

Reform of the ICES Advisory Programme into the ICES Advisory Services

24 October 2007

Resolution

for

ICES Advisory Services, Reform of the ICES Advisory Programme

Background

1. The Council recalled its resolution from October 2006 recommending that MCAP further develop its proposals for a unified advisory structure, including an Implementation Plan from 2008 accompanied by changes to the Rules of Procedure.
2. The Council also recalled that it stressed the need for an ongoing, comprehensive, and open consultation process within the ICES community.
3. Noting that the reform of the science programme is still under discussion the Council repeats that a strong link between Science and Advice is of the utmost importance and that this link shall be assured.

On this background the Council has decided:

4. The Council recognizes that the new advisory system will require adjustments, especially during its first years of operation, in order to function as intended. The Advisory Committee shall have the authority to introduce such adjustments.
 - a) The Council establishes its Advisory Services to be led by an Advisory Committee authorized to give advice on behalf of the Council. The role of the Committee is to:
 - i) Agree on the ICES advisory strategic plan;
 - ii) Oversee the ICES Advisory Services;
 - iii) Establish such processes that are necessary to prepare and deliver advice subject to protocols agreed by the Council.
 - b) The main tasks of the Advisory Committee are in the governance and oversight of the Advisory Services, i.e. points ii) and iii) above. This includes establishing and implementing procedures to deliver the advice. The Council therefore delegates to the Committee the ability to establish the mechanisms necessary to prepare and disseminate advice subject to a protocol satisfying the following criteria:
 - i) Objectivity and integrity;
 - ii) Openness and transparency;
 - iii) Quality assurance and peer review;
 - iv) Integrated advice – based on an ecosystem approach;
 - v) Efficiency and flexibility;
 - vi) National consensus.
 - c) The advisory structure shall have five elements i) – v):
 - i) **Advisory Committee:** The Advisory Committee (ACOM) will work under instruction of the Council, based on multi-year approval of science and advisory programmes:

- 1) Having full competence regarding for the advisory responsibilities on behalf of ICES;
 - 2) Having national representation, one member and alternates for each member country appointed by Delegates as at present;
 - 3) Including an independent chair appointed by the Council and who reports to Council. ACOM may appoint a vice chair;
 - 4) ACOM will nominate candidates for the ACOM chair to Council;
 - 5) The ACOM chair's tasks shall include providing a general direction of the Advisory Service, based on considerations of current and future needs of present and future Clients for marine scientific advice and informing the science programme on present and future needs for marine science support of the Advisory Services;
 - 6) The ACOM Chair or designates will present the advice as adopted by ACOM to Clients, stakeholders, and the public;
 - 7) The chair of ACOM will have the right to participate at Council and Bureau meetings and will report on the performance of the ICES Advisory Services.
 - 8) The Advisory Committee can delegate its authority to finalise and adopt the advice to an advisory group, provided that this group has full national representation.
- ii) **Review:** A review process will provide a technical review of the analytical and science input to the advice formulation. This review will be conducted by scientific peers who were not involved in producing the analytical and science input. ACOM will approve members based on proposals by the ACOM Chair;
- iii) **Advice Drafting Group:** A flexible system of advice drafting groups will be the major source of the advice texts. These groups are established by ACOM and will base their advice on peer-reviewed evidence prepared by expert groups. The advice drafting group will work from draft text of the advice, prepared by either expert groups, advice drafting groups, or the Secretariat as appropriate and as decided by ACOM. ACOM will appoint members based on proposals by the ACOM Chair. Delegates can nominate members of the advice drafting group for appointment by ACOM;
- iv) **Expert groups:** Advice will be based on evidence prepared by expert groups in response to terms of reference provided by ACOM. Delegates will appoint members of the expert groups;
- v) **Workshops on data compilation:** The Advisory Committee shall invite stakeholders to workshops on data compilation as input to the work of the expert groups. Stakeholders are invited to contribute data, including data from non-traditional sources. At these workshops they can also contribute to data preparation and evaluation of data quality. Data to be included in an expert group analysis shall satisfy quality criteria established by ACOM.
- d) Participation in the groups mentioned above is through nomination by Delegates. The Chairs of the Groups can propose participation for Delegates approval. Data workshops will be open to all who have useful information to contribute. Participation by outside experts will be subject to rules laid down by the Council.
- e) Stakeholder and Client observers are accepted in
- i) ACOM;
 - ii) Advice Drafting Groups;
 - iii) The technical review process;
 - iv) Data compilation workshops.
 - f) Council will establish rules for rights, obligations, and selection of observers;
- g) In 2008 the ICES Advisory Services will be supported by three senior advisors whose tasks will include:

- i) Communicating with Clients on the requests;
 - ii) Proposing ToRs for expert groups;
 - iii) Proposing membership for the review process and advice drafting;
 - iv) Communicating with management of National laboratories;
 - v) Supporting ACOM in presenting advice to Clients and stakeholders;
 - vi) Reporting to the ACOM as requested.
- h) The ACOM Chair and the senior advisors will receive a stipend (grade P5-1). The appointments for 2008 will be as follows:
- i) Chair for full time (12 months/year);
 - ii) Senior advisor for fisheries 6 months/year;
 - iii) 2 other senior advisors 3 months/year.
- i) Implementation will be as of 1st January 2008. The present structure will remain in place until ACOM decides that this parallel structure is no longer needed.
- j) The Council will establish a working group chaired by Steve Murawski (USA) [to be confirmed] that will report to Council before mid-January 2008 to:
- i) Finalize the detailed mandate and criteria under which the Advisory Services shall operate;
 - ii) Propose a level of Secretariat support staff for future years including any senior advisor positions;
 - iii) Propose the conditions of employment for the ACOM chair for future years.
 - iv) Propose the most appropriate governance model for the senior advisers that will ensure the best professional management support for the Advisory Services;
 - v) Estimate the costs for the transition year and the long-term costs;
 - vi) Propose rules for rights, obligations, and selection of observers;
 - vii) Propose changes in the Rules of Procedure as appropriate;
 - viii) Finalize a detailed work plan for the transitional year 2008;
 - ix) The Group will include the chairs of ConC and MCAP as ex officio members.
- k) The Council will consider the report of its working group before mid-February and, at the discretion of the President an extraordinary meeting of Council may be convened.

2008 ACOM Resolutions

The ACOM resolutions given below shall be considered in the light of the above resolution.

