

## Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography (WGOH)

**2014/MA2/SSGEPD04** The **Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography (WGOH)**, chaired by Sarah Hughes, UK, and Karin M. Larsen, Faroe Islands, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2015	24–26 March	San Sebastian, Spain	Interim report by 1 May to SSGEPD	
Year 2016	5–7 April	Sopot, Poland	Interim report by 30 May to SSGEPD	
Year 2017	4–6 April	Torshavn, Faroe Islands	Final report by 30 May to SCICOM	

- a) Update and review results from Standard Sections and Stations;
- b) Consolidate inputs from Member Countries to, and continue development of the ICES Report on Ocean Climate (IROC); work with ICES Data Centre to develop web based presentation of IROC data including full meta-data;
- c) Explore areas of mutual interest with international climate monitoring, reanalysis & prediction programmes;
- d) Provide expert knowledge and guidance to ICES Data Centre on request;
- e) Collaborate with regional integrated ecosystem advice Expert Groups, review products of the ICES Regional Groups (WGIBAR, WGINOR, WGIAB, WGINOSE, WGEAWESS, WGNARS)
- f) Provide expert knowledge, support and guidance to SCICOM and other Expert Groups requiring information on oceanic hydrography, and working to strengthen the role of physical oceanography within ICES in conjunction with groups such as WGOOFE, including: i ) Support SCICOM regarding elements of the EGs' work that are relevant to Marine Strategy Framework Directive activities;
- g) Prepare contributions for the annual SSGEPD session during the ASC on the topic areas of the Science Plan – as & when requested by SSGEDP;
- h) Evaluation and review of WG actions and purpose.

## ToR descriptors

ToR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN TOPICS ADDRESSED	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Examine the hydrographic variability of the North Atlantic and its subpolar seas. Identify events, trends and drivers in the region .	The contributors to the WGOH bring together a wide range of observations taken by various national programmes. Here we annually monitor developments in the environmental conditions that they sample.		3 years	Annual interim reports will include details of national programmes and most up to date findings.

b	Standard Sections and Stations summarized into the production of the IROC report and submitted to IROC data portal.	The Working Group recognises the need for disseminating climate information in a timely and appropriate manner. This agenda item will allow WGOH members to prepare the document during the meeting. We will review proposed new developments in IROC content.	3years	Annual. IROC report for CRR submission. Text and figures to ICES by June 30 <sup>th</sup> each year. Data to portal by 1 <sup>st</sup> September each year.
c	Report on developments within international climate monitoring, multi decadal reanalyses & prediction programmes relevant to ICES	Benefit both to ICES and the international monitoring programmes to enhance internal information exchange. Additionally developments in the capacity to make climate forecasts of hydrographic parameters are being made by the international community, that may have the potential to aid future ICES work.	2 years	Identify the products of potential use to ICES. Report as part of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year progress.
d, e, f	Support for ICES processes on hydrographic data and ocean scale marine climate variability. Including Data Centre, other EGs, and advice programmes where and when requested	As required support for ICES Data centre on hydrographic data. Oceanic hydrography remains a fundamental component of assessing the state of marine ecosystems. WGOH documents interannual to multidecadal variability and trends in the oceanic hydrography for most ecoregions and will review the available 'Ecosystem Overviews' as they become available for each regional sea.	ongoing	Response to requests and reviewing input from Datacentre at WG meetings. Submit review to the annual interations of Ecosystem Overviews.
g	Contribute to objectives, activities of parent science steering group SSGEDP	A flexible ToR to allow WGOH to contribute to SSGEDP requirements as they develop over the term of the current science plan.	3 years	As and when defined by our steering group SSGEDP
h	Ongoing self evaluation of the EGs work.	WGOH is a long established EG within ICES and has ToRs that are closer to an annual workplan. The main	3 years	WGOH Final Report under multiannual TORs September 2017.

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product is the annual IROC which has been produced for 15 years, and must be continually developed - through ongoing self evaluation and review

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## Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	<p>a) IROC 2015 production &amp; recommendations for modifications to IROC format and content, including discussion on potential for reanalyses, forecast products to be included and addition of ICES Regional Ecosystem area focussed component, also potential move to purely web based product.</p> <p>b) WG Activities progress report including highlights of North Atlantic hydrographic conditions and any significant events synthesized from the national reports and IROC findings.</p> <p>c) Initial identification of climate monitoring, reanalysis and forecasting programmes.</p>
Year 2	<p>a) IROC 2016 production including first implementation of recommended changes.</p> <p>b) WG Activities progress report including highlights of North Atlantic hydrographic conditions and any significant events synthesized from the national reports and IROC findings.</p> <p>c) Map marine climate reanalysis and forecast parameters to ICES interests.</p>
Year 3	<p>a) IROC 2017 production and review of content and requirement to continue IROC process.</p> <p>b) WG Final report</p>

## Supporting information

Priority	Oceanic hydrography remains a fundamental component of assessing the state of marine ecosystems. WGOH documents interannual to multidecadal variability and trends in the oceanic hydrography setting the vital context for prevailing conditions & ecosystem change. The IROC has been cited more than 70 times (Google Scholar) since 2009 demonstrating that it an important resource for the marine science community within and beyond ICES.
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 about 15–20 members and guests. SSGEDP, ICES Data Centre participant.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and group under ACOM	There are no obvious direct linkages.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of SSGEDP. The most direct link is to WGOOFE where the activities of the 2 groups are complementary. WGOH focusses on the larger Atlantic space and long term climate scales. Link to PUBCOM for the annual production of the IROC.
Linkages to other organization	IOC, JCOMM, CLIVAR