

**2013/MA2/SSGRSP06**      **The Working Group on Large Marine Ecosystem Programme Best Practices** (WGLMEBP), chaired by Hein Rune Skjoldal, Norway, and Rudolf Hermes, Thailand, will meet in Paris, France, 28 September – 2 October 2015, to work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2014	8-11 July	Paris, France	Interim report by 15 August 2014 to SSGRSP	
Year 2015	28 September – 2 October	Paris, France	Interim report by 15 August 2015 to SSGIEA, SCICOM	
Year 20XX			Final report by "DATE" to "SSGIEA", "SCICOM"...	

### ToR descriptors

ToR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN TOPICS ADDRESSED	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Gather information about past and current integrated ecosystem assessments (IEA) into an inventory of IEAs, their geographic scope or scale, and the reference points used	incorporate the results of WGNARS, WGINOSE, WGEAWESS, WGINOR, WGIBAR and WGIAB	new science plan	Year 1	An inventory of IEA's
b	With support from ICES scientists and LME practitioners, and based on the above output, develop a brief synthesis of the most commonly used science-based indicators for ecosystem-based management. Consider to conduct a survey among practitioners using a questionnaire	a) review and consider the different concepts in use based on published knowledge		Year 1	The synthesis, possibly a peer reviewed publication and other communication tools to disseminate these findings
c	Identifying LME units as references for IEA, in the ICES area (including the Arctic LME's), as well as in the operational LME's;	a) consider the relevant LME delimitations for practical use		Year 1	agreed reference LME units
d	Taking into account the results of WKECOVER earlier in 2013, apply the criteria proposed for producing ecosystem overviews and develop in cooperation with LMEs overviews for ICES core areas, Arctic and other LMEs as far as possible, also in partnership with PICES, NOAA, CSIRO etc.	a) WKECOVER report		Year 2 and 3	Overviews

e	Identify areas of collaboration and mutual interest between ICES and LME groups; including; knowledge transfer; communication and capacity development.	a) consider science requirements of LMEs	Year 1, 2 & 3	Identification of: Areas of common interest, Partnerships and Joint Ventures
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## Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1 based on published literature, LME and ICES IEA EGs produce an inventory of existing or planned IEAs and a synthesis document with recommendations; identification of reference LME

Year 2 attempt ecosystem overviews for operational LMEs and Arctic LMEs, as well as take into account the ecosystem overviews for the ICES core areas

Year 3 partnerships, knowledge transfer and training needs

## Supporting information

Priority	<p>This Terms of Reference takes into account the following developments in the ICES core areas, the Arctic and other LMEs around the world to better assess the status of marine ecosystems;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new ICES science plan will have a strong focus on integrated ecosystem assessments, including ecosystem overviews and monitoring programmes. Furthermore, ICES is making a move toward incorporating the Arctic under the same umbrella and to work towards an ICES-Arctic Planning Group;</li> <li>• Further scientific data and knowledge have been generated about the Arctic LMEs that have laid strong foundational work for ecosystem status assessments. Support from ICES for the Arctic provides further impetus in this regard;</li> <li>• For the past 20 years, the GEF and World Bank have been providing substantial financial support in the amount of \$3.1 billion to developing countries for planning and implementing a five-module strategy for EBM that assesses and monitors changing states of LME: (i) productivity, (ii) fish and fisheries, (iii) pollution and ecosystem health, (iv) socio-economics, and (v) governance.</li> <li>• Countries apply two processes in consideration of the five modules across the modular strategy in the preparation of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and a Strategic Action Program (SAP). The outcomes of these processes are compatible with the Ecosystem Status Assessment process (ESA).</li> <li>• Many LMEs around the world have finalized their Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) which generates large volumes of information and data on the ecosystems, defines threats and root causes and a way forward for improved ecosystem status assessment and stress reduction. Hence, several LMEs now have GEF-funded Strategic Action Programmes in place and have contributed information and data to the GEF Tracking Tools, UNEP Regional Seas, the Abidjan Convention (and other regional conventions), TWAP and the Regular Process to enable different scales of ecosystem status assessments. Capacities in LMEs have also been enhanced to enable such assessments with good understanding for the need for horizontal (across sectors) and vertical (within sectors) integration and thorough consideration of socio-economic and governance aspects.</li> <li>• In terms of making progress in EBM the IEAs are tools for management (i.e. to manage human impacts and to monitor the response of the ecosystem for making informed decisions. It is important to monitor the response of the ecosystem and to distinguish between inputs caused by natural drivers and ones caused by human impact drivers. ICES has IEA groups to cover all ICES areas. The ICES principles for IEA include human dimensions, ecosystem drivers variation and change, data collection, and building knowledge; operational objectives, integration across sectors as an adaptive and iterative process.</li> </ul>
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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 20–25 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	ACOM via IEAs
Linkages to other committee or groups	There is a very close working relationship with the newly established SCICOM SSG on integrated ecosystem assessment and monitoring (SSGIOMP) and its groups.
Linkages to other organizations	IOC, UNDP and interaction is expected with the envisaged GEF project on LME Best practices to be launched by summer 2014. Arctic Council working groups notably AMAP, CAFF and PAME, and the PAME-led EA expert group.