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Advisory Committee

- 2ACOM01 The **Advisory Committee** [ACOM] (Chair: Michael Sissenwine, USA) will be established and has the following tasks:
- a) to meet in plenary at ICES Headquarters 4–8 February 2008 to:
 - i) review
 - 1) the overall status and outlook for the marine ecosystems
 - 2) trends in human impact on the marine ecosystems;
 - 3) major trends of environmental changes on the marine ecosystems including Climate Change;
 - ii) review
 - 1) client requests for information and advice;
 - 2) proposals on *Pro bono publico* advice and information compilation;
 - iii) review directions and guidelines provided by Council and Bureau and agree on appropriate actions
 - iv) review the performance of the advisory function in 2007 and agree on remedial actions as appropriate;
 - v) on the basis of the reviews made under (i)–(iv), review the work plan agreed at the September 2007 Advisory Committee consultations and amend this work plan as appropriate;
 - vi) specify guidelines for the formulation of advice by expert and review groups, as required to the preparation of advice in response to requests by Clients. In particular further revise the form of advice and methods to reflect the need for fisheries-based advice and advice to be based on long-term considerations;
 - vii) consider research needs as input to the Consultative Committee; and provide advice and guidance to the Science Committees on future scientific needs and priorities related to the work of ACOM
 - viii) review reports of ICES groups as defined in Council Resolutions;
 - b) to work by correspondence (web conferences) according to the schedule defined in the Table below based on reviewed reports of Expert Groups and draft advice prepared by the Expert and Review groups.
 - c) present the advice to EC (including RACs and committees), HELCOM, NEAFC and OSPAR by the ACOM Chair or designee. The advice on North Atlantic Salmon will be presented to NASCO by the chair of WGNAS.
 - d) Provide advice on North Atlantic Salmon through the following procedure:
 - i) an ACOM subgroup will meet at ICES HQ 28 April – 1 May 2008 to review the assessment of North Atlantic Salmon, both in the North Atlantic and in the Baltic
 - ii) ACOM will work by correspondence (web conference) on 6 May 2008 to prepare advice on Atlantic Salmon for NASCO based on the reviewed report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon.
 - iii) the expected release date is 9 May 2008.
 - iv) present the advice on North Atlantic Salmon to NASCO by the Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon.
 - e) provide advice on Barent Sea capelin by inviting The Institute of Marine Research (IMR) in Bergen to submit an assessment of the Barents Sea capelin for review and further processing in the advisory system.
 - f) provide advice on Pandalus stocks through the following procedure:
 - i) the joint NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Working Group (NIPAG) will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark in parallel with the NAFO Sc.C. shrimp meeting. The report of NIPAG will be available for ACOM's consideration on 31 October November 2008.

- ii) The NIPAG report will be reviewed by correspondence and ACOM will consider the reviewed report through a web conference
- iii) the expected release date is 5 November 2008.
- g) hold Consultations at national expense in Halifax, Canada in September 2008 and at other times as required during the 2008 ASC Meeting to:
 - i) finalise Terms of Reference, dates and venues for meetings of groups reporting to ACOM in 2009;
 - ii) conduct other business related to the functioning of ACOM.
 - iii) the Chairs of the Expert groups with advisory tasks are invited to the ACOM Consultations. The Consultations are open to Delegates. The ACOM Chair may invite experts to the Consultations as appropriate.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Expert groups will analyze the available information and develop draft advice. Review groups will work in sessions or by correspondence to ensure quality of the analyses and of the draft advice. The review groups will each have at least four members: one chair who is appointed amongst the ACOM members and three nominated experts with relevant expertise to allow them to do a technical review and to write a draft advice. (Co-) chairs of the Expert Groups will assist in the review of scientific finds and the development of draft advice.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	Nationally nominated and <i>ex officio</i> members.
OBSERVERS	Clients, Stakeholders (incl. RACs), Affiliate NGOs.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	The costs of the review meetings will be born by ICES. Review meetings are open to other members of ACOM at national expense Attendance at Council expense will be limited to the Chair, national and <i>ex officio</i> members of ACOM and the senior advisors. Additional Experts may be invited in consultation with the General Secretary to assist ACOM to deal with special issues.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	ConC on research needs
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC (DG Fish, DG Env), HELCOM, OSPAR, AMAP, NASCO, NEAFC

A detailed workplan for the ICES advice for 2008 can be accessed at ICES Sharepoint:
<http://groupnet.ices.dk/advice2008/Documents/workplan%202008.xls>

Generic ToRs for Review and Advice Drafting Groups in 2008

The review process will have a different role compared to previous years. The new review process will aim to provide a review of the scientific finding and the development of a final advice that can be submitted to the Advisory Committee for approval. This shall be done in two distinct processes.

- a) The first part is done by review groups that are constituted of independent experts and are not involved with the expert group report to be reviewed:
 - i) The review groups shall ensure the quality of the analyses that is produced by the Expert Group(s). The Group shall review the quality of the assessment work carried out by the Expert Group(s) and write technical minutes of the main findings in the review. These Technical Minutes are part of the Expert group report. The review shall consider whether the analysis integrates all relevant knowledge;
- b) The second step is advice drafting. The first draft advice is developed by the senior advisors supported by chairs from the expert groups and the Secretariat. This draft is considered by an advice drafting group that
 - i) review the draft advice and ascertain that the advice is
 - o in accordance with the advisory principles established by ACOM and as laid down in the MoUs with Clients
 - o relevant and answering the request
 - o understandable
 - o credible
 - o according to the standard form and format of advice
 - ii) for fisheries advice, produce consolidated eco-region advice that, together with single stock summaries can be submitted to the Advisory Committee for adoption

Overview of review tasks by country

[To be done after the Council meeting]

Member	Review group Chair	Reviewers	WG Chair	Total number
Belgium				
Denmark				
Canada				
Estonia				
Finland				
France				
Germany				
Iceland				
Ireland				
Latvia				
Lithuania				
Netherlands				
Norway				
Poland				
Portugal				
Russia				
Spain				
Sweden				
CEFAS, England &Wales (UK)				
FRS, Scotland (UK)				
USA				

Fisheries related Expert Groups

Generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups

For AFWG, HAWG, NWWG, NIPAG, WGWIDE, WGBFAS, WGNSSK, WGNSDS, WGSSDS, WGHMM and WGANC ToRs (1)-(4):

- (1) Assemble national data on relevant fisheries and environmental data
 - a. Input and quality check all input data and where possible input into the INTERCATCH database;
 - b. Produce an overview of the sampling activities on a national basis (if possible derived from the INTERCATCH database);
 - c. Recommend specific actions to be taken to improve the basis for the advice in future (including improvements in data collection);
 - d. When appropriate, conduct a Data Compilation Workshop as part of the expert group meeting where stakeholders are invited to contribute data including data from non-traditional sources. At these workshops stakeholders can also contribute to data preparation and evaluation of data quality. Data that are to be included in the analysis of the Expert Group shall satisfy quality criteria established by ACOM;
- (2) Update time-series of relevant fisheries and environmental data:
 - a. catches (landings, discards, bycatch) - (by fisheries/fleets). Where misreporting is considered significant, provide qualitative and where possible quantitative information and the describe the methods used to obtain the information.
 - b. fishing effort (by fisheries/fleets)
 - c. surveys
 - d. environmental drivers
- (3) Update description of major regulatory changes (technical measures, TACs, effort control and management plans) and report on evaluations of their (potential) effects.
- (4) Produce a brief report of the work carried out by the Working Group. This report should summarise for the stocks and fisheries where the item is relevant:
 - a. Stock status and catch options
 - b. Mixed fisheries considerations
 - c. Ecosystem effects of fisheries
 - d. Regulatory changes in the fisheries which have consequences for the assessment or projections
 - e. Agreed or proposed management plans
 - f. Species interaction effects

For AFWG, HAWG, NWWG, NIPAG, WGWIDE in addition consider

- (5) Update the agreed analytical method for those stocks where a benchmark assessment is required to assess the state of the stocks and short term outlooks or update the agreed indicator(s) of stock trends

AFWG

2007/2/ACOM01 The **Arctic Fisheries Working Group** [AFWG]: (Chair: Y. Kovalev, Russia) will meet at ICES HQ, 21–29 April 2008 to:

- a) compile, update, analyse and document time-series of relevant fisheries, environmental data and regulatory changes (see generic ToRs)
- b) update assessments for 2009 and beyond for the following stocks (Generic ToR (5))
 - i) North East Arctic cod;
 - ii) Norwegian coastal cod;
 - iii) North East Arctic haddock;
 - iv) North East Arctic saithe.
- c) update data on Barents Sea capelin and oversee the process of providing inter-sessional assessments and advice on this stock;

