

2014/2/SSGIEOM18 The Workshop on implementation studies on concurrent length sampling (WKISCON2), chaired by Nuno Prista (Portugal) and Liz Clarke (Scotland), will meet in Sukarrieta, Spain, 9–12 June 2015, to:

- a) Identify the current use of concurrent length sampling data by end users.
- b) Review information on types and extent of concurrent sampling carried out on shore or at sea by Member States as part of national DCF programmes, the practical issues encountered, the additional costs involved, and the quality of concurrent length data from each source. Evaluate the difference in the data collected before and after implementation of concurrent sampling.
- c) Identify the statistical arguments for concurrent sampling to characterise the length composition of species in mixed-species landings rather than the use of independent (non-concurrent) sampling for this purpose.
- d) Identify any benefits concurrent sampling can provide considering the new and broader scopes of the revised DCF, such as the evaluation of impacts of fisheries on marine biological resources and on the ecosystem, and if these benefits can be achieved more cost effectively from non-concurrent sampling of all species of interest.
- e) Evaluate the implications of not carrying out existing concurrent sampling at-sea and/or on shore, in relation to costs and provision of fishery management advice.

An intersessional data request may be required for TOR b.

WKISCON2 will report by 3 July 2015 to the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

Priority	This workshop is considered to have a high priority for establishing commercial fishery sampling requirements under the EU-MAP and for ensuring the cost effectiveness of data collection supporting mixed fishery models.
Scientific justification	The STECF Study Group on Research Needs (SGRN Revision of the Biological Data Requirements under the Data Collection Regulation, Brussels, 27 November – 1 December 2006) concluded that "In order to be able to fully appreciate and model the interactions between the different species taken by a métier, it is also essential to organise sampling in such a way that all species are sampled concurrently, actually meaning that all sampling for catch and length composition data is done simultaneously on all species in a vessel's catches or landings". This was considered easiest to do at sea, but may be required on shore. A requirement for concurrent sampling was included in the Data Collection Framework Decision 2008/949/EC. ICES carried out an evaluation of case studies in the Joint STECF/ICES workshop on implementation studies on concurrent length sampling (WKISCON: ICES CM 2008/ACOM:31), highlighting practical issues around concurrent sampling. Due to the future revision of the DCF as the EU-MAP, the RCM North Atlantic in 2014 recommended a comprehensive evaluation of the utility of the data being collected with the concurrent sampling. They noted that it is unclear whether the significant resource needed to carry out concurrent sampling provides benefits that outweigh the costs. Some ICES Working groups have benefited from concurrent sampling data collected however there is no empirical evidence to support this. In order to decide if concurrent sampling should continue, more feedback from end-users is required. This recommendation to the Liaison Meeting in 2014 led to a LM recommendation to ICES to set up a workshop proposal to see the implication to the stopping the concurrent sampling for those stocks and benefits concurrent sampling are providing or can provide considering the new and broader scopes of the revised DCF, such as the evaluation of impacts of fisheries on marine biological resources and on the ecosystem. LM proposed that WGCATCH 2014 should consider this recommendation and prepare the resolutions of the requested workshop. The WK should take place in 2015. Therefore it will need to be presented / approved by ACOM December 2014.

Resource requirements	The data collection programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed. The additional resource required is limited to preparation and attendance at the workshop..
Participants	To be arranged
Secretariat facilities	Some secretarial support will be needed.
Financial	Member States may fund this through their EMFF programme..
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM and WGCATCH.
Linkages to other organizations	RCMs