Stock Identification Methods Working Group (SIMWG)

2013/MA2/SSGSUE02   The **Stock Identification Methods Working Group** (SIMWG), chaired by Lisa Kerr, USA, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2014	By correspondence	By correspondence	Interim report by 1 August to SSGSUE	
Year 2015	10–12 June	Portland, USA	Interim report by 1 August to SSGEPI	
Year 2016	By correspondence	By correspondence	Final report by 1 August to SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Review advances in stock identification methods	a) Personnel commitment b) Regular communications		3 years (and continued)	EG report
b	Build a reference data base with updated information on known biological stocks for species of ICES interest	a) Advances in stock knowledge for more species b) provision of Secretariat and HQ support c) communication of new findings		2 years (and continued)	Web pages and downloadable ICES CRR
c	Provide technical reviews and expert opinions on matters of stock identification, as requested by specific Working Groups and SCICOM			1 year	
d	Review and report on advances in mixed stock analysis, and assess their potential role in improving precision of stock assessment	a) Personnel commitment b) Advice on key stocks and species to prioritise c) communication of new findings		2 years	EG report and contribution to ICES ASC; methodological paper in international journal

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Organise a physical meeting for SIMWG for summer 2015, trying to identify a period of the year that would allow best coordination with benchmarking processes. Establish working agreement with ICES web designers for delivery of ToR b.
Year 2	Focus primarily on ToR b and assess personnel commitment and feasibility of ToR d.
Year 3	Complete the first version of ToR d.

Supporting information

Priority	Understanding stock structure is a fundamental requirement before any assessment or modelling on a stock level can be contemplated. SIMWG liaises with ICES expert groups and working groups on stock identification issues and continues to review new methods as they develop.
Resource requirements	SharePoint website and clear feedback from expert groups, SCICOM and SSGSUE is pivotal for the efficacy of SIMWG.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–12 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Access to SharePoint to all members and Chair-nominated guests.
Financial	As per previous years.
Linkages to ACOM and group under ACOM	As per previous years.
Linkages to other committees or groups	WGNEW, WGDEEP, WGEF, WGAGFM, WKFLAT.
Linkages to other organization	There are no obvious direct linkages, beyond the SIMWG members' affiliation and commitment to their own employers..