AFWG will report by May 2008 (and November 2008 for capelin) for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
cod-arct	NEA cod Subareas I and II	NO	RUS	NO
cod-coas	Norwegian coastal cod Subareas I and II	NO	RUS	NO
had-arct	NEA haddock Subareas I and II	NO	RUS	
sai-arct	NEA saithe Subareas I and II	NO	NO	
	Barents Sea capelin	NO	RUS	NO
ghl-arct	NEA Greenland halibut Subareas I and II	NO	RUS	
smn-arct	Red fish <i>Sebastes mentella</i> Subareas I and II	RUS	NO	
smr-arct	Red fish <i>Sebastes marinus</i> Subareas I and II	NO	RUS	

HAWG

2007/2/ACOM02 The **Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N** [HAWG] (Co-Chairs: Tomas Gröhsler*, Germany and Emma Hatfield*, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 11–19 March 2008 to:

- a) compile, update, analyse and document time-series of relevant fisheries, environmental data and regulatory changes (see Generic ToRs)
- b) conduct an update assessment for the North Sea autumn-spawning herring stock in Division IIIa, Subarea IV, and Division VIId;
- c) conduct a benchmark assessment for Spring-spawning herring in Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22–24 (Western Baltic) (Generic ToR (5));
- d) collate, review and, when essential, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts for:
 - i) Celtic Sea herring

- ii) Herring in VIa south and VIIbc
- iii) Herring in VIa north
- iv) Sprat in the North Sea
- v) Sprat in IIIa
- vi) Sprat in VIId+e.

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories coordinated in the table below:

HAWG will report by 1 April 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
her-3a22	Herring in Subdivisions 22-24 and Division IIIa (spring-spawners)	DK	GER	DK
her-47d3	Herring in Subarea IV, Divisions VII d & IIIa (autumn-spawners)	GER	NL	UK S
her-irls	Celtic Sea and Division VIIj herring	IRL	IRL	
her-irlw	Herring in Divisions VIa (South) and VIIb,c	IRL	IRL	
her-nirs	Irish Sea herring (Division VIIa)	UK NI	UK NI	
her-vian	Herring in Division VIa (North)	UK S	UK S	
spr-ech	Sprat in Divisions VII d,e	UK E	UK E	
spr-kask	Sprat in Division IIIa	NO	NO	DK
spr-nsea	Sprat in the North Sea (Subarea IV)	DK	DK	NO

NWWG

2007/2/ACOM03 The **North-Western Working Group** [NWWG] (Chair: Guðmundur Þórðarson*, Iceland) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 21–29 April 2008 to:

- a) compile, update, analyse and document time-series of relevant fisheries, environmental data and regulatory changes (see generic ToRs)
- b) Summarise the findings for the following stocks (see ToR (4)):
 - i) redfish in Subareas V, XII and XIV,
 - ii) Greenland halibut in Subareas V and XIV,
 - iii) cod in Subarea XIV, NAFO Subarea 1, and Division Va,
 - iv) cod in Division Vb (including effort options)
 - v) saithe in Division Va,
 - vi) saithe in Division Vb (including effort options)
 - vii) haddock in Division Va,
 - viii) haddock in Division Vb (including effort options)
 - ix) Icelandic summer spawning herring
 - x) capelin in Subareas V and XIV;

NWWG will report by 29 April 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
	Faroe platau cod	FO	FO	FO
	Faroe bank cod	FO	FO	FO
	Faroe haddock	FO	FO	FO
	Faroe saithe	FO	FO	FO
	Icelandic cod	IS	IS	IS
	Icelandic haddock	IS	IS	IS
	Icelandic saithe	IS	IS	IS
	Icelandic herring	IS	IS	IS
	Capelin	IS	IS	IS
	Greenland halibut	GR	GR	IS
	S. marinus	IS	IS	FO
	demersal S. mentella	IS	IS	DE
	pelagic S. mentella	DE	IS	SP
	Greenland cod	GR	DE	DE

WGANC

2007/2/ACOM04 The **Working Group on Anchovy** [WGANC] (Chair: Dankert Skagen*, Norway (to be confirmed)) will be established and will meet at ICES Headquarters, 13–16 June 2008 to:

- a) collate, review and, when essential, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts for (Generic ToR 1-4):
 - i) anchovy in Division IXa;
 - ii) anchovy in Sub-area VIII (Bay of Biscay).

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories coordinated in the table below:

- b) summarise the status of the stocks and catch options forecasts based on the update assessments and where it is part of the standard procedure, particularly include environmental, ecosystem and fisheries information.

WGANC will report by 19 June 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
	anchovy in Division IXa			
	anchovy in Sub-area VIII (Bay of Biscay)			

WGBAST

2007/2/ACOM05 The **Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group** [WGBAST] (Chair: A. Romakkaniemi, Finland) will meet in Gdynia, Poland, 1–10 April 2008 to:

- a) Compile, update, analyse and document time-series of relevant fisheries, environmental data and regulatory changes (see generic ToRs)
- b) Summarise the findings for the following stocks (see generic ToR 4):
 - i) wild stocks of Baltic salmon on a river-by-river basis (make projections for 2008-2017).
 - ii) assess the state of sea trout stocks and document the methods used.
- c) Evaluate the possible reasons for the low at-sea survival of salmon stocks;
- d) Work by correspondence for producing input to the advice on the revision of the Salmon Action plan by June 2008.

WGBAST will report for the attention of ACOM by 17 April 2008.

Request to ICES for advice on the revision of the Salmon Action Plan

Background

The management of salmon in the Baltic Sea has been covered by the IBSFC Salmon Action Plan (SAP) since 1997. The objective of this plan was to re-establish/recover wild Baltic Salmon to attain for each salmon river a natural production of wild Baltic Salmon of at least 50% until 2010. Based on the life cycle of salmon, measures taken from now on will take effect beyond 2010 which means that the IBSFC plan can be seen as obsolete. Together with the changed political situation in the Baltic through the last accession round, the Commission has therefore decided to develop options for the new SAP during 2008 and to propose a new management framework. The new management regime shall cover all salmon life stages (fresh water vs marine) and address all human impacts affecting stock dynamics such as habitat condition and professional and recreational fisheries.

In order to define a comprehensive and effective management scheme for the further recovery and the long-term sustainable management of Baltic salmon the following steps are envisaged to establish an information basis for discussions with stakeholders and subsequent drafting of a new management scheme:

- Evaluation of the IBSFC SAP in terms of its objectives and technical efficiency
- Assessment and quantification of the status quo of Salmon and the main factors impacting its stock dynamics
- Advice on the definition of short-term and long-term objectives and respective measures and indicators
- Impact Assessment (economic, social and ecological) of the identified options

These aspects shall be addressed by holistic means therefore ideally considering the whole distribution area of Salmon in the Baltic (including the EU and Russia), all different life stages and habitats (marine and individual rivers) and look at different sources of impacts (marine vs freshwater fisheries, habitat conditions, aquaculture, climate change, dioxin). For the evaluation of the existing management regime and the advice for a prospective one, the different management competences (national vs community measures) shall be taken into account.

ICES is inquired for their availability/capacity to provide the biological evaluation of the current management plan and advice for a new SAP. Economic and social impact assessments are expected to be addressed through other means. Terms of reference for this request are outlined below. The deadline for the advice would be end of June 2008.

Biological evaluation of old SAP (IBSFC) – especially asking why some smaller salmon populations did not respond on measures taken under the SAP.

Provide a range of options (including objectives and measures) for the future management plan for salmon.

