

Workshop on Sexual Maturity staging from histological tools

The **Workshop on Sexual Maturity staging from histological tools** (WKMATHIS), chaired by Cindy Van Damme, The Netherlands and Maria Cristina Follesa, Italy, will meet in Caen, France, 19-21 September 2017 to:

- a) Review the histological studies applied to validate macroscopic stages,
- b) Explore the classification criteria and prepare an international description of histological criteria to validate macroscopic maturity stages;
- c) Identify the limits of macroscopic staging for the use of gonadal development studies
- d) Identify the needs for histological studies to improve the quality of the macroscopic maturity staging.

WKMATHIS will report by 20 October 2017 for the attention of SSGIEOM and WGBIOP.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Macroscopic stages of gonadal development are an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the maturity ogive and Spawning-stock biomass (SSB). Past maturity staging wk's have brought to light that there is no international agreement on the use of histological criteria to validate macroscopic maturity staging. Limits of the maturity stages are difficult to identify. Consequently, these data provided by different countries present a large bias. Therefore, a WK should be carried out in order to make a general review of the histological studies applied to macroscopic stages, compile international agreed histological descriptions for the different maturity stages, compile an overview of available histological information and to identify the need for further studies on histological tools to validate the macroscopic stages of gonadal development.
Scientific justification:	<p>The necessity to clarify the ogive of maturity is identified during a lot of benchmarks and stocks assessments groups. When the macroscopic stages of maturity are not clearly identifiable, the histological studies are necessary to help to increase the precision of these data.</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to identify the state of art of histological studies to applied to sexual maturity staging, compile an international agreed histological descriptions of maturity stages and to identify the need for further studies on histological tools to validate the macroscopic stages of gonadal development.</p>
Resource requirements:	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
Participants:	Participants should include a mixture of scientists and key technicians with expertise in macroscopic stages of gonadal development and histological methods, as well as stock assessment.
Secretariat facilities:	None.
Financial:	Travel costs will be eligible for participants from Member States of the European Union through the EU Data Collection MAP (DCMAP). Funding for external experts on the age determination methods may be required.
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	WGBIOP

Linkages to other organizations:

There is a direct link with the EU DCF.