

## Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment (ACME)

2006/2/ACME01 The **Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment** [ACME] (Chair: P. Keizer, Canada) will meet:

A) at ICES Headquarters from 16-18 April 2007 at Council expense to:

- a) prepare the scientific advice and information on the status and outlook for the marine environment, including contaminants, requested by the environmental Commissions (OSPAR, HELCOM, EC), other regulatory agencies, and Member Countries of ICES, and any other advice which the Management Committee on the Advisory Process (MCAP) may consider relevant;
- b) contribute, as required, to the preparation of advice to other regulatory bodies in collaboration with the Advisory Committee on Ecosystems (ACE) and the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM);
- c) improve the form of advice and methods to reflect the need for environment related advice and advice based on long-term considerations;
- d) critically consider and respond to the strategy for the development of the advisory services proposal;
- e) provide advice and guidance to the Science Committees on future scientific needs and priorities related to the work of ACME.

With the approval of the General Secretary, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment may invite relevant experts to attend specific parts of the meetings at Council expense.

B) for **Consultations** to be held at national expense during the 2007 ASC to:

- a) establish and review working procedures for ACME;
- b) propose and finalise Terms of Reference, dates, and venues for meetings of groups reporting to ACME in 2007;
- c) conduct other business related to the functioning of ACME, including proposals for work to be done by other committees and expert groups.

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

### Supporting Information

Priority:	High.
Scientific Justification and relation to Action Plan:	ACME will be more proactive in providing direction to Expert Groups through the Science Committees on the future needs for environmental advice. The Committee will respond to the report and proposals for changes in the advisory services from MCAP and science programme from CONC.
Resource Requirements:	
Participants:	Nationally nominated and <i>ex officio</i> members
Secretariat Facilities:	A large meeting room, with several rooms for subgroups, and Secretariat assistance are required.
Financial:	Funds for the travel and per diem for members; approximately

	DKK 330,000
Linkages to Advisory Committees:	ACE, ACFM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups:	MHC, OCC, MARC
Linkages to other Organisations:	HELCOM, OSPAR, EC

2006/2/ACME02 The **ICES/OSPAR/HELCOM Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Biological measurements (STGQAB)** (Chairs: Johan Wikner, Sweden (HELCOM area,) and (?) (OSPAR area)) will meet at ICES headquarters from 13th to 15th of February 2007 to:

- a) review the activities of the HELCOM Phytoplankton expert group
- b) review the outcome of the HELCOM Phytoplankton workshop
- c) review and propose new data validation guidelines for the HELCOM manual
- d) review and propose on updated guidelines for Phytoplankton in the HELCOM COMBINE manual
- e) review and update the JAMP guidelines for phytoplankton and chlorophyll according to good current practice and/or international standards for acceptability of biological sampling and analytical practices required by monitoring programmes;
- f) review and evaluate the status of implementation and the practical use of OSPAR/ICES quality assurance guidelines in marine monitoring and assessment programmes with respect to phytoplankton in the OSPAR/ICES area and provide guidance for future assessment programmes;
- g) review the progress with, and offer further advice on the development of QA of biological measurements with respect to phytoplankton in relation to OSPAR JAMP products,
- h) review the outcome of the Water Framework Directive intercalibration exercise with respect to biological quality elements with respect to phytoplankton and assess this as the basis for ongoing quality assurance of biological measurements within OSPAR.

STGQAB will report on the attention of the ACME and the Marine Habitat and Oceanography Committees by 1 March 2007, as well as the meeting of the OSPAR Working group on concentrations, Trends and effects of Substances in the Marine Environment.

**Supporting information:**

Priority:	High.
Scientific Justification and relation to action plan:	Items a) – d) are of utmost importance for quality assurance and quality control in the HELCOM/OSPAR monitoring and assessment scheme, which is under harmonization with WFD requirements. This will involve the review of received material and following acceptance in order to maintain and increase the level of QA/AQC in the COMBINE programme. Items e) – h) are responses to OSPAR requests from 2006 and are of the highest priority. <b>N.B. ICES is experiencing difficulties with adequate representation of research related to phytoplankton and bacterioplankton. Execution of this resolution is dependent upon member countries contributing the necessary resources.</b> If resources are not available the resolutions will have to be delayed until 2008 when the new “WGPE” will be formed.
Resource Requirements	
Participants:	Scientists from ICES Member Countries and HELCOM/OSPAR Contracting Parties, involved in QA of monitoring of bacterioplankton, and phytoplankton/primary production
Secretariat Facilities:	Meeting room and secretariat assistance is

	required
Financial:	
Linkages to Advisory Committee:	ACME, ACE
Linkage to other Committees or Groups:	WGZE, WGPE, BEWG, SGNSBP, WGEKO, WGDIM, WGSDEM, MHC, Baltic Committee
Linkage to other Organisations:	OSPAR, HELCOM

