WGFAST – Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics, Science and Technology

2016/MA2/SSGIEOM02

The **Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics, Science and Technology (WGFAST)**, chaired by Richard O'Driscoll*, New Zealand, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2017	4-7 April 2017	Nelson, New Zealand	Interim report by 30 June 2017 to SSGIEOM	New chair from 2017
Year 2018	19–23 March	Seattle, USA	Interim report by 23 April 2018 to SSGIEOM	
Year 2019	TBD	TBD	Final report by 30 June 2019 to SSGIEOM	

ToR descriptor

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Collate information on acoustic related research and surveys by Country represented in WGFAST.	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements	27	3	Filled in template for WGFAST report
b	Present recent work within the topics "Applications of acoustic methods to characterize ecosystems", "Acoustic properties of marine organisms", "Behaviour", and "Emerging technologies, methodologies, and protocols".	Create a venue for informing the group members on recent activities and seeking input to further development. An overview of the different contributions will be presented in the annual report	1, 11, 13, 27, 28	1, 2, 3	Report
c	Organize training session on use of acoustics for biomass estimation	Introductory course on use of acoustic for abundance estimation, including survey design and data analysis	31	1	ICES training course
d	Provide guideance for calibrating echosounders on fishing vessels (topic group)	Fishing vessels increasingly collect acoustic data. To allow quantitative use of these data, suitable calibration procedures for fishing	31	1 or 2	Report

		conditions are needed.			
e	Organize joint sessions at ICES ASC		31	2 or 3	Topic session at ICES ASC

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Produce the annual overview of recent developments within the field; organize training session on use of acoustics for biomass estimation; provide guideance for calibrating echosounders on fishing vessels; provide guideance for calibrating echosounders on fishing vessels; collate information on acoustic related research and surveys by country to which WGFAST contributes.
Year 2	Produce the annual overview of recent developments within the field; provide guideance for calibrating echosounders on fishing vessels; collate information on acoustic related research and surveys by country to which WGFAST contributes
Year 3	Produce the annual overview of recent developments within the field; collate information on acoustic related research and surveys; collate information on acoustic related research and surveys by country to which WGFAST contributes.

Supporting information

Priority	Fisheries acoustics and complementary technologies provide the necessary tools and methods to implement the ecosystem approach to fisheries management within ICES and research into their application and further development is vital.
Resource requirements	No new resources will be required. Having overlaps with the other meetings of the Working, Planning, Study and Topic Groups increases efficiency and reduces travel costs.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 60-70 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	Stock assessment groups using acoustic abundance indices.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The work in this group is closely aligned with complementary work in the FTFB Working Group. The work is of direct relevance to the survey planning groups within SSGIEOM and WGISUR.
Linkages to other organizations	The work of this group is closely aligned with similar work in FAO, the Acoustical Society of America, the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Managament Organization and the American Fisheries Society.