

2012/MA2/SSGESST17

The **Working Group on Atlantic Fish Larvae and Eggs Surveys (WGALES)**, chaired by Maria Manuel Angélico, Portugal, and Richard D. M. Nash*, Norway, will meet in Thessaloniki, Greece, 17–21 October 2016, to work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

WGALES will report on the activities of 2015 and 2016 (**the second year**) by 1 December 2016 to SCICOM

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2013	Correspondence	Intersessional	Interim report by 5 January 2015 May 2013 to SSGESST (SSGIEOM)	Group is planning to meet face to face in 2 nd year – see below.
Year 2014	1–5 December	San Sebastian, Spain	Interim report by 5 January 2015 to SSGIEOM	Cindy Van Damme to be replaced by Richard Nash for the next meeting of WGALES
Year 2016	17–21 October	Thessaloniki, Greece	2 nd Interim report by 1 December 2016 to SSGIEOM, SCICOM	Group is completing their second year of work
Year 2018	xxxx	xxxx	Final report by XX 2018 to SSGIEOM, SCICOM	<i>This group could first be finalizing their third year in 2018 as every second year the group is doing field work</i>

ToR descriptors

ToR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN TOPICS ADDRESSED	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Present current ichthyoplankton surveys in the light of their original purposes, with respect to design, estimation methods and challenges (including their potential as ecosystem surveys);	The activities of WGALES are vital for the delivery of state-of-the-art ichthyoplankton surveys, ensuring high standards and incorporating new techniques and developments for the future. WGALES will lead to the cross fertilization of ideas, methodologies, developments and standardization of ichthyoplankton surveys in the ICES area. Hence providing a platform from which to improve the assessments based on the ichthyoplankton surveys. WGALES fits into the ICES science plan sections 5.1 and 5.2.	5.1, 5.2	2 nd year	Report in 2014
b	Present current understanding and future research needs of natural mortality of fish eggs and larvae in order to improve accuracy and precision of egg	Use of natural mortality in egg production and larvae abundance estimates is limited. Current developments and use of natural mortality estimates to	5.1, 5.2	2 nd year	Report with review of developments and needs for future research of natural mortality of fish eggs and larvae. Suggestions on how

	production and larvae abundance estimates of the ichthyoplankton surveys;	improve accuracy and precision of ichthyoplankton survey estimates.			natural mortality can be incorporated in egg production and larvae abundance estimates of the ichthyoplankton surveys.
c	Prepare a template for the ICES ichthyoplankton survey protocols	A new publication series of survey protocols on ICES surveys has been initiated. No template exists for the ichthyoplankton survey protocols.		2 nd year	Survey protocol template for ICES ichthyoplankton surveys.
d	Receive and act upon ToRs from Working Groups within the umbrella of ichthyoplankton surveys e.g. IBTSWG, WGACEGG, WGIPS, WGMEGS, WGEGGS2.	The activities of WGALES are vital for the delivery of state-of-the-art ichthyoplankton surveys, ensuring high standards and incorporating new techniques and developments for the future. WGALES will lead to the cross fertilization of ideas, methodologies, developments and standardization of ichthyoplankton surveys in the ICES area. Hence providing a platform from which to improve the assessments based on the ichthyoplankton surveys.	5.1, 5.2	3 years, if necessary WGALES can react by correspondence on urgent ToR's from other ichthyoplankton surveys groups in 2013 and 2015. During the meeting in 2014 ToR's from ichthyoplankton survey groups from 2013 and 2014 will be addressed and reported on.	Report in 2014.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	If necessary WGALES will meet by correspondence to act upon urgent Tor's from ichthyoplankton survey groups (ToR d).
Year 2	WGALES will organize a meeting to address ToR's a,b, c and d.
Year 3	If necessary WGALES will meet by correspondence to act upon urgent Tor's from ichthyoplankton survey groups (ToR d).

Supporting information

Priority	The activities of WGALES are vital for the delivery of state-of-the-art ichthyoplankton surveys, ensuring high standards and incorporating new techniques and developments for the future. WGALES will lead to the cross fertilization of ideas, methodologies, developments and standardization of ichthyoplankton surveys in the ICES area. Hence providing a platform from which to improve the assessments based on the ichthyoplankton surveys. WGALES fits into the ICES science plan sections 5.1 and 5.2.
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 is ICES secretariat support for reports.

Participants	The Group will be attended by members of ICES groups, WGMEGS, WGEGBS2, WGIPS, IBTSWG, WGACEGG and guests carrying out ichthyoplankton surveys in the non-ICES areas.
Secretariat facilities	ICES secretariat support for reports.
Financial	DCF funding is required to support the attendance of the meetings.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are linkages with the advisory committees through the individual ichthyoplankton surveys groups. Through the review and standardization of the ichthyoplankton surveys the quality of the data for the assessments is ensured.
Linkages to other committee: or groups	SCICOM and there is a very close working relationship with the all the groups of ichthyoplankton surveys, WGMEGS, WGEGBS2, WGIPS, IBTSWG, WGACEGG and their assessment groups, WGWIDE, HAWG, WGHANSA.
Linkages to other organizations	No formal linkages.