

Methods Working Group (MGWG)

2016/MA2/SSGEPI01 The **Methods Working Group** (MGWG), chaired by Arni Magnusson*, ICES Secretariat, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2017	13–17 November	Woods Hole, USA	Interim report by 10 December to SSGEPI	
Year 2018			Interim report by Date Month to SSGEPI	
Year 2019			Final report by Date Month to SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Development of new assessment models	The focus will be on single-species stock assessment models (incl. biomass models and age-structured models fitted to age and/or length data, as well as tag recoveries) estimating stock size and harvest rate.	10, 15	3 years	At least one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal
b	Improving existing assessment models	The focus will be on single-species stock assessment models (incl. biomass models and age-structured models fitted to age and/or length data, as well as tag recoveries) estimating stock size and harvest rate.	10, 15	3 years	At least one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal
c	Organise a collection of datasets	The datasets will be used to address ToR d: Test performance of existing and new models	10, 15	2 years	Web data server
d	Test performance of existing and new models.	Building on the methods and recommendations from SISAM and WCSAM, the ability of methods to accurately determine stock status and appropriate catch projections will be evaluated	10, 15	3 years	At least one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal

e	Develop, improve and test assessment-related techniques	Under this ToR, statistical and computational methods other than population dynamics models will be dealt with.	10, 15	3 years	At least one manuscript to be submitted a peer-reviewed scientific journal
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Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Prepare for the first meeting, invite people, and organize a discussion on topics of interest. Form sub-groups, identify topics and tentative manuscript titles.
Year 2	Continue working on all ToRs. Finalise ToR c)
Year 3	Finalise manuscripts. Reporting to parent organisations. Plan for continuation of the EG.

Supporting information

Priority	Single-species stock assessment methods, for estimating stock size and harvest rate, are a well-defined topic of central importance for managing fisheries around the world. The activities of this Group will ensure visibility of ICES in the international arena in the field of fish stock assessments. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	Stock assessment experts from all over the world would be invited to participate, especially those who are involved in cutting-edge stock assessment research. The Group is expected to attract around 20–25 participants.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	No direct linkages.
Linkages to other committees or groups	SISAM
Linkages to other organizations	ICCAT, WFC, other RFMOs to be included in GAME