> <p>ICES Data Centre</p>
Linkages to other organization	<p>The work of this group is closely aligned with EU working groups under the Water Framework Directive (e.g. Working Group on Chemicals) and EU expert networks with regard to contaminants under the MSFD.</p> <p>Specific agenda points will be directly relevant for QUASIMEME.</p> <p>The group provides the basis for some advice to OSPAR.</p>