2015/2/SSGIEOM05

The **Workshop on cost benefit analysis of data collection in support of stock assessment and fishery management (WKCOSTBEN)**, chaired by Mike Armstrong*, UK and Jon Helge Vølstad*, Norway, will meet at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen from 28 June – 1 July 2016 2016 to:

a) Propose options and analytical methods for an objective framework to evaluate the benefits vs costs of data sets used to support stock assessment and fishery management advice, where the benefits are in terms of accuracy (bias and precision) of assessment results and derived management variables, and risks to stocks associated with management under uncertainty. This framework should be able to evaluate existing data sets, new data requests from end users, and options for focusing elements of funding, survey design, spatial and temporal coverage, and sampling effort towards components of data collection that have greatest influence on quality of assessments and management decisions for particular stocks or groups of stocks.

b) Identify a range of stocks for detailed case studies, including those with full analytical age-based assessments and data-limited assessments, and contrasting stock status and biology. Describe the data used in the assessments, the design of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent sampling surveys providing the data, including hierarchical cluster sampling designs and analytical methods for quantifying precision reliably. Evaluate sampling rates and allocation for given survey designs that are required to derive estimates with adequate precision. Specify how simulations of the sampling schemes could be used to relate precision to sampling intensity and costs.

c) Develop a proposal for a longer-term (3-year) project to develop a general methodological framework and open-source software to carry out cost-benefit analysis and provide proof of concept using the case study stocks. Identify potential sources of funding.

d) Identify the need for follow-up workshops in 2017 onwards in the event of no funding for a dedicated project.

WKCOSTBEN will report by 8 August 2016 to the attention of the ACOM, SCICOM, and PGDATA..

Supporting Information

Priority	This workshop is considered to have a very high priority for establishing data requirements under the DCF and for ensuring the cost effectiveness of data collection.

Scientific justification	International agreement to exploit all stocks at MSY means that a range of assessment methods is needed to determine MSY reference points and stock status relative to these, including for many data-limited stocks. This will lead to requests for improved or additional data that may not be feasible within existing DCF and national budgets for data collection. It is imperative that objective methods are developed to allow the most cost-effective use of data collection funds to help achieve these management goals. This may involve identifying areas of data collection that have relatively large influence on ability to assess the stocks and those that have relatively little influence, and the costs of collecting these data. Where new data are requested, it must be possible to make an informed judgement on the benefits these will bring to the assessments and management in relation to the feasibility and costs of data collection. Without such a decision framework, the ability to achieve MSY goals may be unnecessarily impeded. This framework will help the European Commission and its Regional Coordination Groups to make informed decisions on regional data needs under the revided DCF and help coordination between countries.
Resource requirements	The principal resource requirements are people with the skills needed for the workshop. Historical data needed for the case study evaluations are already collected and must be made available.
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 and SCICOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	PGDATA, WGCATCH, WGRFS, WGBIOP, WGISDAA.
Linkages to other organizations	RCMs