

WKUSER – Workshop on unavoidable survey effort reduction

2017/2/EOSG07

The **Workshop on unavoidable survey effort reduction** (WKUSER), chaired by Stan Kotwicki*, US, will meet in Seattle, US, on 14–18 January 2019 to:

- a) The workshop will reflect on the current processes used in dealing with unavoidable reductions in survey efforts and examine the existing coping strategies (e.g. spatial coverage, survey frequency, or sampling density) and their qualitative consequences.
- b) Develop key quality metrics that can be used to describe “total survey uncertainty” for survey derived indices of abundance for common survey designs.
- c) Define “changes to survey designs” that require inter-survey calibration and what changes can be resolved by a model-based approach to index generation.
- d) Consider the development of methods that aim to provide quantitative decision-making tools that describe the effects on the quality of the survey deliverables and ultimately advisory products.

WKUSER will report by 15 February 2019 for the attention of the ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	Marine surveys are expensive and under recent budgetary and political pressures a number of decisions on survey implementation have had to be made at very short notice and with little opportunity to evaluate different options for effort reductions the effects of which will only become apparent in the next few years. Such changes are likely to be a recurring theme, and it is in the interest of national governments making the decisions and ICES using such information for their advice to have a better understanding of their effects on stock assessment advice and a clearer understanding of the mitigation measures that can be implemented to minimise the impact of such events.
Scientific justification	<p>Most survey programs are at one time or another asked to make substantial short term savings. Usually these requests leave little time for planning let alone evaluation so there is real need to develop methods that provide a better understanding of the risks of different implementation options, an investigation of methods that can help to compensate for some of the information loss, and lastly under which survey design and survey objectives these methods are most appropriate.</p> <p>Often survey scientist / managers are having to make decisions on the fly, the consequences of which are poorly understood. Having a framework or a set of methods that can be applied to the specific problem is highly valuable together with summarisations of findings for general cases, which allow survey scientist to make decisions in the absence of data or the opportunity to evaluate options statistically.</p>
Resource requirements	Many different approaches to evaluate effects and survey options have been developed independently at different times in response to specific cases. A large part of this work is to 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	Unknown at present but likely between 10 and 20 participants
Secretariat facilities	None.

Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	There is a direct link with the advisory committee as they require knowledge on the sensitivity of the advice to changes in surveys in order to provide precautionary advice when survey information is compromised.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The workshop should link closely back to WGSDAA which will maintain the tools / methods and broaden the approach over time. Work with stock assessment WG is thought to be essential.
Linkages to other organizations	The work of this group is closely aligned with similar work in FAO and in the Census of Marine Life Programme.