

2014/2/SSGIEOM16 A Workshop on the review of the ecosystem survey requirements (WKSUREQ), chaired by David Reid*, Ireland, and Nils Olav Handegard*, Norway, will work and meet by correspondence **XX** February 2015 to:

- a) Prepare an overview report on the ecosystem survey requirements with the aim of describing the requirements that could be funded under EMFF, Horizon 2020 or other EU initiatives. The report will:-
 - i) Describe the ecosystem data needs to support ICES advice in general with specific reference to CFP, MSFD, and other EAFM/EBFM initiatives for the North Atlantic using inter alia the reports of WGISUR. Identify similar report material from the eastern Canadian and US seaboard.
 - ii) Using existing work by ICES and others (STECF SGRN, WKCATDAT, WKECES and WGISUR.....) describe briefly, survey needs to meet these requirements, and identify broad gaps in current provision. Include a priority listing for the most important sampling needs in the context of these gaps, and of the most important ecosystem components.
 - iii) Based on existing reviews (WKCATDAT) indicate which parts of currently unfulfilled need can be met by minor (<20%) diversion of existing survey resources.
 - iv) Identify and summarize where other potential methods of data collection would be potentially more cost-effective.
 - v) Identify major spatial or temporal needs that can only be met by additional survey resources.
 - vi) Identify and summarize any substantive processing and information handling requirements.

The report should also take account of the work of WGISDAA.

WKSUREQ will report by **xx** February 2015 for the attention of ACOM/SCICOM.

Background

The ICES Bureau has requested that ACOM/SCICOM provide a 10 page position paper reviewing of existing surveys, and how ecosystem data can be included in future surveys. The review should be mindful of the current policy context including the new CFP, MSFD, and the ecosystem approach.

ACOM and SCICOM used the Joint Open Session: Integrated Assessments and Ecosystem Surveys (SSGIEA/SSGIEOM) at the ASC in La Coruna to discuss the approach and then further discussed the issue to refine the report needed. The following aspects were identified.

Several existing reviews were identified for consideration:

STECF review of DCF surveys (STECF SGRN 10-03)

A WKECES review of survey methodology based on an 'ideal ecosystem survey' developed by WGISUR, and further reviews contained in WGISUR has additional reports contain useful reviews.

WKCATDAT review of ecosystem data products could currently be delivered by surveys in the context of the 11 MSFD descriptors.

Related work currently underway:

WGISDAA has planned activities looking at statistical analyses to evaluate some of the consequence for reducing sampling within a survey. This was principally in a statistical sense of increasing variance. Issues like risk to the survey and some spatial aspects were also not considered.

ICES SSGIEOM: The list of ICES coordinated surveys (under SSGIEOM) are currently being mapped to information being collected. This list needs verifying ideally prior to the workshop.

LOT projects: Three contracts to look at MSFD sampling in Baltic, NS/Celtic Sea and Med. The CS study is looking at using the existing fishery survey resources to build a designed for purpose ecosystem survey and/or improving the existing surveys. Also included is evaluation of other ad hoc data collection such as litter and benthic fauna to evaluate potential use but this work needs to be extended.