

2014/2/SSGIEOM13 The **Workshop on evaluating current national acoustic abundance estimation methods for HERAS surveys** (WKEVAL), chaired by Ciaran O'Donnell*, Ireland, will be established for a single meeting and will meet in ICES, Copenhagen, 24–28 August 2015 to:

- a) Review and evaluate current national acoustic **abundance** estimation methods for HERAS surveys;
- b) Initiate the steps required to; implement the move to new database for the storage of disaggregated survey data; a common tool to calculate 'global' biomass estimates and; to populate the database with disaggregated historic survey data from 2003 onwards.

WKEVAL will report by 1 October 2015 (via SSGIEOM) for the attention of SCICOM, ACOM, WGISDAA, WGIPS and HAWG.

Supporting information

Priority	The aim of the workshop is to evaluate the current national acoustic abundance estimation tools used to calculate the biomass of herring and sprat from HERAS surveys (North Sea, West of Scotland and the Malin Shelf). The group currently uses FishFrame to store aggregated survey data and as a computational tool to estimate 'global' abundance. As this database and its funding have been cut a replacement system is considered a priority. The WK will also initiate the steps required to establish a new database for the survey group, migrate historic disaggregated data into this database and evaluate a new 'global' estimation tool.
Scientific justification	<p>Term of Reference a)</p> <p>Current estimates of acoustic abundance for HERAS surveys are calculated at national level and these aggregated data are submitted to FishFrame. Computational tools within FishFrame are used to calculate the 'global' abundance estimate. The group will evaluate national methods and procedures used to aggregate data.</p> <p>Term of Reference b)</p> <p>A new database will be established within the ICES data centre to hold disaggregated HERAS survey data, this is a step forward from FishFrame which contains aggregated data only. Participants will initiate the steps required to begin populating the new database with historic disaggregated data. A new 'global' abundance estimation tool will be evaluated for future use.</p>
Resource requirements	As the FishFrame database is no longer funded or supported a move to a new system is considered a priority by the group.
Participants	The Workshop will be attended by scientists from the HERAS surveys and the ICES data centre
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	This work is relevant to WGISDAA, WGIPS and HAWG.
Linkages to other organizations	None.

