

WKARBLUE2 – Workshop on Age estimation of Blue Whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*)

2015/2/SSGIEOM10

A Workshop on Age estimation of Blue Whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) (WKARBLUE2) chaired by Patrícia Gonçalves*, Portugal, and Jane A. Godiksen*, Norway, will be established and will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 5–9 June 2017 to:

- a) Review information on age estimations and validation work done so far;
- b) Analyse the results of exchange programme between ageing labs, using a set of otoliths (images);
- c) Clarify the interpretation of annual rings;
- d) Improve the age reading protocols produced during WKARBLUE1;
- e) Present and evaluate the results from age validation studies;
- f) Create a reference collection of agreed age otoliths;
- g) Address the generic ToRs for workshops on age calibration (see WGBIOP Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration).

WKARBLUE2 will report by the 5th of July 2017 for the attention of ACOM, SCICOM, and WGBIOP.

Supporting Information

Priority:	<p>Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. In order to arrive at appropriate management advice ageing procedures must be reliable.</p> <p>Otolith processing methods and age reading methods might differ considerably between countries. Therefore, otolith exchanges should be carried out on a regular basis, and if serious problems exist age reading workshops should be organised to solve these problems.</p>
Scientific justification and relation to action plan:	<p>The aim of the workshop is to review the available information on age determination, and validation for blue whiting, to identify the present problems in age determination for this species, improve the accuracy and precision of age determinations and spread information of the methods and procedures used in different ageing laboratories.</p> <p>A number of samples (otoliths or/and images) of otoliths should be circulated among different laboratories to assess the precision of age readers during 2016. Before the workshop, results from the otoliths circulation/exchange will be presented in 2016. Based on the exchange results, in 2016, age validation studies will be established to be conducted by the participants until the workshop. At the workshop, in 2017, results from the exchange and from the age validation studies will be presented and discussed.</p>
Resource requirements:	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the exchange and in the meeting.
Participants:	Age readers experts working on blue whiting
Secretariat facilities:	None.
Financial:	
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	WGWIDE, WGBIOP, SCICOM, RCMs,
Linkages to other organisations:	None.

