

WGIAB – ICES/HELCOM Working Group on Integrated Assessments of the Baltic Sea

2015/MA2/SSGIEA01

The ICES/HELCOM Working Group on Integrated Assessments of the Baltic Sea (WGIAB), chaired by Saskia Otto, Germany, Martin Lindegren, Denmark, Lauréne Pécuchet, Denmark, and Matilda Valman, Sweden (HELCOM), 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	18–22 April	Helsinki, Finland	Interim report by 30 May 2016 to SSGIEA, SCICOM & ACOM	
Year 2017	24–28 April	Lisbon, Portugal	Interim report by 30 May 2017 to SSGIEA, SCICOM & ACOM	Outgoing chairs: Laura Uusitalo, Lena Bergström
Year 2018	16–20 April	Tartu, Estonia	Final report by 11 May 2018 to IEASG, SCICOM & ACOM	Incoming chairs: Lauréne Pécuchet, Matilda Valman

ToR descriptors

ToR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN TOPICS ADDRESSED	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Increase understanding of Baltic Sea ecosystem functioning, with a focus on functional diversity in relation to species diversity and changes of species traits over different temporal and spatial scales, and the identification of key traits and processes for maintaining functioning ecosystems and the services they provide;	This ToR will provide further knowledge of important functional linkages between ecosystem components, to support the development of an integrated marine management, including an ecosystem based fisheries management.	Develop an integrated, interdisciplinary understanding of the structure, dynamics, and the resilience and response of marine ecosystems to change	3-year	-Research articles to be decided within 2015 -Intermediate results reported in interim report 2016, 2017
b	Explore potential new options for management, including for example studies on indicators of foodweb status, implications for ecosystem functioning, and societal drivers, in order to support integrated fisheries advice and marine management, focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem function.	This ToR will develop on existing assessment tools and explore new options, based on cases studies. The work supports the assessment work of the working group for Baltic Sea fisheries assessment (WGBFAS), and other ongoing work within ICES and HELCOM.	Understand the relationship between human activities and marine ecosystems, estimate pressures and impacts, and develop science-based, sustainable pathways	3-year	- Research articles (to be decided within 2015) - Intermediate results reported in interim report 2016, 2017

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Annual meeting, intersessional work on research articles, interaction with suggested WKDEMO to develop on the outcomes of the DEMO project.
Year 2	Annual meeting, intersessional work on research articles
Year 3	Annual meeting, intersessional work on research articles

Supporting information

Priority	WGIAB aims to conduct and further develop Integrated Ecosystem Assessment cycles for the different subsystems of the Baltic Sea, in support of implementing the ecosystem approach in the Baltic Sea.
Resource requirements	Assistance of the Secretariat in maintaining and exchanging information and requirements data to potential participants. Assistance of especially the ICES Data Center to collect and store relevant data series.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 20 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	WGBFAS
Linkages to other committees or groups	WGINOSE, WGNARS, WGEAWESS, WGINOR, WGCOMEDA.
Linkages to other organizations	HELCOM
