

Working Group on Pathology and Diseases of Marine Organisms (WGPDMO)

2015/MA2/SSGEPI01 The Working Group on Pathology and Diseases of Marine Organisms (WGPDMO), chaired by Ryan Carnegie, 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 2016	16–20 February	Virginia, USA	Interim report by 1 April to SSGEPI	
Year 2017	14–18 February	Gdynia, Poland	Interim report by 1 April to SSGEPI	
Year 2018			Final report by DATE to SSGEPI, SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Summarise new and emerging disease trends in wild and cultured fish, molluscs and crustaceans based on national reports	New and emerging disease conditions and trends in diseases of wild and cultured marine organisms continue to appear and an annual assessment of these should be maintained.	1, 16, 17	annual	Summaries of trends reported in WGPDMO annual reports
b	Deliver leaflets on pathology and diseases of marine organisms	WGPDMO aim to update all disease leaflets within the next reporting period (3 yrs) and also to increase the visibility and relevance of the leaflets	1, 16	annual	Updated identification leaflets on the ICES website
c	Synthesize information on the spread and impact of <i>Bonamia ostrea</i> in flat oysters in the ICES area	Bonamiosis is a notifiable disease, both to the OIE and the EU (under Directive 2006/88/EC). WGPDMO has noted the recent spread of the disease and will undertake to prepare a report assessing the impact of the disease on flat oyster culture within the ICES area	1, 11, 13	3 years	Manuscript submitted to peer-reviewed scientific journal
d	Summarise the role of <i>Vibrio</i> sp. pathogens contributing to mortalities in shellfish aquaculture	In recent years, WGPDMO has reported the increased concern related to <i>Vibrio</i> sp. pathogens and their effect on shellfish aquaculture. There is a need to fully investigate the current knowledge relating to these pathogens and identify areas for future research assessing their potential impact on shellfish aquaculture	16, 17	3 years	Manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal
e	Prepare a report describing the occurrence and spread of amoebic gill disease (AGD) in marine	AGD has emerged as a significant issue for salmon farming in the Atlantic. This report will describe the spread, impact and current measures taken to	12, 16, 17	3 years	Manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed scientific journal

	salmonid farming in the ICES area	mitigate effects of the disease and identify knowledge gaps and future areas for research			
f	Compile information on pathogen screening of wild salmonids in the ICES member states	Many ICES member countries screen wild broodstock used for restocking purposes for disease pathogens. This report will compile information on diseases and methods used in order to prepare a common approach to screening and assess the effectiveness of current practices	1, 11	3 years	Compilation in final WGPDMO report
g	Evaluate applicability of the Fish Disease Index by using the R package following newly developed guidelines	The FDI approach has been developed for the analysis and assessment of data obtained by ICES Member Countries running regular fish disease surveys as part of their national environmental monitoring programmes. The application of the FDI as an assessment tool for environmental monitoring under OSPAR/HELCOM/EU MSFD will be assessed using the R package	13, 28	3 years	Report on applicability of FDI
h	Provide expert knowledge and management advice on fish and shellfish diseases, if requested, and related data to the ICES Data Centre	In compliance with a request from the ICES Data Centre	16, 17	annual	Provision of management advice as requested and data delivery to the ICES Data Centre
i	Development of a standard template for National Reports (D. Ches-lett, S. Jones, W. Wosniok)	Variability exists within the National Reports for wild and farmed finfish and shellfish regarding disease occurrence and how it is reported. More comprehensive and uniform presentation of pathogen prevalences and sample sizes in particular over time will allow improved resolution of increasing or decreasing trends in disease activity reported annually in ToR a.			

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Three terms of reference (a, b and h) are annual tasks and form a core part of WGPDMO activities. ToR i (reporting structure) will also be finalised in the first year of this term. New fish disease leaflets will also be prepared under ToR b in each of the three years. The use of the Fish Disease Index will also be discussed (ToR g).
Year 2	Terms of reference c, d, e and f on current important disease issues in aquaculture will be further developed as working drafts. This will form the focus of the WGPDMO work for the final two years of the term.
Year 3	Final draft of reports on <i>Bonamia ostrea</i> (ToR c), <i>Vibrio</i> infections (ToR d), amoebic gill disease (ToR e) and pathogen screening in wild salmonids (ToR f) will be discussed.

Supporting information

Priority	The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. 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, and resources are already committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are no obvious direct linkages.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of SSGEPI. It is also very relevant to the Working Group on Aquaculture (WGAQUA) and will seek to form links with the Working Group on Socio-Economic Dimensions of Aquaculture (WGSEDA).
Linkages to other organizations	OSPAR, HELCOM, EAFP