2006/2/ACME03 **ICES/HELCOM Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Chemical measurements (STGQAC)** (Chair: Elisabeth Sahlsten, Sweden) will meet from 19–21 March 2007 in Hamburg, Germany, in parallel with the Marine Chemistry Working Group, to:

- a) coordinate quality assurance activities on chemical measurements in the Baltic marine area and report routinely on planned and ongoing ICES inter-comparison exercises, and to provide a full report on the results;
- b) Update, where required, the annexes on Quality Assurance in relation to the HELCOM/COMBINE manual on Chemical Measurements in the Baltic Sea.

STGQAC will report to ACME by 30 March 2007.

### Supporting information

Priority:	High
Scientific Justification:	The ICES/HELCOM STGQAC is a working group organised to coordinate the development and implementation of a QA-programme for laboratories participating in the Baltic Monitoring Programme. The group meets annually. These terms of reference are to respond to the requirements of HELCOM.
Relation to Strategic Plan:	SP Goals 1 & 2.
Resource Requirements:	No extra resources are needed from ICES.
Participants:	STGQAC members, HELCOM/PLC representative will be invited
Secretariat Facilities:	
Financial:	
Linkages to Advisory Committees:	ACME
Linkages to other Committees or Groups:	MCWG, WGS AEM, WGMDM, MHC, OCC, Baltic Committee
Linkages to other organisations:	HELCOM, QUASIMEME

2006/2/ACME04 The **ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Ballast and Other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV)** (Chair: Anders Jelmert\*, Norway) meet in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 19-21 March, 2007 to:

- a) critically review and report on the status of ballast water research with an emphasis on new developments in ballast water treatment technology, risk assessment, ballast water sampling devices, and selection of ballast water exchange zones to contribute to guidelines currently in preparation by IMO;
- b) continue its global review of shipping vectors through the participation of representatives from ICES, IMO, IOC, CIESM, BMB and PICES Member States and of invited experts;
- c) finalize the ICES Ballast Water Sampling Manual;
- d) prepare a draft ICES Code of Best Practice for the Management of Ships Hull Fouling;
- e) continue reviewing port sampling protocols with the aim to prepare a draft ICES Code of Best Practice for Port Sampling;
- f) consider and respond to the recommendation from ACME to merge in 2008 WGITMO and WGBOSV into a single working group with a broadened mandate for the occurrence and impact of marine invasive and/or pest organisms.

WGBOSV will report by 2 April 2007 for the attention of ACME.

Priority:	The current activities of this Group will direct ICES towards issues related to the high priority issue of unintentional species invasions.
Scientific Justification:	<p>a) contributes to the continuing global effort to reduce the risks of the unintentional introduction of aquatic invasive species through the discharge of ballast water.</p> <p>b) Consideration of hull fouling and other non-ballast shipping vectors is of equal importance for species invasion compared to ballast water in some areas. Hull fouling and other non-ballast shipping vectors also need to be considered.</p> <p>c) finalize the ICES Ballast Water Sampling Manual,</p> <p>d) prepare a draft ICES Code of Best Practice for the Management of Ships Hull Fouling taking into account the recommendation from ACME to expand the scope to include all shipping vectors other than ballast water;</p> <p>e) Draft guidelines will be prepared intersessionally and finalised at the meeting.</p> <p>f) These two groups have many members in common and have regularly deemed it beneficial to meet consecutively and in the same location, hence ACME is proposing the 2 groups be merged in 2008. It is also recommended that the mandate of the merged group be expanded to cover the general issue of marine invasive and/or pest organisms. The two groups are asked to consider this recommendation and respond to ACME with any concerns.</p>
Relation to Strategic Plan:	
Resource Requirements:	None required other than those provided by host country and national members.
Participants:	Participation of representatives from ICES Member Countries, IMO, IOC, PICES, CIESM, shipping agencies, and scientists from relevant research groups world-wide.
Secretariat Facilities:	None required
Justification of venue	The WGITMO agreed to hold the meeting in Dubrovnik in response to a request by the observers (Marijana Pecarevic and Josip Mikus) to assist Croatia with raising awareness of the risks of marine

