

Working Group on Methods for Estimating Discard Survival (WGMEDS)

2017/MA2/HAPISG03 A Working Group on Methods for Estimating Discard Survival (WGMEDS), chaired by Tom Catchpole*, UK, and Sebastian Uhlmann*, Belgium, will be established and 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	27 Nov-1 Dec	Olhão, Portugal	Interim report by 1 February 2018	
Year 2018	29 Oct-2 Nov	Mundaka, Spain	Interim report by 1 February 2019	
Year 2019			Final report by 1 February 2020	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Review and update guidance on 'Methods to Estimate Discard Survival' based on further theoretical and practical developments to assess discard survival levels.	a) Science Requirements b) The European Commission requested an EG develop Methods for Estimating Discard Survival to address the need for guidance on methods.	11, 12, 28, 29	3 years	Report on developments in methods and amendments or corrections required on the ICES CRR on Methods to Estimate Discard Survival, February 2020
b	Based on meta-analysis of discard survival data and practical studies, investigate variables influencing survival probabilities, with a view to increase survival through modified fishing practices.	a) Science requirements	11, 12, 28, 29	2 years	Peer reviewed paper, February 2019
c	Review ongoing monitoring requirements and methods and recommend amendments that generate data which inform on the survival probabilities of released marine organisms	a) Science Requirements Promote i) the development of methods for assessing the vitality of animals released from commercial and recreational fisheries; including the validation of vitality assessment as proxy estimates of discard survival and assessing the utility of stakeholder self-sampling; and ii) advice on effective sample sizes to estimate discard survival within confidence limits at fisher-	11, 12, 28, 29	2 years	Report, February 2019

		ies scales.			
d	Application of discard survival estimates in fisheries management. Being proactive in engaging with other EGs to share new knowledge on discard survival.	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements The primary use for survival estimates has been in gaining exemption from the Landing Obligation. There are many other applications for this evidence relevant to stock assessments, ecosystem models, and fishing gear technology, and more broadly improving catch welfare.	11, 12, 28, 29	2 years	Report describing and detailing new evidence on discard survival, February 2020

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Working on all ToRs, but with special focus on ToR B, and identifying points of collaboration with other WGs (ToR D).
Year 2	Working on all ToRs, but with special focus on ToR C.
Year 3	Working on all ToRs, but with renewed focus on ToR A and ToR D.

Supporting information

Priority	The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. 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 20–25 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	SharePoint site.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and group under ACOM	The work of this group will enable the collection of standardised discard survival data for a number of European fisheries, and therefore will provide supporting information for the advisory groups.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The activities of this group will be coordinated by SCICOM, through HAPISG. It will work closely with WGTFB and WGRFS, and will develop links with other WGs and advisory groups utilising data from discard survival assessments.
Linkages to other organization	The outputs from this group will be of interest to various Regional Advisory Councils, as well as institutes and organisations conducting discard survival assessments in support of the Landing Obligation of the new EU Common Fisheries Policy and relevant institutes in USA, Australia and elsewhere.