

**WGNEPS – Working Group on *Nephrops* Surveys**

**2015/MA2/SSGIEOM19** A Working Group on *Nephrops* Surveys (WGNEPS), chaired by Adrian Weetman, Scotland, and Kai Wieland, Denmark, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

|           | MEETING DATES          | VENUE                    | REPORTING DETAILS                            | COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.) |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Year 2016 | 7-11 November          | Reykjavík, Iceland       | Interim report by 31 January 2017 to SSGIEOM |                                  |
| Year 2017 | 28 November-1 December | Heraklion, Greece        | Interim report by 26 January 2018 to EOSG    |                                  |
| Year 2018 | 6-9 November           | IFREMER, Lorient, France | Final report by 14 December 2018 to EOSG     |                                  |

**ToR descriptors**

| TO R | DESCRIPTION   | BACKGROUND   | <a href="#">SCIENCE PLAN CODES</a> | DURATION                | EXPECTED DELIVERABLES  |
|------|---|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|      | Review SISP guidelines  | EOSG have developed guidelines for the SISPs, and it is important to update those guidelines to reflect the use of the protocol by the EGs | 3.1                                | Year 1                  | Review the current SISP guidelines.  |
| a    | To review any changes to design, coverage and equipment for the various <i>Nephrops</i> UWTV surveys. | To ensure surveys used by WKNEPH, WGCSE, and WGNSSK are fit for purpose.   | 3.1                                | Recurrent annual update | Survey summary including and description of alterations to the plan, to relevant assessment-WGs (WKNEPH, WGCSE, WGNSSK,) and SCICOM. Planning of the upcoming surveys for the survey coordinators and cruise leaders, and update the SISP accordingly. |

|   |   |  |               |                         |   |
|---|---|--|---------------|-------------------------|---|
| b | To review the design, coverage, results and uses of <i>Nephtops</i> trawl surveys in consultation with WGISDAA.   | There are trawl surveys for <i>Nephtops</i> in some area and trawling activity also takes place with UWTV surveys. These activities need review and co-ordination. | 3.1           | Recurrent annual update | Survey summary including and description of alterations to the plan, to relevant assessment-WGs (WKNEPH, WGCSE, WGNSSK, WGHMM,) and SCICOM. Planning of the upcoming surveys for the survey coordinators and cruise leaders, and update the SISP accordingly. |
| c | To review video enhancement, video mosaicking, automatic burrow detection and other new technological developments.   | WGNEPS should periodically review emerging technologies that might improve survey methodologies.   | 3.1, 3.3, 4.1 | Recurrent annual update | To update the SISP based on conclusions. Other publications when appropriate.   |
| e | Discuss the utility of UWTV and trawl <i>Nephtops</i> surveys as platforms for the collection of data for OSPAR and MFSD indicators.  | <i>Nephtops</i> UWTV surveys have a role in relation to benthic habitat monitoring and the collection of other environmental and ecosystem variables.              | 2.3, 3.1, 6.1 | Year 2                  | To update the SISP based on conclusions   |
| f | Develop an international database which will hold burrow counts, ground shape files & other data associated with UWTV surveys.<br>Develop an international database on trawl surveys. | There is a need to centralize UWTV data in a single international database. Ensure data is available externally.   | 3.1, 3.3      | Year 2/3                | ICES database   |
| g | Review of existing datasets to evaluate possible factors affecting (i.e. currents, light, etc.) burrow emergence.   | Recent behaviour aspects have been investigated in the laboratory. Important to investigate correlation with field data.   | 5.1           | Year 2/3                | Review paper  |
| h | Developing R scripts for UWTV survey data processing including functions to QC, analyze and visualize data, and interface the tools with the data base (ToR f).                       | Improving standardisation of data QC and data processing. Support new developing surveys on data analysis.   | 3.1, 3.3, 4.1 | Year 3                  | Document and R packages for UWTV survey data.   |

## Summary of the Work Plan

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Year 1</b> | THE MAIN TASK WILL BE TO CARRY OUT A BURROW COUNTING TRAINING WORKSHOP AT A EUROPEAN LEVEL, THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN REYKJAVÍK, ICELAND. THIS WG WILL BE EXTENDED FOR 1 DAY TO ACCOMMODATE THE TRAINING COURSE IN THE SAME WEEK. AROUND 2 DAYS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO REVIEW ANY CHANGES TO DESIGN, COVERAGE AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE VARIOUS NEPHROPS UWTV/TRAWL SURVEYS AND TO REVIEW VIDEO EN-HANCEMENT, VIDEO MOSAICKING, AUTOMATIC BURROW DETECTION AND OTHER NEW TECHNOLOG-ICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THE REMAINING 3 DAYS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE BURROW COUNTING TRAINING WORKSHOP. THE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE MARINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN ICELAND; ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY OTHER INSTITUTES IF REQUIRED. |
| <b>Year 2</b> | TOR a, b and c will be addressed annually. This year will focus on exploring the utility of UWTV and trawl <i>Nephrops</i> surveys as platforms for the collection of data for OSPAR and MFSD indicators (ToR e). Additionally ToRs f and g will also be addressed and plans for ToR h will be made. Decision will be made in relation to the need of further training on burrow counting. If necessary this will take place on year 3.  |
| <b>Year 3</b> | TOR a, b and c will be addressed annually. Work will focus on ToRs f, g and h as well as reviewing any relevant changes to survey procedures. SISP will be updated accordingly.  |

## Supporting information

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| Priority                               | <i>Nephrops</i> are a valuable species whose stocks are potentially susceptible to local depletion. UWTV/Trawl surveys are an integral part of the stock assessment and management advice provided by ICES. WGNEPS is the international co-ordination group for <i>Nephrops</i> surveys focusing on planning, coloboration, quality control and survey development issues. This work is considered high priority. |
| 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 15–20 members and guests.  |
| Secretariat facilities                 | None.   |
| Financial                              | No financial implications.  |
| Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM | This group will feed into the assessment working groups and subsequently on to ACOM   |
| Linkages to other committees or groups | There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of WKNEPH. It is also very relevant to stock assessment experts groups that used the survey results i.e. WGCSE and WGNSSK Links with WGISDAA to address ToR b and WGISUR to address ToR e.   |
| Linkages to other organizations        | None  |