

Advisory Committee on Ecosystems (ACE) Resolutions 2006

2006/2/ACE01 The **Advisory Committee on Ecosystems [ACE]** (Chair: Mark Tasker, UK*) will meet at ICES Headquarters from 22–23 May 2007, and on 24 May together with ACFM at Council expense to:

- a) Prepare scientific advice and information, as requested by the Commissions (OSPAR, HELCOM), other regulatory agencies, and Member Countries of ICES, and any other advice which the Committee or Council may consider relevant;
- b) Contribute, as required, to the preparation of advice to other regulatory bodies in collaboration with the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment (ACME) and the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM);
- c) Report to the Science Committees on future scientific needs and priorities related to the work of ACE;
- d) Review expert group reports for issues of strategic scientific/advisory relevance to ACE and to clients and to report on the issues identified.;
- e) Develop and report on a timebound process for reviewing the work of EMPAS.

With the approval of the General Secretary, the Chair of ACE may invite relevant experts to attend specific parts of the meetings at Council expense.

For Consultations at national expense during the ASC 2007 week to:

- f) Establish and review working procedures for ACE;
- g) Propose Terms of Reference, dates and venues for meetings of groups reporting to ACE in 2008;
- h) Conduct other business related to the functioning of ACE, including proposal for work to be done by other committees and expert groups.

The Consultations will be open to Delegates, ACE members and their alternates, ex-officio members, Chairs of groups reporting to ACE or their designates, Observers to ACE, and other experts at the invitation of the Chair of ACE.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High.
JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) This relates to OSPAR requests: (1) to prepare an assessment of what is known of the changes in the distribution and abundance of marine species in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature; (2) to prepare an assessment by February 2007 of the evidence on which further nominations for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats are based. This will be done by assembling an ad-hoc group of experts from each of the relevant specialist groups to develop the advice; and (3) to contribute to the development of a possible request for the 2008 ICES work programme, through the preparation of an initial scoping report on the content and methods for developing an assessment of the environmental impact of marine fisheries by 2008.</p> <p>b) to support the work of other Advisory Committees and to promote the development of integrated advice</p> <p>c) this ToR is intended to strengthen the role of ACE in supporting the strategic development of science and advice in ICES</p> <p>d) this ToR is intended to strengthen the role of ACE in supporting the strategic development of science and advice in ICES and in guiding the science agendas of client commissions.</p> <p>e) this ToR is intended to ensure ACE maintain active oversight and management of work that may ultimately be issued as advice</p> <p>ACE will furthermore by correspondence review the outcome of short term request if such appear</p>

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	Nationally nominated and ex officio members
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	A large meeting room and secretariat support are required. The ICES co-ordinator should assist in developing the response to ToR e)
FINANCIAL:	Funds for travel and per diem for the attendance of ACE members at the meeting, approximately DKK 320,000
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACME, ACFM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	MHC, OCC, FTC, LRC, BC
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC, HELCOM, OSPAR, NASCO, NEAFC

2006/2/ACE02 The **Working Group on Deep-water Ecology** [WGDEC] (Chair: Mark Tasker, UK) will meet in the MBA laboratories in Plymouth, UK from 26 to 28 February 2007 to:

- a) Examine information on cold-water corals on Eastern Rockall and Hatton Bank and report on suitable areas to close in order to protect cold-water corals;
- b) Compile a map of seabed areas where biological research/survey has occurred in the deep water area (>200m) of the North Atlantic;
- c) Review and report on the location of areas holding large structural sponges in the North Atlantic;
- d) Review and report on the occurrence of soft-coral communities, specifically Gorgonians and Antipatharians in the North Atlantic

- e) Evaluate and report on the effects of the closed areas introduced in 2005 in the NEAFC area, with special regard to species diversity or to abundance of any other living organisms, which may indicate the quality of the ecosystem.
- f) Assess and report on the evidence on which the nomination of Octocoral ecosystems that include *Paragorgia arborea*, *Primnoa resaediformes* and other gorgonian corals for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats is based. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure that the data used to support the nomination are sufficiently reliable and adequate to serve as a basis for conclusions that the habitats can be identified as a threatened and/or declining habitat according to OSPAR's Texel/Faial criteria. *[Note: this Term of Reference only has to be addressed if this request has not been fulfilled by an ad-hoc group in advance of the Expert Group meeting. Whether an ad-hoc group will be required can only be decided after further consultations with OSPAR. based on input from OSPAR MASH which meets in October. The ACE Chair will inform the chair on the outcome of these discussions in November 2006].*
- g) Consider the needs of and plan for a possible ICES symposium on conservation issues in the deep sea in 2009. If possible identify suitable convenors, co-sponsors and an outline programme *[See ICES template]*

The Chairs of WGDEC and WGDEEP (Mark Tasker, UK and Paul Marchal, France) will cooperate to ensure that expertise on deep-water fishing is available at the meeting.

