

WGFTFB – Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour

2016/MA2/SSGIEOM03

The ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB), chaired by Haraldur A. Einarsson*, Iceland, and Petri Suuronen (FAO), will meet to work on the following Terms of References (ToRs) and produce deliverables as listed in the following table for the years 2017 through 2019. This multi-year ToRs will be updated annually. WGFTFB will report on the activities and findings by 25 June each year to SSGIEOM.

Year	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2017	3-7 April	Nelson, New Zealand	Interim report by 25 June to SSGIEOM	
Year 2018	4–8 June	Hirtshals, Denmark	Interim report by 13 July to SSGIEOM	Incoming FAO chair in replacement of Petri Suuronen
Year 2019	TBD	TBD	Interim report by 25 June to SSGIEOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR Description	Background	Science Plan topics addressed	Duration	Expected Deliverables
A Deliberate, discuss and synthesize recent research on topics related to: i) Designing, planning, and testing of fishing gears used in abundance estimation; ii) Selective fishing gears for the reduction of bycatch, discard and unaccounted mortality, especially as they relate to EU Landing Obligation; iii) Environmentally benign fishing gears and methods, iv) Improving fuel efficiency and reduction of emission from fisheries, and v) Summaries of research activities by nation	Through open sessions and focused, multi-year topic groups, the Working Group provides opportunities for collaboratively developing research proposals, producing reports and manuscripts, and creating technical manuals on current developments and innovations.	28,29, 30, 31 primarily; others are possible (e.g. 11,12, 27)	3 Years	ICES report
B Organize a FAO-hosted FAO-ICES mini-symposium with thematic issues. Symposium themes will be determined at Year 2, and included in the updated ToR.	Under mutual agreement between ICES and FAO, FAO develops and leads a mini-symposium of relevant topics, while also continuing ICES commitments.	29, 30	Year 3	FAO report, ICES report
C Deliberate, discuss and synthesize recent research on topics of mutual interest between WGFTFB and WGFAS	Every three years, WGFAS and WGFTFB meet for one day to share information on topics of mutual interest (JFATB).	27, 30, 31	Year 1	JFATB report
D Help organize an ICES-sponsored international fishing technology and fish behaviour symposium	The last similar symposium was ten years ago (2006).	28, 29, 30, 31	Fall 2020 (outside of scope of this Multiannual ToR)	Symposium and special issue in ICES JMS
E Support survey working group with gear expertise support upon request	SSGIEOM has identified gear expertise gaps in survey working groups.	31	Year 1,2	Including possible survey trawl workshop

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Produce the annual report; hold joint session with WGFAST; connect to survey WGs
Year 2	Produce annual report; Continue development of relationships with survey EGs
Year 3	Produce the annual report; organize FAO-ICES mini-symposium

Supporting information

Priority	The activities of WGFTFB will provide ICES with knowledge and expertise on issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially the evaluation and reduction of the impact of fishing on marine resources and ecosystems and the sustainable use of living marine resources and other topics related to the performance of commercial fishing gears and survey gears.
Resource requirements	The research programmes that provide the main input to this working group already exist, and resources are already committed by individual institutions. The additional resource required to undertake activities in the framework of this group is negligible. However, each institution is encouraged to support participation of experts from their institution.
Participants	The group is normally attended by about 40–50 regular members and chair-invited members. Participation is about 70 - 90 in the year when FAO-ICES mini-symposium is held.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	Linkages to advisory groups via reports on changes to fleets and fleet effort.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with other groups of SSGIEOM, e.g. WGFAST, and the survey groups.
Linkages to other organizations	The WG is jointly sponsored with the FAO.