	<p>introductions in Croatia and to share the scientific knowledge of the EG with local scientists. One justification for holding the meeting in Croatia was to share information from the WITGMO EG with local scientists on potential invaders, risks of invasions, and management or control options.</p> <p>The observers agreed to provide local sponsorship of the WGITMO meeting if it were held in Croatia. The last two meetings were held at ICES countries (Norway and Belgium).</p> <p>There is a value in having meetings in locations where officials may not fully appreciate the risks of invasive species and impacts (economic and ecological) to society, holding the meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia will benefit Croatia, foster exchange between scientists will benefit ICES and Croatia, and meet other ToR requirements.</p>
Financial:	None required
Linkages to Advisory Committees:	ACME
Linkages to other Committees or Groups:	WGITMO as well as to other related ICES Working Groups, such as Working Group on Harmful Algal Bloom Dynamics (WGHABD), PICES WG15 on Harmful Algal Blooms and the newly established PICES WG21 on biological invasions.
Linkages to other Organisations:	IOC, IMO, PICES, CIESM, BMB

2006/2/ACME/05     **The ICES Working Group on Introduction and Transfers of Marine Organisms (WGITMO)** (Chair: Judith Pederson\*, USA) will meet in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 22–23 March 2007 in conjunction with the meeting of the ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Ballast and other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV) to:

- a) To identify and report on changes in the distribution, population abundance and condition of introduced marine species in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature;
- b) consider and report on the utility and content of the National reports (TORs a and b) and the format and publication of the New Species Alerts;
- c) synthesise and evaluate National Reports, after intersessionally restructuring the report format to ensure consistency for ease of assessment and to include geographic information (latitude and longitude) for rapid tracking of the spread of invasive species;
- d) develop a 5 year summary of National Reports (2003–2007) with the aim to prepare a 25 year summary based on earlier reports at a future meeting (intersessional preparation of draft material is essential),
- e) finalize a report for rapid response and control options, including
  - a ) invitation of an internationally recognized expert to develop a risk assessment strategy for the rapid response including likelihood of success of eradication, impact of the invasive species on species in the area of introduction and impact of control methods (e.g. chemical eradication) on non-target species and habitat in the receiving environment;
  - b ) contribute intersessionally to the database (Excel spreadsheet) for the rapid response account (e.g. case histories);
- f) develop Alien Species Alert reports including evaluation of impacts and to increase public awareness. WGITMO suggests to prepare intersessionally a Species Alert Report on the Pacific oyster *Crassostrea gigas* with the aim to finalize the report at next years meeting. Other candidate species are the Chinese mitten crab and *Didemnum* sp. (intersessional preparation of draft material is essential);
- g) review the impact of targeted fisheries on non-indigenous species (e.g. King crab, Chinese mitten crab, Green crab, Manila clam);
- h) consider and respond to the recommendation from ACME to merge in 2008 WGITMO and WGBOSV into a single working group with a broadened mandate for the occurrence and impact of marine invasive and/or pest organisms.

WGITMO will report by 2 April 2007 for the attention of ACME.