WGDEC will report by 31 March 2007 for the attention of ACE and the Living Resources Committee.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High. This is the only group in ICES providing information on deep water ecology that is proving to be an expanding area of interest to fisheries managers and to OSPAR.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION:	<p>A continuation of work to meet requests from both OSPAR (past) and NEAFC (current).</p> <p>Essential to understand the geographic limits of knowledge</p> <p>Large structural sponge fields are a habitat believed sensitive to fishing.</p> <p>Soft corals are also sensitive to fishing – information from c) and d) will be useful in providing advice to fisheries managers wishing to avoid damaging these habitats.</p> <p>This is in support of a request from NEAFC</p> <p>This is a request from OSPAR</p> <p>This is a request from Consultative Committee following an external suggestion</p>
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	Action plan 1.2.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None
PARTICIPANTS:	Approximately 10–15. Expertise on cold-water corals and on deep-water fishing is required.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACE, ACFM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	LRC, MHC, WGECO, WGMHM, WGDEEP
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC, OSPAR, NEAFC

2006/2/ACE03 The **Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities** [WGECO] (Chair: S. Rogers, UK) will meet for 8 days from 11-18 April 2007 at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen to:

- a) Build on its past work with Ecosystem Objectives, Indicators and Reference Points to select a small number of promising ecosystem indicators for use in management, and test their performance when used with the “classic 3-stage model” for harvest control rules [as discussed in WGECO 2006 Section 5.3.2];
- b) Build on its past work with Ecosystem Objectives, Indicators and Reference Points in a research context to elaborate some candidate decision rules for addressing ecological and fisheries objectives, and test the performance of alternative hierarchical applications of decision rules [as proposed in SGMAS Section 7.2.2.4 and discussed in WGECO 2006 Section 5.3.3];
- c) Review and report on the work of WGFE on further development of EcoQOs for fish size and consider the results of the analyses carried out. Use the results of the analyses to complete the development of fully quantified and operational EcoQOs for the two size-based indicators [this work is implicit in section 6.4.2 of WGECO’s 2006 report]. This should include:
 - i) Fully quantified targets for the two indicators proportion of fish >30cm and mean weight of fish.

- ii) Estimation of projected time-scales by which these targets might be achieved under a variety of different remedial fisheries management strategies (reductions in “community” F).
- d) Develop and report on an integrated framework for the further provision of ecosystem advice in European Seas drawing on existing experience with implementing the OSPAR EcoQO framework, the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and proposals for the European Marine Strategy;
- e) Review and report on the impacts of Crangon shrimp beam trawling on benthic habitats and the marine ecosystem in the North Sea;
- f) Prepare an initial scoping report on the content and methods for developing an assessment of the environmental impact of marine fisheries by 2008 (OSPAR 2008), as a contribution to the Quality Status Report 2010;
- g) Review and integrate the outputs of Expert Groups contributing to ‘the assessment of changes in the distribution and abundance of marine species in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature’ and to produce a draft advisory text for review by ACE and OSPAR [Further details on the interpretation and handling of this ToR will be provide by ACE in November];
- h) Advise ACE on future management of the OSPAR request on ‘An assessment of the changes in the distribution and abundance of marine species in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature’ [Further details on the interpretation and handling of this ToR will be provided by ACE in November 2006];
- i) Bring together and as far as possible standardise, review and report on assessments from other ICES working groups on which further nominations for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats are based. [Note: this Term of Reference only has to be addressed if this request has not been fulfilled by an ad-hoc group in advance of the Expert Group meeting. Whether an ad-hoc group will be required can only be decided after further consultations with OSPAR. Based on input from OSPAR MASH which meets in October. The ACE Chair will inform the chair on the outcome of these discussions in November 2006].

WGECO will report for the attention of ACE by 15 May 2006.

Supporting information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) and b) Recent development of fisheries management strategies both at SGMAS and WGECO have considered how the ecosystem effects of fishing could be inserted into the formal provision of advice. It is clear that there is broad agreement on the principles of ecosystem-based fisheries management strategies, but limited practical application within ICES. Based on work of the two groups in 2005 and 2006 these two ToR are identified as practical and achievable steps that can be taken within the current constraints of the advisory process and the schedules of the expert groups.</p> <p>c) For several years ICES has undertaken detailed evaluation of size-based metrics of fish populations, in support of management processes including the EcoQO framework of OSPAR. This builds on advice provided in WGECO 2006 and uses results of a complimentary set of ToR to WGFE 2007 to further develop the use of size based indicators of fish as performance metrics.</p>

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN CONTINUED:	<p>d) There are currently no clear management frameworks within Europe which clearly and simply link the work of OSPAR to develop the EcoQO process with the objectives that underpin the developing Marine Strategy and the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. This ToR will present a simplified framework showing how high level headline indicators and more specific management indicators contribute to the achievement of European Vision and Strategic goals, and deliver sectoral objectives, that is acceptable within national governments, the EU and OSPAR.</p> <p>e) Direct request by the Working Group on Crangon Fisheries and Life History (WGCRAN).</p> <p>f) A request from OSPAR</p> <p>g) A request from OSPAR</p> <p>h) A request from OSPAR</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None
PARTICIPANTS:	Approximately 20-25. Wide ranging expertise on fisheries effects and ecosystem components required. Also familiarity with EU and OSPAR marine strategies.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	A large meeting room and secretariat support are required
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACE, ACFM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGFE, WGDEC, WGMME, WGSE, BEWG
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC, OSPAR, NEAFC

