WGIBAR – Working Group on Integrated Assessments of the Barents Sea

2016/MA2/SSGIEA03

A Working Group on the Integrated Assessments of the Barents Sea (WGIBAR), chaired by Elena Eriksen, Norway, and Anatoly Filin, Russia, 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	16–18 March	Murmansk, Russia	Interim report by 30 April 2017	
Year 2018	9–12 March	Tromsø, Norway	Interim report by 30 April 2018	
Year 2019	12-14 February	Murmansk, Russia	Final report by 29 April 2019	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
A	Prepare relevant datasets that can be used to describe and analyse fluctuations and changes in the Barents Sea ecosystem	Science and advisory requirements		Year 1,2 and 3	Updated multivariate datasets (Year 1,2 and 3). Develop new spatially disaggregated time-series (Year 1 and 2)
B	Prepare an annual report on the status and trends of the Barents Sea ecosystem based on integrated analysis of multivariate datasets and other relevant information	Science and advisory requirements		Year 1, 2 and 3	Annual reports of the status, drivers, pressures, trophic interactions and expected changes
C	Identify knowledge gaps and priority research items that when addressed, can improve future integrated ecosystem assessments	Science and advisory requirement		Year 1, 2 and 3	Annual status reports
D	Explore the use of available ecosystem and multispecies models as an analytical tool in integrated ecosystem assessment for the Barents Sea	Science and advisory requirements		Year 1, 2	Annual meting report
E	Provide recommendations to improve the monitoring of the Barents Sea ecosystem for integrated ecosystem assessments	Science and advisory requirements		Year 1	Annual meeting reports

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Prepare relevant datasets and other relevant information, including pollution, that can be used to describe fluctuations and changes in the Barents Sea ecosystem and prepare an annual report on the status and trends of the Barents Sea ecosystem based on integrated analysis of multivariate datasets. Review and discuss available ecosystem and multispecies models as an analytical tool in integrated ecosystem assessment for the Barents Sea Identify knowledge gaps and priority research items that can improve future integrated ecosystem assessments and provide recommendations to improve the monitoring. Map collaboration partners, their needs and advantage from the cooperation.
Year 2	Prepare relevant datasets and other relevant information that can be used to describe fluctuations and changes in the Barents Sea ecosystem and prepare an annual report on the status and trends of the Barents Sea ecosystem based on integrated analysis of multivariate datasets. Identify knowledge gaps and priority research items that can improve future integrated ecosystem assessments. Explore the use of the ecosystem /multispecies models as an analytical tool in integrated ecosystem assessment for the Barents Sea.
Year 3	Prepare relevant datasets and other relevant information that can be used to describe fluctuations and changes in the Barents Sea ecosystem and prepare an annual report on the status and trends of the Barents Sea ecosystem based on integrated analysis of multivariate datasets. Identify knowledge gaps and priority research items that when addressed, can improve future integrated ecosystem assessments. Summarize literature from the last few years on the Barents Sea ecosystem

Supporting information

Priority	High, the IEA WGs are seen as key strategic steps toward implementing the ecosystem approach to investigation and harvesting in the differen ecosregions
Scientific justification	Term of Reference a) and b) The annual report of the status and trends of the Barents Sea ecosystem, based on multivariate data and analyses, is the first step to understand ecosystem functionality, to detect early signals on major changes in the Barents Sea ecosystem and to uncover knowlegde gaps. Term of Reference c) In the process of assessing the state of the Barents Sea some knowlegde gaps will become evident. Research effort could then be targeted towards filling these gaps, either by WGIBAR or by other research projects. Term of Reference d) Several models (multispecies and ecosystem) are developed or under development for the Barents Sea. Exploring these models as analytical tools in understanding the ecosystem dynamics and human impact in the Barents Sea will help bridge the gap between integrated ecosystem assessment and advice and will also allow WGIBAR to interact with other groups working on similar issues (e.g. stock assessment WGs in the Barents Sea, multispecies groups such as ICES WGSAM) Term of Reference e) When knowlegde gaps are detected, monitoring could be targeted and improved in order to fill the knowlegde gaps. This will link science and monitoring and increase the relevance of both to the assessment of the Barents Sea ecosystem.

Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already established, and resources are already committed.
Participants	12-15 people are expected to attend
Secretariat facilities	SharePoint site, secretariat support for reporting.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	It is very important to link this group to ACOM and ensure cooperation between science and advice
Linkages to other committees or groups	IEASG, all IEA groups, stock assessment groups (e.g. AFWG, NIPAG, and WGWIDE), WGSAM, WGECO
Linkages to other organizations	Arctic Council, Norwegian-Russian Enviromental Commission Norwegian Russian Fisheries Commission