- The first option should be continuing management as of today
- The second option should explore the consequences of managing only through measures in the marine environment
- Further options should include an integrated approach with management objectives and measures in both, fresh water and marine environment

All options should include consideration of environmental interactions, such as habitat use, predation, genetic aspects and contaminants

The recommendations by the BS RAC may serve as background information

WGBFAS

2007/2/ACOM06 The **Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group [WGBFAS]** (Chair: S. Christensen, Denmark) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 8–17 April 2008 to:

- a) collate, review and, when essential, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts (Generic ToR). This should be done for:

Herring:

- i) SD 22-24 (based on assessment made by HAWG)
- ii) SD 25-29, 32 excluding Gulf of Riga (25-27, 28.2, 29 and 32)
- iii) Gulf of Riga (28.1) - benchmark assessment

Sprat in the whole Baltic: SD 22-32

Sole in Division IIIa.

Cod:

- i) Western Baltic (SD 22-24)
- ii) Eastern Baltic (SD 25-32)
- iii) Kattegat

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories and coordinated as in the table below.

- b) update the available information on flatfish stocks and herring in SD 30 and herring in SD 31 in the Baltic;
- c) explore the possibility of delivering advice on the clupeid stocks in the Baltic only every second year, including an assessment of the risk to the stocks to violate reference points or agreed management targets
- d) consider the results of a workshop on the redefinition of reference points for Baltic Sea fish stocks (WKREFBAS).

WGBFAS will report by 25 April 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Species	Stock	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Deputy Coordinator 2
Cod	Kattegat	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden
	SD 22-24	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden
	SD 25-32	Denmark	Latvia	Russian Federation
Sole	Division IIIa	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden
Herring	SD 25-32 ex GOR	Sweden	Germany	Sweden
	GOR	Latvia	Latvia	Estonia
	SD 30	Finland	Finland	Sweden
	SD 31	Finland	Finland	Sweden
Sprat	SD 22-32	Poland	Poland	Estonia
Flounder	SD 22-32	Sweden		
Brill, Dab, Plaice, Turbot	SD 22-32	Germany		

WGHMM

2007/2/ACOM07 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Stocks of Hake, Monk and Megrin** [WGHMM] (Chair: Manuela Azevedo, Portugal) will meet at ICES HQ, 30 April–6 May 2008 to:

- a) collate, review and, when needed, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts (Generic ToR). This should be done for:
 - i) Anglerfish (*Budegassa* and *Piscatorius*) in Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa,b
 - ii) Anglerfish (*Budegassa* and *Piscatorius*) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa
 - iii) Hake - Northern stock (IIIa, IV, VI, VII, VIIIa,b)
 - iv) Hake - Southern stock (Divisions VIIIc and IXa)
 - v) Megrin (*Boscii* and *Whiffiagonis*) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa
 - vi) Megrin (*Whiffiagonis*) in Sub-area VII & Divisions VIIIa,b,d,e
 - vii) Nephrops in Division IXa
 - viii) Nephrops in Division VIIIc
 - ix) Nephrops in Divisions VIIb,c,j,k
 - x) Nephrops in Divisions VIIIa,b

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGHMM will report by 16 May 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Stock	Name	Stocks Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
anb-78ab	Anglerfish (<i>Budegassa</i> and <i>Piscatorius</i>) in Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa,b	SP	SP	FR
anb-8c9a	Anglerfish (<i>Budegassa</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	PT	PT	SP
anp-78ab	Anglerfish (<i>Piscatorius</i>) in Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa,b	FR	FR	SP
anp-8c9a	Anglerfish (<i>Piscatorius</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	PT	PT	SP
hke-nrtn	Hake - Northern stock (IIIa, IV, VI, VII, VIIIa,b)	FR	FR	SP

hke-soth	Hake - Southern stock (Divisions VIIIc and IXa)	PT	PT	SP
mgb-8c9a	Megrim (Boscii) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	SP	SP	PT
mgw-78	Megrim (Whiffiagonis) in Sub-area VII & Divisions VIIa,b,d,e	SP	SP	FR
mgw-8c9a	Megrim (Whiffiagonis) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	SP	SP	FR
sol-bisc	Bay of Biscay sole	FR	FR	
nep-7bcjk	Nephrops in Divisions VIIb,c,j,k (Management Area L)	IRL	IRL	
nep-8ab	Nephrops in Divisions VIIa,b (Management Area N)	FR	FR	
nep-8c	Nephrops in Division VIIIc (Management Area O)	SP	SP	PT
nep-9a	Nephrops in Division IXa (Management Area Q)			

WGNSDS

2007/2/ACOM08 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Northern Shelf Demersal Stocks** [WGNSDS] (Chair: Robert Scott, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 15–21 May 2008, to:

- a) collate, review and, when needed, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts (Generic ToR). This should be done for:
 - i) Anglerfish Subareas IV (North Sea) and VI (W.Scotland & Rockall)
 - ii) Cod in Division VIa (West of Scotland), Division VIb (Rockall) and Division VIIa (Irish Sea)
 - iii) Haddock in Division VIa (West of Scotland), Division VIb (Rockall) and Division VIIa (Irish Sea)
 - iv) Megrim in Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)
 - v) Nephrops in Division VIa
 - vi) Nephrops in Division VIIa North of 53°N
 - vii) Plaice in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)
 - viii) Sole in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)
 - ix) Whiting in Division VIa (West of Scotland), Division VIb (Rockall) and Division VIIa (Irish Sea)

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGNSDS will report by 28 May 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Stock	Name	Stocks Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
ang-ivvi	Anglerfish Sub-areas IV (North Sea) and VI (W.Scotland & Rockall)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	Denmark; Norway
cod-iris	Cod in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK(E&W)	UK(E&W)	
cod-rock	Cod in Division VIb (Rockall)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	
cod-scov	Cod in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	
had-iris	Haddock in Division VIIa (Irish)	UK(NI)	UK(NI)	

	Sea)			
had-rock	Haddock in Division VIb (Rockall)	Russia	Russia	UK(Sco)
had-scow	Haddock in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	
meg-scrk	Megrim in Sub-area VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)	Ireland	Ireland	
nep-7a	Nephrops in Division VIIa North of 53°N (Management Area J)	UK(NI)	UK(NI)	
nep-via	Nephrops in Division VIa (Management Area C)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	
ple-iris	Plaice in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK(E&W)	UK(E&W)	
sol-iris	Sole in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Belgium	Belgium	
whg-iris	Whiting in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Ireland	Ireland	
whg-rock	Whiting in Division VIb (Rockall)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	
whg-scow	Whiting in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK(Sco)	UK(Sco)	

WGNSSK

2007/2/ACOM09 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak** [WGNSSK] (Chair: Chris Darby, England) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 7–13 May, and will work by correspondence in September 2008 to:

- a) collate, review and, when essential, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts (Generic ToR). This should be done for:
 - i) cod in Subarea IV and Division IIIaN (Skagerrak), and Division VIId,
 - ii) haddock in Subarea IV and Division IIIa,
 - iii) whiting in Subarea IV, Division IIIa, and Division VIId,
 - iv) plaice in Subarea IV
 - v) plaice in Division IIIa,
 - vi) plaice in Division VIId,
 - vii) saithe in Subarea IV, Subarea VIa, and Division IIIa,
 - viii) sole in Subarea IV
 - ix) sole in Division VIId,
 - x) Norway pout in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIa
 - xi) sandeel stocks in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIa
 - xii) nephrops stocks in Subarea IV
 - xiii) nephrops stocks in Division IIIa;

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories coordinated in the table below:

- b) evaluate whether the autumn surveys change the short term outlook for cod, haddock, North Sea plaice and sole, and if so, provide updated advice.

