

Working Group on Introduction and Transfers of Marine Organisms (WGITMO)

2015/2/SSGEPI06 The ICES Working Group on Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms

(WGITMO), chaired by Henn Ojaveer, Estonia, will meet in Olbia, Italy, 16–18 March 2016, back-to-back with the ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Ballast and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV) to:

- a) Summarize information provided in national reports and through the AquaNIS information system. Develop annual summaries of new occurrences/introductions of aquatic non-indigenous species (NIS);
- b) Continue addressing EU MSFD D2 on further developing and evaluating NIS indicators and screening and identification of species of concern;
- c) Continue identification and evaluation of climate change impacts on the establishment and spread of NIS. Finalise global review on salinity change effects on non-indigenous species;
- d) Continue investigating NIS associated with biofouling, incl. those on artificial hard structures in the marine environment and recreational boating;
- e) Finalise draft of the alien species alert report for ICES CRR on *Didemnum vexillum*.
- f) Evaluate the role/importance of different bioinvasion vectors and pathways globally

WGITMO will report by 10 April 2016 (via SSGEPI) for the attention of SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority:	The work of the Group forms scientific basis for developing options to minimise the risk of future unintentional movements of invasive and/or deleterious aquatic species including disease agents and parasites with the legitimate trade in species required for aquaculture, table market, ornamental trade, fishing and other purposes and to assess the potential of species moved intentionally to become a nuisance in the area of introduction. The work of this Group supports the core role of ICES in relation to planned introductions and transfers of organisms.
Justification of venue (in a non-ICES member country)	As marine bioinvasions and their management is a global issue, WGBOSV/WGITMO are continuously aiming to enhance connections with scientists from non-ICES area from various regions and seas globally. In order to continue strengthening cooperation with the Mediterranean Sea scientists, who annually participate in WGITMO meetings, and to fulfil MoU between ICES and CIESM, WGBOSV/WGITMO will meet in 2016 in Italy.
Scientific justification and relation to action plan:	WGITMO work contributes to the following objectives of EPI: <i>Estimate long-term trends of human impacts on marine ecosystems:</i> Develop historical baselines of population and community structure and production to be used as the basis for population and system level reference points <i>Understand, quantify and mitigate multiple impacts of human activity on populations and ecosystems:</i> Develop methods to quantify multiple direct and indirect impacts, particularly from fisheries, as well as mineral extraction, energy generation, aquaculture practices and others, and estimate the vulnerability of marine ecosystems to these impacts. Develop indicators of pressure on populations and ecosystems from human threats such as eutrophication, contaminant and litter release, introduction of invasive species and generation of underwater noise. <i>Provide evidence in support of the sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services:</i> Quantify and map biological, ecological and environmental value, optimise ecosystem use and minimise environmental impact, in relation to a dynamic ecosystem carrying capacity. Develop science in support of advisory needs on sustainable marine aquaculture systems, minimising environmental impacts and integrating other marine sectors.
Resource	None required other than those provided by ICES Secretariat and national members

requirements:	
Participants:	WGITMO nominated members and invited experts from, e.g. PICES and CIESM countries.
Secretariat facilities:	Meeting room provided by the host
Financial:	None required
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	WGHABD, WGBOSV, WGBIODIV, WGAQUA, WGIMT, WGPDMO, WGBE, WGZE
Linkages to other organizations:	WGITMO urges ICES to encourage and support a continued dialogue with PICES, CIESM, IMO, HELCOM, OSPAR and EIFAC.
