Working Group on Resilience and marine ecosystem services (WGRMES)

2013/MA2/SSGHIE04 A **Working Group on Resilience and Marine Ecosystem Services** (WGRMES), chaired by Sebastian Villasante, Spain, and Gonzalo Macho Rivero, Spain, is directly linked to the pressing need of sustaining healthy marine ecosystems for the present and future generations and the role of ICES that is being increasingly asked for advice on management plans and mixed-fisheries interactions in securing this target. WGRMES will be established and will have a kick off meeting during the ASC in La Coruna, Spain, 15 September 2014.

	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2015	12–14 March	Vigo, Spain	Interim report by 1 May to SSGEPD	
Year 2016	13–15 June	Porto, Portugal	Interim report by 1 August to SSGEPD	
Year 2017	12–14 July	Vigo, Spain	Final report by 15 August to SCICOM	

Supporting information

The advances of the Working Group on Marine Ecosystem Services will enable the scientific valuation of the provision of marine ecosystem services (ES) and the effects on human well-being of different adaptation strategies, with special attention to the institutional and social responses that shape the supply and demand of marine ES. Consequently, the scope of the WG is aligned with high priority research areas of the ICES Science Plan: "Development of options for sustainable use of ecosystems", and it is also transversally related with the first and second thematic areas "Understanding Ecosystem Functioning" and "Understanding Interactions of Human Activities with Ecosystems".

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a)	Identify the emerging tools and methodologies of socio-economic dimension of marine ES	Information and data on marine ES is scarce and not organized. Links to ICES Science Plan 1st, 2nd and 3rd thematic areas, and WGs described above.	Resilience properties of marine ES. Marine living resource management tools	2 years	-Interim report after 1 year -List of potential needs from clients and stakeholders from an online questionnaire -Theme Session at ACS-Conference Spain (2014) -Special Issue "*Resilience and marine ecosystem services"* ICES Journal of Marine Science (to be published during 2015) -Scientific paper about research priorities of marine ES in Europe

b)	Understand the dynamics of spatial distribution and potential conflicts between marine ES and users	Regional and local data is lacking in Europe. Links to ICES Science Plan 1st and 2nd Thematic Areas; and WGs described above.	Biodiversity and the health of marine ecosystems. Marine spatial planning.	3 years	-Interim report after 2 years -Scientific paper about spatial distribution of marine ES in ICES ecoregions -Create a Database for ICES with detailed information of ecosystem services locations by using case studies across ICES ecoregions
c)	Economic valuation of marine ES under a changing climate	The analysis of spatial economic valuation patterns will provide robust scientific evidence on how services are distributed across the seascape. Links to ICES Science Plan 3rd Thematic Area; and WGs described above.	Socio-economic understanding of ecosystem goods and services.	3 years	-Interim report after 2 years -Create a Database for ICES with detailed information of economic valuation of marine ecosystem services -Theme Session "*Managing marine ecosystem services in a changing climate*" at 2015 ICES Conference (Denmark) -Scientific paper about the socioeconomic contribution of marine ES to coastal communities in ICES ecoregions -Plan a Workshop to inform policy makers and clients -Plan to publish a Special Issue "*Impacts of climate changes on marine ES"*
d)	Understand the social consequences of changes in ES, including "social transformations"	Creation of a conceptual framework for the analysis of social transformations associated with changes in marine ES. Identification of fundamental and critical changes which facilitate transformations of social groups. Links to ICES Science Plan 1st, 2nd and 3rd thematic areas, and WGs described above	Human understanding of ocean's uses		-Interim report after 2 years -Position paper about social changes and marine ES. -Create a Database for ICES with detailed information about transformations and marine ES

		and below. Links to the Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments			
e)	Understand the ecological, economic, cultural and social factors underlying the use of marine ES	Spatial patterns of socio-economic factors are key to understand the use of ES. Attitudes and perceptions towards marine ecosystem services. Links to ICES Science Plan 3rd Thematic Area, and WGs described above.	Socio-economic understanding ES.	3 years of	-Interim report after 2 years -Create a Database for ICES with detailed information of socio-economic uses of ES by using different case studies across ICES ecoregions -Scientific paper on attitudes and perceptions about the economic, social and cultural factors influencing marine ES in ICES ecoregions -Potential participation of the WGREMS in EU funding call for research project
f)	Inform decision makers on alternative strategies for the use of ES under different scenarios	Decision makers have limited knowledge and capacity to understand how they may manage complex interactions between ES. Links to ICES Science Plan 1st, 2nd and 3rd thematic areas, and WGs described above.	Socio-economic understanding ES.	2-3 years of	-Interim report after 2 years -Development of guidelines to manage marine ES for policy makers and industry -Plan a Workshop to inform policy makers and clients at ICES Secretary (Denmark).

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Review of existing methodologies and tools of socio-economic dimensions of marine ecosystem services.
Year 2	Spatial estimates of economic valuation of marine ecosystem services.
Year 3	Undestanding of ecological, economic, cultural, social factors and uses of marine ecosystem services and locations.

Supporting information

Priority	The new activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the understanding of marine ecosystem services, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high scientific priority.
Resource requirements	None required other than those provided by the host institute.
Participants	The Group will be normally attended by up to 30 members and guests. Meetings will be organized in different locations to incentive the attendance of a diverse range of people from EU countries.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications from ICES. The WGREMS will start to explore financial support from H2020 calls and others to support and expand the activities inside and outside Europe.
Linkages to ACOM and grou under ACOM	SCICOM Operational Groups; WKECOVER; ACOM groups: AFWG, WGECO, WGRFS.
Linkages to other committees groups	There is a close working relationship with SSGEPI, SGIMM, SIBAS, SICCME, SISAM, WGAQUA, WGLMEBP, WGBIODIV, WGISUR, WGMARS, WGMHM, WGMPCZM, WGSFD, and BONUS.
Linkages to other organizations	The work of this group is aligned with other nodes of ES research such as the Ecosystem Services Partnership in which the Chair (Dr. Villasante) is also co-leader of the Thematic Working Group "*Economic and monetary valuation*" and (www.es-partnership.org). The work is also in line with the current Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere (http://mahb.stanford.edu), the Natural Capital Project (http://www.naturalcapitalproject.org/) , ++ and numerous scientific and regulatory governmental and university's departments in ICES countries.