WGNSSK will report by 18 May and 26 September 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
cod-347d	Cod in Subarea IV, Division VIId & Division IIIa (Skagerrak)	UK(CEFAS)	UK(CEFAS)	DK
had-34	Haddock in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	UK(CEFAS)
nep-iiia	Nephrops in Division IIIa (Management Area E)	DK	SW	UK(FRS)

nep-iva1	Nephrops in Division IVa Rectangles 44-48 E6-E7 + 44E8	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	DK
nep-iva2	Nephrops in Division IVa (West of 2°E, excl. Man. Area F)	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	DK
nep-iva3	Nephrops in Division IVa (East of 2°E, plus 43F5-F7)	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	DK
nep-ivbe	Nephrops in Divisions IVb,c East of 1°E excl. 43F5-F7	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	DK
nep-ivbw	Nephrops in Divisions IVb,c West of 1°E	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	DK
nop-34	Norway Pout in Fishing Area IV and IIIa	DK	DK	NO
nop-scow	Norway pout in Division VIa (West of Scotland)			
ple-eche	Plaice in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	FR	FR	BE
ple-kask	Plaice in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	DK	DK	SW
ple-nsea	Plaice Subarea IV (North Sea)	NL	NL	BE
sai-3a46	Saithe in Subarea IV, Division IIIa (Skagerrak) & Sub-area VI	NO	NO	GER
san-kask	Sandeel in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	DK	DK	NO
san-nsea	Sandeel in Subarea IV	DK	DK	NO
san-scow	Sandeel in Division VIa	DK	DK	NO
san-shet	Sandeel in the Shetland Area	DK	DK	NO
sol-eche	Sole in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	BE	BE	FR
sol-nsea	Sole in Subarea IV (North Sea)	NL	NL	BE
whg-47d	Whiting Subarea IV (North Sea) & Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	UK(FRS)	UK(FRS)	UK(CEFAS)
whg-kask	Whiting in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	SWE	SWE	DK

NIPAG

2007/2/ACOM11 The **Working Group on Pandalus** [WGPAND] will be dissolved and will be re-established as the **Joint NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Working Group** [NIPAG] (Chair: M. Aschan, Norway) and will meet at ICES Headquarters, 22–30 October 2008 to:

- a) compile, update, analyse and document time-series of relevant fisheries, environmental data and regulatory changes (see generic ToRs). Including:
 - i) Specification of by-catches in the shrimp fishery
- b) Summarise the findings for the following stocks (see generic ToR 4):
 - i) *Pandalus borealis* in the Barents Sea
 - ii) *Pandalus borealis* the North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat
- c) Consider shrimp stocks as decided by NAFO Sc. C.

NIPAG will report on the ICES shrimp stocks, see b) for the attention of ACOM 31 October 2008.

WGSSDS

2007/2/ACOM12 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Demersal Stocks** [WGSSDS] (Chair: Colm Lordan*, Ireland) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 30 April–6 May 2008 to:

- a) collate, review and, when needed, revise working documents on data and/or assessments of the status and forecasts (see generic ToRs). This should be done for:
 - i) Plaice in the Celtic Sea (Divisions VIIIf and g), Division VIIe (Western Channel), Southwest of Ireland (Areas VIIh and VIIk) and in the West of Ireland (Areas VIIb and VIIc)
 - ii) Cod in Divisions VIIe-k
 - iii) Haddock in Divisions VIIb-k
 - iv) Nephrops in Divisions VIIfgh excl. 31E1 32E1-2 + VIIa, South of 53°N
 - v) Sole in Division VIIe (Western Channel)
 - vi) Sole in Divisions VIIf and g (Celtic Sea)
 - vii) Sole in the Southwest of Ireland (Areas VIIh and VIIk)
 - viii) Sole in the West of Ireland (Areas VIIb and VIIc)
 - ix) Whiting in Divisions VIIe-k
 - x) Sole in Divisions VIIa,b (Bay of Biscay)

The assessments will be carried out in National Laboratories coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGSSDS will report by 12 May 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
Ple-celt	Plaice in the Celtic Sea (Divisions VIIIf and g)	UK	UK	B
Ple-echw	Plaice in Division VIIe (Western Channel)	UK	UK	FR
Plaice-VIIhjk	Plaice Southwest of Ireland (Areas VIIh-k)	IRE	IRE	B
Plaice-VIIbc	Plaice in the West of Ireland (Areas VIIb and VIIc)	IRE	-	-
Cod VIIbc	Cod in Divisions VIIb and VIIc	IRE	-	-
Cod VIIe-k	Cod in Division VIIe-k	FR	FR	IRE
Had-7b-k	Haddock in Divisions VIIb-k	IRE	IRE	FR
Nep FU20-22	Nephrops in Divisions VIIfgh excl. 31E1 32E1-2 + VIIa, South of 53°N	FR	FR	IRE
Sol-echw	Sole in Division VIIe (Western Channel)	UK	UK	FR
Sol-celt	Sole in Divisions VIIf and g (Celtic Sea)	B	B	UK
Sole-VIIhjk	Sole in the Southwest of Ireland (Areas VIIh-k)	IRE	IRE	B
Sole-VIIbc	Sole in the West of Ireland (Areas VIIb and VIIc)	IRE	-	-
Whg VIIbc	Whiting in Divisions VIIb and VIIc	IRE	-	-
whg-7e-k	Whiting in Divisions VIIe-k	IRE	IRE	FR

WGWISE

2007/2/ACOM13 The **Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks** [WGWIDE] (Chair: Beatriz Roel*, UK) will be established and will meet at ICES Headquarters, 2–11 September 2008 to:

- a) compile, update, analyse and document time-series of relevant fisheries, environmental data and regulatory changes (see generic ToRs)
- b) summarise the findings for the following stocks (see generic ToR 4):
 - i) NEA Mackerel
 - ii) Western and southern Horse mackerel
 - iii) Norwegian Spring Spawning herring
 - iv) Blue whiting
 - v) Sardine in Divisions VIIIc and IXa

WGWIDE will report by 12 September 2008 for the attention of ACOM. This Group continues work previously undertaken by WGMHSA and WGNPBW. Anchovy assessments are moved to WGANC.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coordinator 1	Assessment Coordinator 2
her-noss	Norwegian spring-spawning herring	IS	NO	RUS
hom-nsea	Horse mackerel in the North Sea Area (Areas IIa, IV and IIIa)	NO	DK	NL
hom-soth	Southern horse mackerel (Divisions VIIIc and IXa)	SP	SP	POR
hom-west	Western horse mackerel (IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIIa-c, e-k, VIIIabde)	NO	UK	NL
mac-nea	Mackerel (combined Southern, Western & N.Sea spawn.comp.)	IRL	UK(FRS)	NL
sar-soth	Sardine in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	POR	POR	SP
whb-comb	Blue whiting combined stock (Sub-areas I-IX, XII & XIV)	IS	DK	RUS

WGDEEP

2007/2/ACOM14 The **Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources** [WGDEEP] (Chair: Tom Blasdale*, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 3–10 March 2008 to:

- a) compile an **inventory of data sources** available on landings and effort of deepwater species, including blue ling, ling, and tusk, by ICES Sub-area, Division or preferable by subdivisions; evaluate the quality of these data;
- b) **compile the data** available from these data sources on the finest scale possible;
- c) **update descriptions of deep-water fisheries** including mapping out deep water fisheries in preparation for collation of fisheries-based catch and effort statistics using among other data sources VMS information. Provide information on as high spatial and temporal resolution as possible on all current deep-water fisheries in the NE Atlantic.
- d) carry out **analytical assessments** of ling, red (blackspot) seabream, roundnose grenadier, and assessments of other species if possible;
- e) update the **data on length/age at maturity, growth and fecundity** and document other relevant biological information on deep-water species;
- f) update information on quantities of **discards** by gear type for the stocks and fisheries considered by this group and make an inventory of deep-water fish community data;

WGDEEP will report by 17 March 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

The Chairs of WGDEC and WGDEEP will cooperate to ensure that expertise on cold-water corals and on deepwater fishing is available at the meeting.

