

2016/2/SSGEPD10 The **Scallop Assessment Working Group (WGScallop)**, chaired by Kevin Stokesbury, USA, will meet in Belfast, UK, 10–12 October 2017 to:

1. Compile and present data on landings and fishing effort that enables the following data products to be produced at as high a spatial resolution as the available data allows in ICES areas IV, VI and VII. Refer to WGScallop 2015 for methodologies
 - a. maps of fishing pressure, fishing effort and landings
 - b. GLM/GAM standardised LPUE indicators of stock status
 - c. maps of relative abundance of scallop
 - d. best estimates of absolute abundance using available habitat specific gear efficiency estimates
 - e. estimates of area of stock distribution exposed to fishing each year
2. Identify studies of larval source sink patterns of scallops throughout their distributional range in the NE and NW Atlantic to
 - a. evaluate the potential value of protected areas as sources of scallop recruitment
 - b. Identify populations that are important sources of larval supply
3. A) Review of current research underway on scallops throughout their distributional range in the NE and NW Atlantic, focusing on population dynamics, stock structure, life history and habitat impact of fisheries. B) Compare basic models derived from landings and effort to more complex models where they are available. (link to WKLife)
4. Estimate scallop discard mortality for all regions.
5. By-catch information, compile and report on the different survey/ICES rectangle.
 1. Table and maps will be compiled prior to the meeting of landings, effort (kilowatts days) by ICES rectangle.
 2. Shell exchange – aging examination.
 3. Use this data to define boundaries comparing/contrasting the ICES rectangle to the biological and fishing effort distributions.
 4. Examine the connectivity between these rectangles.
6. Review the scallop stock assessment approach and methodologies developed for stock in English waters and comment on the appropriateness of the approaches to deliver metrics of stock biomass and exploitation rate suitable for use in a management context.

WGScallop will report by 2 November 2017 (via SSGEPD) for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	Essential
Scientific justification	The proposal to initiate a WG on scallops is justified on the basis of the national and international importance of this fishery in a number of countries in northwest Europe and North America. There is currently no common scientific or assessment forum for discussion and development of common assessment methods for scallops. The qualitative descriptors for determining

good environmental status (Directive 2008 EU) we are concentrating on are:

Descriptor 1: Biological diversity is maintained. The quality and occurrence of habitats and the distribution and abundance of species are in line with prevailing physiographic, geographic and climatic conditions.

Descriptor 3: Populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock.

Descriptor 6: Seabed integrity is at a level that ensures that the structure and functions of the ecosystems are safeguarded and benthic ecosystems, in particular, are not adversely affected.

The focus of the working group is to providing scientific advice on scallops, defining a common approach to the assessment of stocks throughout their distributional range in the NE and NW Atlantic.

Resource requirements	None
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 20–25 members.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