2006/2/ACE04 The **Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology** [WGMME] (Chair: M. Scheidat, Germany) will meet on Vilm, Germany 27-30 March 2007 to:

- a) Review and report on any new information on population sizes, by catches or mitigation measures and suggest relevant advice in response to the European Commission standing request regarding fisheries that have a significant impact on small cetaceans and other marine mammals;
- b) Review and report on the outputs of the SCANS II project and report on the usefulness of future work for ICES;
- c) Review and report on intersessional work on the development of a web based report structure;
- d) Review and report on the progress report of the Planning Group for the WGMME Workshop on Environmental Quality and Marine Mammal Health;
- e) Assess and report on changes in the distribution, population abundance and condition of marine mammals in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature [Further details on the interpretation and handling of this ToR will be provided by ACE in November 2006].

WGMME will report for the attention of ACE by 20 April 2007.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) This work is required in relation to MoU between the European Commission and ICES. This also addresses Goal 1 of the ICES Strategic Plan.</p> <p>b) Many of the results from SCANS II will be considered under ToR 'a' but some additional aspects will be helpful to the WGMME in interpreting the request for advice from the EU.</p> <p>c) This will improve the efficiency of WGMME work</p> <p>d) Marine mammals are upper trophic level predators that accumulate high levels of pollutants. This addresses Goal 2 in the ICES Strategic Plan.</p> <p>e) This is in support to a request from OSPAR</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific requirements beyond the needs of members to prepare for, and participate in, the meeting
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 10–20 members.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	None.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The WGMME reports to the ACE (Advisory Committee on Ecosystems).
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	Under tor c it is likely we would like to develop a working relationship with WGIBTS.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	

2006/2/ACE05 The **Working Group for Regional Ecosystem Description** [WGRED] (Chair: Jake Rice, Canada) will meet back-to-back with AMAWGC at ICES Headquarters from 19 to 23 February 2007 and in the margin of the ASC 2007 to:

- a) For each Eco-region to be used in the 2007 ICES advice, review drafts of Ecosystem Overviews that have been prepared by teams of experts from fisheries and environmental laboratories in each Eco-region, coordinated by a designated WGRED member from each Eco-region, for clarity, accuracy, consistency, and usefulness in the ICES Advisory Reports, and revise as necessary;
- b) Identify and document any major environmental or anthropogenic events in each of the Eco-regions that should be taken into special account in ICES assessments and advice in 2007, and to the extent possible recommend ways in which this information could be used by Expert Groups and Advisory Committees;
- c) Review and report on the work undertaken inter-sessionally to test the robustness of harvest control strategies to environmental forcing, for selected case histories proposed in Section 4.6 of the 2006 WGRED report, or alternatives as available, and to the extent possible recommend improvements to practice in use of harvest control rules in ICES assessments and advice;
- d) Review and report on the progress made by the Cod and Climate Change and REGNS initiatives, in the context of current practice of assessment working groups and other expert groups, with the objective of identifying opportunities to alter assessment practices to operationalize the results of that initiative. To the extent justified by the results, recommend improvements to practice in assessment working groups, including revised or new Terms of Reference for various groups;
- e) Review the major on-going research projects in the ICES area, including but not exclusively ones funded by EU-funding sources, whose results are likely to be

relevant to including environmental and ecosystem considerations in assessments and fisheries advice, and develop and report on a schedule for conducting work similar to ToR d) for the other research projects.

WGRED should report for the attention of ACE and ACFM by 15 March 2007.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	a-e) Action Plan No: 1.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 15–25 members .
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting Room.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There overviews prepared by WGRED are used directly by all three advisory committees. The work done on including environmental considerations in assessments and advice is directly relevant to ACFM and ACE.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of the Fisheries Technology Committee. It is also very relevant to the Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fisheries.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The work of this group is closely aligned to major research projects funded by the EU and work conducted by other ICES expert groups

2006/2/ACE06 **The Study Group on Effects of Sound in the Marine Environment**
[SGESME] (Chair: Magnus Wahlberg, DK) will meet by correspondence in 2007 to:

- a) Continue the development of an online document describing the physics of sound in the marine environment;
- b) Review and report on new information of the effects of sonar on marine mammals and fish;
- c) Review and report on mitigation measures to reduce any effects of sound on the marine environment;
- d) Review and report on the effects of wind farm sounds on the marine environment;
- e) Develop a two-year work plan to review other aspects of sound in the marine environment;

SGESME will report by 20 March 2007 for the attention of ACE and WGFAST (FTC).

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Moderate. A review of the effects of sound (noise) on marine mammals and fish were the subject of a recent request for advice from the European Commission and it is known that there is considerable public interest in the issue.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION:	ToR a-e. All ToR are intended to develop ICES capacity to provide information on the effects of sound in the marine environment.
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific requirements. Online correspondence and working.
PARTICIPANTS:	Approximately 10–15.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Limited as meeting by correspondence
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACE, ACFM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	FTC,
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC, OSPAR, HELCOM