The Chairs of WGEF and WGDEEP will cooperate to ensure that knowledge on deepwater sharks and deepwater fisheries are exchanged.

WGEEL

2007/2/ACOM15 The **Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eels** [WGEEL] (Chair: Russell Poole, Ireland*), will meet in Leuven (INBO/KUL), Belgium., 3–9 September 2008, to:

- a) assess the trends in recruitment, stock and fisheries indicative of the status of the European stock, and of the impact of exploitation and other anthropogenic factors; analyse the impact of the implementation of the eel recovery plan on time series data (i.e. data discontinuities). This might also include the establishment of an international data base for data on eel stock and fisheries, as well as habitat and eel quality (update EEQD) related data; review and make recommendations on data quality issues
- b) develop methodologies for the assessment of the status of the eel stock, the impact of fisheries and other anthropogenic impacts and of implemented management measures; this might include, for example, support for EMPs on the determination of "pristine" spawner production levels and relative contribution of stocking.
- c) review hypotheses and information on the possible relationships between the European (and American?) eel stock(s), recruitment patterns and climatic and oceanic factors
- d) respond to specific requests in support of the development and implementation of the stock recovery Regulation as necessary
- e) report on progress in work on improvements in the scientific basis for advice on management of European eel fisheries

WGEEL will report by 16 September 2008 for the attention of ACOM and DFC.

Supporting Information

Priority:	The work is essential for EIFAC & ICES to provide advice on the urgently required implementation of eel protection and restoration plans, and to report on the rapidly deteriorating status of the stock.
Scientific Justification and relation to Action Plan:	<p>ICES Action Plan Numbers: 4.2, 4.3, 4.8, 5.8.</p> <p>The eel stock and fisheries are in rapid decline. Urgent compilation of a stock recovery plan has been recommended by ICES, and to this end, the EU Commission Regulation for the recovery of the eel stock has been approved by the Council of Ministers in 2007. The objective is for each eel river basin, to permit with high probability the escapement to the sea of at least 40% of the biomass of adult eel relative to the best estimate of escapement that would have existed if no anthropogenic influences had impacted the stock. Because of the special characteristics of eel fisheries (fragmented, small scale, extreme spatial differentiation, distribution from North Cape to Nile Delta), no traditional whole-stock approach (assessment, TAC etc) is feasible; management must be based on international, common targets with local implementation. Overall post-evaluation of the stock status in relation to the objective requires population wide integration of assessments.</p> <p>The precautionary advice to protect the stock (ICES 1998-2007) was based on available time series, especially in recruitment and yield. Whereas previous meetings of WGEEL have documented the trends, have considered potential causes, have listed potential mitigation measures, have proposed management targets, and have explored</p>

	<p>options for monitoring and post-evaluation; further progress now awaits political decisions and effective implementation of the Regulation.</p> <p>Current monitoring and research is almost exclusively based on national research programmes, which have gradually come under considerable financial strain. Progress in the support for the development of (national) management plans and progress in more fundamental research questions (causes of the decline, fundamental biological characteristics) will greatly benefit from international coordination and concertation. Progress in the routine tasks of WGEEL crucially depends on this too, since national decisions (on funding) await the international decisions in many countries.</p>
Resource Requirements:	
Participants:	Experts from ICES and EIFAC countries
Secretariat Facilities:	Usual: production of report.
Financial:	
Linkages To Advisory Committees:	ACOM
Linkages To other Committees or Groups:	DFC, LRC,
Linkages to other Organisations:	The eel working group is a joint working group of EIFAC and ICES.

WGEF

2007/2/ACOM16 The **Working Group Elasmobranch Fishes** [WGEF] (Chair: Jim Ellis, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 3–6 March 2008 (in parallel with WGDEEP), and in July 2008 (in parallel with the ICCAT Shark Assessment subgroup, 1–5 September 2008, in Uruguay).

The first sub-group will meet at a joint meeting with WGDEEP (at ICES HQ, 3–6 March 2008) to:

- a) Update the description of elasmobranch fisheries for deep-water and demersal species in the ICES area and compile landings, effort and discard statistics by ICES Subarea and Division;
- b) Assess the stock identity and stock status of deep-water sharks in the ICES area;
- c) Work towards the production of an ICES Cooperative Research Report on the “Status of Elasmobranchs in the NE Atlantic” by finalising those chapters relating to deep-water sharks and demersal elasmobranchs;
- d) Compile available photographic images of deep-water elasmobranchs and demersal skates and rays to support the production of a photo-ID key for the elasmobranchs of the ICES area, and draft a supporting key for the identification of deep-water and demersal elasmobranchs.

The second sub-group will meet at a joint meeting with the ICCAT Shark Assessment subgroup (1–5 September, Uruguay) to:

- a) update the description of elasmobranch fisheries for pelagic sharks in the ICES area and evaluate landings and discard statistics for North Atlantic stocks;
- b) assess the stock status of pelagic sharks (blue shark, shortfin mako, porbeagle) in the North Atlantic;
- c) work towards the production of an ICES Cooperative Research Report on the “Status of Elasmobranchs in the NE Atlantic” by finalising those chapters relating to pelagic sharks and demersal elasmobranchs;
- d) compile available photographic images of pelagic elasmobranchs to support the production of a photo-ID key for the elasmobranchs of the ICES area, and draft a supporting key for the identification of pelagic elasmobranchs.

WGEF will work by correspondence to:

- a) address the OSPAR request on *Raja clavata* with a deadline of 20 December 2007

WGEF will report by end September for the attention of ACOM and LRC.

OSPAR request on Raja clavata.

In continuation of the OSPAR request last year to peer review nominations for species as threatened and/or declining in which ICES took part as an observer, ICES has been asked to peer review revised nominations for Raja clavata (Thornback skate/ray) in OSPAR Regions I,III,IV including a review of whether the data used to support the nominations are sufficiently reliable and adequate to serve as a basis for conclusions that the species and habitats concerned can be identified as threatened and/or declining species and habitats according to the Texel/Faial criteria. The review has a deadline for the Biodiversity Committee under OSPAR, as it did last year, and the formal deadline for ICES to deliver is 2 February.

Supporting information

PRIORITY	High. The work of the Group is essential if ICES is to provide advice on elasmobranch stocks, as required by the MOU with the EU.
JUSTIFICATION	The work done within WGEF has included development of assessment methodology for a selection of elasmobranch case-study species, which have very different population and

	<p>reproductive dynamics from the conventionally assessed teleosts. ICES is expected to give management advice for elasmobranch stocks (MoU between ICES and EC), and the scientific remit of this Group will be to adopt and extend these methods and review and define data requirements (fishery, survey and biological parameters) in relation to the needs of these analytical models and stock identity, and to carry out such assessments as required by ICES customers. Spurdog, skates and rays, lesser-spotted dogfish and porbeagle are mentioned as new species the EC wants advice on, according to the new EC-ICES MOU. It is important that the progress made by WGEF through the EU-funded DELASS project is maintained and built upon.</p> <p>The roadmap developed by WGEF in 2006 suggested that the WG focus on deep-water elasmobranchs in 2008 and pelagic sharks in 2009. ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) Shark Species Group held a data preparation meeting in June 2007 (which clashed with WGEF) and intend to meet in 2008 for assessing pelagic sharks in the Atlantic Ocean. WGEF considered that the group should work with WGDEEP for assessing deep-water sharks and also with ICCAT for the assessment of pelagic sharks. The WGEF report from these two sub-groups could then be completed by correspondence.</p> <p>OSPAR requests on <i>Raja clavata</i>.</p>
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN	Directly relevant, it allows ICES to respond to requested advice on elasmobranch fisheries. It is also necessary to ensure that elasmobranchs are considered in the ecosystem approach and in fleet-based forecasts that ICES will be carrying out.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	No specific resource requirements, beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
PARTICIPANTS	Most countries are now participating in the group and membership includes biologists, mathematicians, fisheries specialists and environmentalists. There is a wide variety of interests represented. Delegates from France and Spain attended in 2007, and it is hoped that expertise from these nations will continue. In 2008, WGEF would benefit from attracting fisheries scientists with a knowledge of high seas fisheries for large pelagic fishes.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES	Support is required to extract survey data from ICES databases. Otherwise very little input required from secretariat.
FINANCIAL	It is hoped to publish the work of WGEF as a CRR.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES	WGEF reports to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	Close cooperation with LRC is essential. This should include presentation of WGEF report at LRC meetings. WGEF needs to maintain close working relationships with regional demersal assessment groups (WGNSSK, WGNSSDS, WGSSDS, WGDEEP), relevant survey and biology working groups (e.g. IBTSWG, WGFE, SIMWG) and other fisheries and assessment groups (e.g. WGFTFB, WGMG, PGCCDBS). In terms of pelagic sharks, WGEF should work in cooperation with ICCAT's SCRS shark species sub-group.

WGHARP

2007/2/ACOM17 The **Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP)** (Chair: R. Merrick, USA) will meet in Tromsø, Norway, 27-30 August 2008 to:

- a) update assessments for harp and hooded seals based on new data collected in winter 2007–2008 surveys;
- b) consider other requests from member states for scientific advice;
- c) address a possible request from NAFO to review the available data on seal-fishery interactions

WGHARP will report by 1 September 2008 for the attention of the ACOM, RMC and LRC.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High priority as a tool for the assessment and management of harp and hooded seal in the North Atlantic Ocean. WGHARP receives requests for advice from member countries through ACOM and/or NAFO Scientific Council, including recognition of the need for a precautionary approach to management of seal populations.
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SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Action Numbers 4.3 and 4.3 A number of North Atlantic nations currently harvest harp and hooded seal stocks, and there is a need for a relatively neutral forum for developing and vetting scientific advice on sustainable harvests of these stocks. The WGHARP provides this forum through the inclusion of ICES and NAFO member state scientists expert in pinniped biology and the quantitative techniques necessary for development of sound catch advice; members represent all harvesting nations as well as nations without seal harvests. The activities of WGHARP are particularly relevant to action plan goals 3 and 4
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None beyond the contributions from member states
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 10-15 members and guests.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM is the parent advisory committee for WGHARP. NAFO Sc.C.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	LRC, RMC, WGMME, WGNPBW There is also a working relationship with the ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	NAFO, NAMMCO, Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Committee. The work of this group is closely aligned with harp and hooded seal research and management programs conducted by the governments of Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia, and the United States

WGNAS

2007/2/ACOM18 The **Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon** [WGNAS] (Chair: Tim Sheehan, USA) will meet in the headquarters of the Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland 1–10 April 2008 to:

- a) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the **North Atlantic Area**:
 - i) provide an overview of salmon catches and landings, including unreported catches by country and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2007;
 - ii) report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management;
 - iii) examine and report on associations between changes in biological characteristics of all life stages of Atlantic salmon, environmental changes and variations in marine survival with a view to identifying predictors of abundance ¹;
 - iv) describe the natural range of variability in marine survival with particular emphasis on partitioning mortality to the narrowest geographic scale possible (estuarine, near-shore, offshore, etc.); ²
 - v) compile information on the marine migration and dispersal of escaped farmed salmon with particular emphasis on movements between countries; ³
 - vi) provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2007 and advise on progress with compiling historical tag recovery data from oceanic areas ⁴;
 - vii) identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements; ⁵

- b) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the **North-East Atlantic Commission area**:
 - i) describe the key events of the 2007 fisheries; ⁶
 - ii) provide any new information on the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in recent years have been achieved;

- iii) review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, where possible based upon individual river stocks;
 - iv) describe the status of the stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2009-2011, if possible based on forecasts of PFA for northern and southern stocks, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding; 7
 - v) further develop methods to forecast PFA for northern and southern stocks with measures of uncertainty.
- c) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the **North American Commission** area:
- i) describe the key events of the 2007 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon); 6
 - ii) report on the biological characteristics (size, age, origin) of the catch in coastal fisheries and potential impacts on non-local salmon stocks.
 - iii) provide any new information on the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in recent years have been achieved;
 - iv) update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
 - v) In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the framework (FWI) indicates that re-assessment is required:* describe the status of the stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2008-2011 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding; 7
- d) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the **West Greenland Commission** area:
- vi) describe the key events of the 2007 fisheries; 6
 - vii) provide any new information on the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in recent years have been achieved;
 - viii) In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the framework (FWI) indicates that re-assessment is required:* describe the status of stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2008-2010 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding;^{7,8}

WGNAS will report by 17 April 2008 for the attention of ACOM and DFC.

Notes:

- 1) With regard to question 1.3, there is interest in determining if declines in marine survival coincide with changes in the biological characteristics of juveniles in fresh water or are modifying characteristics of adult fish (size at age, age at maturity, condition, sex ratio, growth rates, etc.) and with environmental changes. In the event that an annual measure is agreed for the West Greenland fishery, this question should be considered a lower priority than the other questions.
- 2) With regard to question 1.4, there is interest in determining the extent to which marine survival regimes are driven by factors in estuarine, nearshore, or offshore environments. To the extent possible, this assessment should focus on discrete stock complexes corresponding to NASCO management objectives. Characterizing these losses could

provide regional and stock-specific context for ongoing research and upcoming research initiatives such as SALSEA.

- 3) A number of implementation plans presented by NASCO Parties raised concern about the occurrence in their marine fisheries and rivers of farmed salmon originating in other countries.
- 4) With regard to question 1.6 the data on tag recovery information should be compiled according to the format developed by the ICES Workshop on the Development and Use of Historical Salmon Tagging Information from Oceanic areas
- 5) NASCO's International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's inventory of on-going research relating to salmon mortality in the sea will be provided to ICES to assist it in this task.
- 6) In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Any new information on non-catch fishing mortality, of the salmon gear used, and on the by-catch of other species in salmon gear, and on the by-catch of salmon in any existing and new fisheries for other species is also requested.
- 7) In response to questions 2.4, 3.5 and 4.3 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice.
- 8) In response to question 4.3, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.4 and 3.5.

*** NASCO should inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI.**

Generic ToRs for Benchmark workshops

- (1) Evaluate the appropriateness of data and methods to determine stock status and investigate methods for short term outlook taking agreed or proposed management plans into account
- (2) Evaluate the relevance of environmental drivers for stock dynamics
- (3) Agree and document preferred method for evaluating stock status and short term outlook (where applicable).

WKBENCH 1, 2 and 3

2007/2/ACOM19 The Workshop on Benchmark assessments 2008 (WKBENCH1) (Chair: NN, Country) will meet at ICES HQ, early September 2008 for 7 days to:

2007/2/ACOM20 The Workshop on Benchmark assessments 2008 (WKBENCH2) (Chair: NN, Country) will meet at ICES HQ, early October 2008 for 7 days to:

2007/2/ACOM21 The Workshop on Benchmark assessments 2008 (WKBENCH3) (Chair: NN, Country) will meet at ICES HQ, late October 2008 for 7 days to:

- a) carry out benchmark assessments according to the generic ToRs for benchmark workshops for the stocks that are selected by ACOM 2008, possibly including
 - i) had-scow
 - ii) mgb-8c9a
 - iii) mgw-78

- iv) nop-34
- v) ple-7h-k
- vi) ple-celt
- vii) ple-iris
- viii) sol-celt
- ix) sol-iris
- x) sol-nsea

WKBENCH 1, 2, 3 will report by 1 December 2008 for the attention of ACOM, RMC, LRC and PGCCDBS.

AMAWGC

2007/2/ACOM22 The **Annual Meeting of Advisory-related Working Group Chairs** [AMAWGC] (Chair: Martin Pastoors, The Netherlands) will meet at ICES Headquarters from 13:00 on 25 February until 13:00 on 29 February 2008 to:

- a) review the Table of Contents for the ICES Advisory Report for 2008 and for each Chapter identify what the Groups that shall contribute;
- b) review the Table of Contents of WG reports in 2008
- c) review and plan the implementation of long-term management simulations and evaluations of recovery plans and harvest control rules;
- d) review and plan the implementation of including ecosystem drivers in the fisheries advice
- e) review and plan the implementation of fisheries-based advice and integrate fisheries technology expertise
- f) review the links between assessment working groups and the PGCCDBS on the coordination and prioritization of data sampling.
- g) review and plan the implementation or updating of precautionary limit reference points and potential target reference points.
- h) review developments in stock assessment methodology in relation to the implementation in the Assessment Working Groups;

AMAWGC will report by 3 March 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The Meeting is instrumental in the process to allow for the assessment working group chairs becoming able to produce with their assessment wg the analysis and advice required for the new advisory process and keep abreast of the developments on management strategy evaluations, incorporating existing knowledge about ecosystem linkages and about mixed fisheries.
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SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>[Action numbers 3.2, 4.13, 4.15]</p> <p>The ICES advice on fisheries will in the future emphasise longer term management issues. It will address the practical situation of fisheries management better by being both stock and fisheries-oriented and it will increasingly include ecosystem considerations. These changes are introduced as a response to changes in the policy and management environment including both recent international agreements and resolutions such as the WSSD 2002 declaration and requirements from clients as expressed in the MOU between ICES and the European Commission.</p> <p>In order to introduce these changes there is a requirement to develop or operationalise the necessary approaches and methodologies and to enable the working groups to implement these approaches in order for ACOM to have the relevant input for the advice as required to address new aspects of the advice. Inputs to the fisheries assessments workings which will enable the groups to take onboard new information and approaches to ecosystem related issues and management strategy evaluations are produced by the SGMAS and WGRED. The AMAWGC group will serve as the interface between this work and the working groups and the group of chairs will have a forum to discuss and decide on the implementation in the course of WG meetings in 2008.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	
PARTICIPANTS:	<p>Invited chairs:</p> <p>OCC, WGFTFB</p> <p>WGWIDE, HAWG, NWWG, WGBFAS, AFWG, WGNSDS, WGANC, WGSSDS, WGNSSK, WGNAS, WGBAST, WGDEEP, WGNEW, WGHMM, WGEF, WGEEL, NIPAG, WGHARP</p> <p>WGECO</p> <p>WGMG, WGFE, WGCCC, SGMAS, SGMIXMAN, WGSAM</p>
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	RMC, LRC, PGCCDBS
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	This work serves as a mechanisms in fulfilment of the MOU with EC and fisheries commissions

SGMIXMAN

2007/2/ACOM23 The **Study Group on Mixed Fisheries Management** [SGMIXMAN]; (Chair: Stuart Reeves, UK) will meet at ICES HQ, 14–18 January 2008 to:

- a) summarise recent developments in the testing and implementation of mixed fishery forecasts using the Fcube approach, and outline further requirements for testing
- b) review the results of trial runs of Fcube based on the most recent fleet data and advice
- c) review recent developments in the use of fleet and fishery-based analyses in the formulation of management advice, with particular reference to the work of STECF and its sub-groups.
- d) define a file format for the exchange of mixed-fishery data in consultation with the STECF secretariat and the ICES secretariat (InterCatch)
- e) review the results of the EU-funded AFRAME project and outline future work planned under this project

SGMIXMAN will report by 25 January 2008 for the attention of the ACOM, RMC and LRC.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work is essential for ICES to progress in the development of its
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	capacity to provide advice on multi-species fisheries. Such advice is necessary to fulfil the requirements stipulated in the MOUs between ICES and Commissions.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN	<p>[Action numbers 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.12, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.11.2, 4.13, 4.15, 7.2]</p> <p>The initial establishment of the MIXMAN group, initially as WKMIXMAN (in 2006) then as SGMIXMAN, reflected the requirement that ICES provide advice which is consistent across stocks for mixed fisheries. In 2006 WKMIXMAN identified an approach which links the fleet and fishery aspects of the system with the single species assessments and thus provides a conceptual framework for the provision of fleet- and fisheries-based advice. This approach (known as Fcube) was developed and tested further at the 2007 meeting of SGMIXMAN. In the longer term the framework could be used in providing more integrated advice on a fleet and fishery basis in relation to ecosystem as well as fishery considerations. Hence this work is of strategic, as well as short-term importance.</p> <p>The issue of providing advice for mixed fisheries remains an important one for ICES. However, in practice all recent advice in this area has resulted from the work and analyses done by sub-groups of STECF rather than ICES. These analyses have been used to inform changes to the effort management regimes implemented by the European Commission in relation to recovery plans for various stocks of cod, hake and Nephrops. It is important for ICES to be aware of these developments, and by reviewing them it may be possible to identify an enhanced role for ICES in this area. The definition of a common data exchange format would be a necessary prerequisite for this.</p> <p>The ideas resulting from the first MIXMAN meeting were used as a basis of a research proposal. This was funded by the European Commission as the Aframe project, which started on 1 April 2007. The work of this project includes the development and testing of the Fcube approach so it is intended that this meeting be a joint ICES/Aframe project meeting. The trial runs referred to in term of reference b are anticipated as one result of the Aframe project. The combination of the Aframe project meeting with the SG meeting would allow both for greater participation in the ICES meeting and wider dissemination of the results of the Aframe project.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements, beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	Experts with qualifications regarding mixed fisheries aspects, fisheries management and modelling based on limited and uncertain data.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities, production of report.
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	RMC through the WGMG
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	This work serves as a mechanism in fulfilment of the MOU with EC and fisheries commissions.

SGMAS

2007/2/ACOM24 The **Study Group on Management Strategies [SGMAS]** (Co-Chairs: John Simmonds, (UK Scotland) and Dankert Skagen (Norway)) will meet in Lisbon (Portugal), 17–21 November 2008 to:

- a) examine current developments of harvest control rules in particular and management strategies in general to assemble experience for further revisions of guidelines for developing and evaluating for such processes;
- b) assemble results from ongoing work in other Expert Groups related to management strategy development and evaluation, including this year SGRAMA, WGMG, WKEFA, SGFIAC and WGSAM.

- c) explore feasible management strategies that do not rely solely on regular analytic stock assessments;
- d) update the inventory of methods and software to evaluate harvest control rules, taking into account evaluations of such methods by WGMG.

SGMAS will report within four weeks from the meeting 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of this group is essential for ICES to advise on, and to contribute to the development of management strategies.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>SGMAS was established to provide guidelines for evaluation of upcoming proposals for management strategies in general and harvest control rules in particular. Such guidelines were provided in 2006. