

WGELECTRA – Working Group on Electrical Trawling

2016/2/SSGIEOM22

A **Working Group on Electrical Trawling (WGELECTRA)**, chaired by Maarten Soetaert, Belgium, and Adriaan Rijnsdorp, the Netherlands, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2018	17-19 April	WMR Ijmuiden, the Netherlands	Interim report by 31 of May 2018 to ACOM-SCICOM	
Year 2019			Interim report by end of April 2019 to ACOM-SCICOM	Change in chair (Adriaan Rijnsdorp will step back)
Year 2020			Final report by end of June 2020 to ACOM-SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN TOPICS ADDRESSED	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Produce a state-of-the-art review of all relevant studies on marine electrofishing. Yearly update it by evaluating and incorporating new research to it.	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements	14,19,20,27,29	Yearly update	Review report to SCICOM
b	Compare the ecological and environmental effects of using traditional beam trawls or pulse trawls when exploiting the TAC of North Sea sole, on (i) the sustainable exploitation of the target species (species and size selectivity); (ii) target and non-target species that are exposed to the gear but are not retained (injuries and mortality); (iii) the mechanical disturbance of the seabed; (iv) the structure and functioning of the benthic ecosystem; and to assess (v) the impact of repetitive exposure to the two gear types on marine organisms..	b) Advisory Requirement as part of a response to request from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. s WGECO will provide some considerations for WGELECTRA to take account of when responding to this request.	14,20,26,29,30	Year 1	Relevant section of the WGELECTRA report must be made available for independent external review by 30 April 2018.
c	Discuss and prioritise knowledge gaps, and discuss ongoing and upcoming research projects in the light of these knowledge gaps, including the experimental set up	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements	11,12,14,17,19, 20,27	Year 1, 2 & 3	Scientific research addressing knowledge gaps or questions from management

d	Create a platform for the application for supra-national joint research projects on electrotrawling and scientific publication of the obtained results	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements	17,29	Year 1, 2 & 3	Joint projects and publications among participants and others Collaboration with other related WG's such as WGNSSK, WGCAN
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Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiating the review document - Discussing & evaluating ongoing & recently completed research - Brainstorm & application of a joint research project - Answering special request from The Netherlands-Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating the review document - Discussing & evaluating ongoing& recently completed research - Evaluating and presenting results from joint research projects - Answering possible requests
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalizing the review document - Discussing & evaluating performed research - Presentation achievements and further goals joint research projects - Answering possible requests - Writing the final 3year report

Supporting information

Priority	<p>The current activities of this Group will enable ICES to respond to advice requests from member countries. Consequently these activities are considered to have a very high priority.</p> <p>It will also lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem effects of pulse fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. Current pulse derogations in the sole fishery will expire in 2019. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.</p>
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests. In 2016 two PhD students started working on the ecosystem effects of pulse trawling in the Netherlands.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There is a close working relationship with the Assessment Working groups (WGNSSK) dealing with the target species of the pulse fisheries (sole, plaice) and WGCAN. It is also very relevant to the Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing.
Linkages to other committees or groups	
Linkages to other organizations	/