**Supporting information:**

Priority:	The work of the Group is the basis for essential advice to prevent future unintentional movements of invasive and/or deleterious aquatic species including disease agents and parasites with the legitimate trade in species required for aquaculture, table market, ornamental trade, fishing and other purposes and to assess the potential of species moved intentionally to become a nuisance in the area of introduction. The work of this Group supports the core role of ICES in relation to planned introductions and transfers of organisms.
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<p>Scientific Justification:</p>	<p>a) this is a request from OSPAR; further details on the interpretation and handling of this ToR will be provide by ACE;</p> <p>b) ACME expresses concern that the amount of work involved in the TOR (c), (d) is not consistent with the apparent utility of the reports. The WG is asked to consider focussing the reports on the documentation of the occurrence of unintentionally introduced new species<sup>1</sup>, their spatial extent over time, and the risk analysis of their potential impact. With respect to publication of the New Species Alerts, TOR (f) it is suggested that these should be published electronically in a prominent space on the ICES web site and thus consideration should be given to the appropriate organization of the material for this method of publication.</p> <p>c) and d) The work is needed for the working group to maintain an overview of relevant activities in Member Countries and other areas from which species could be spread to Member Countries.</p> <p>e) The work on rapid response and control options will provide guidance on what to do in case a new species is recorded.</p> <p>f) The preparation of Aliens Species Alert Reports including an evaluation of impacts is an awareness raising instrument.</p> <p>g) The impact review of targeted fisheries on non-indigenous species may support a cost/benefit analysis of planned species introductions and may also facilitate the use of the ICES Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms;</p> <p>h) These two groups have many members in common and have regularly deemed it beneficial to meet consecutively and in the same location. Introduction of invasive organisms by marine transport is just one of the vectors for unintentional introductions that need to be considered by ICES. Also there is growing concern about indigenous marine organisms that become pests due to climate change or impacts of human activities. The mandate of the merged group would be expanded to cover the general issue of marine invasive and/or pest organisms. The two groups are asked to consider this recommendation and respond to ACME with any concerns.</p>
<p>Relation to Strategic Plan:</p>	
<p>Resource Requirements:</p>	<p>Normal meeting facilities provided by host country and participation of national members.</p>
<p>Participants:</p>	<p>WGITMO members and invited experts from, e.g., Australia, New Zealand, Mediterranean countries that are not members of ICES, representatives of relevant PICES WGs. Further, for the development of the rapid response and control options report it is recommended to invite an internationally recognized expert to develop a risk assessment strategy for the rapid response including likelihood of success of eradication, impact of the invasive species on species in the area of introduction and impact of control methods (e.g. chemical eradication) on non-target species and habitat in the receiving environment.</p> <p>WGITMO recommends inviting experts with relevant expertise to contribute to the Aliens Species Alert reports and experts from countries which have developed/are developing rapid response plans.</p>
<p>Justification of venue</p>	<p>The WGITMO agreed to hold the meeting in Dubrovnik in response to a request by the observers (Marijana Pecarevic and Josip Mikus) to assist Croatia with raising awareness of the risks of marine introductions in Croatia and to share the scientific knowledge of the EG with local scientists. One justification for holding the meeting in Croatia was to share information from the WITGMO EG with local scientists on potential invaders, risks of invasions, and management or control options.</p> <p>The observers agreed to provide local sponsorship of the WGITMO meeting if it were held in Croatia. The last two meetings were held at ICES countries (Norway and Belgium).</p>

<sup>1</sup> provided a mechanism presently exists for information on intentional introductions.

	There is a value in having meetings in locations where officials may not fully appreciate the risks of invasive species and impacts (economic and ecological) to society, holding the meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia will benefit Croatia, foster exchange between scientists will benefit ICES and Croatia, and meet other ToR requirements.
Secretariat Facilities:	None required
Financial:	None required
Linkages to Advisory Committees:	ACME
Linkages to other Committees or Groups:	WGHABD, WGEIM, WGBOSV, WGAGFM, WGMASC, Mariculture Committee.
Linkages to other Organisations:	WGITMO urges ICES to encourage and support joint meetings with EIFAC, in addition to a continued dialogue between WGITMO and BMB, PICES, IMO, IOC, EU, HELCOM, EIFAC, BMB, CIESM.

2006/2/ACME06

The **ICES/OSPAR Workshop on Integrated Monitoring of Contaminants and their Effects in Coastal and Open-sea Areas [WKIMON III]** (Co-chairs: I. Davies, UK and K. J. Thain, UK) will meet at ICES headquarters from 16–18 January 2007 to:

- a) Assess whether the recommendations made at WKIMON II have been adequately addressed. If not, to make proposals to achieve this;
- b) To undertake further development of assessment criteria both for specific biological effects methods and of the integrated approach to monitoring;
- c) To organise an international pilot study applying a comprehensive approach using data from several CPs, and apply it to both specific CEMP issues and to the general health assessment of a region.

WKIMON will report by 2 February 2007 for the attention of ACME, OSPAR SIME, and OSPAR ASMO.

### Supporting Information

Priority:	The current activities of this group are directed towards developing an integrated approach to monitoring and assessment of both chemical and effects for application within OSPAR monitoring programmes. Consequently these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
Scientific Justification and relation to Action Plan:	Action Plan No: 1. Final Terms of Reference are still being formulated by OSPAR that may replace or supplement the following: a) In order to maintain the momentum generated by the WKIMON workshop approach. No other forum within the ICES/OSPAR system has the necessary expertise. b) Required to underpin the application of the integrated approach to monitoring. c) This issue will require a good deal of intersessional work to collect the data and to present it in a suitable form to be worked on at WKIMON III.
Resource Requirements:	None.
Participants:	The Group is normally attended by some 20-25 members
Secretariat Facilities:	None
Financial:	None
Linkages To Advisory Committees:	ACME.
Linkages To other Committees or Groups:	MHC
Linkages to other Organisations:	The work of this group is undertaken directly for OSPAR, reporting to SIME.