

Workshop on Age reading of Horse Mackerel, Mediterranean Horse Mackerel and Blue Jack Mackerel

The Workshop on Age reading of Horse Mackerel, Mediterranean Horse Mackerel and Blue Jack Mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*, *T. mediterraneus* and *T. picturatus*) [WKARHOM3], chaired by Alba Jurado, Spain and Kélig Mahé, France, will meet in Livorno (Italy), 7–11 May 2018, to:

- a) Review information on age determination, otolith exchanges and validation study on these species
- b) Clarify the position of the first annulus with the images analysis for three species
- c) Evaluate the effect of different schemes of ageing particularly the date of birth for *Trachurus mediterraneus*
- d) Continue the guidelines and common ageing criteria;
- e) Develop existing reference collections of otoliths;
- f) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see '[PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration](#)').

WKARHOM3 will report by 13 June 2017 for the attention of SSGIEOM and WGBIOP.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Essential. Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Age data are provided by different countries and are estimated using international ageing criteria. It is necessary to continue to clarify this guideline of age interpretation. Therefore, an appropriate otolith exchange programme will be carried out in 2017 for the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs. Results of this otolith exchange will be discussed during WKARHOM3.
Scientific justification and relation to action plan:	The aim of the workshop is to identify the current ageing problems between readers and standardize the age reading procedures in order to improve the accuracy and precision in the age reading of this species.
Resource requirements:	No specific resource requirement beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
Participants:	In view of its relevance to the DCF, and ICES WG, the Workshop try to join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution. Participants should announce their intention to participate in the WK no later than two months before the meeting.
Secretariat facilities:	None
Financial:	
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM/WGBIOP
Linkages to other committees or groups:	WGBIOP
Linkages to other organisations:	There is a direct link with the EU DCF.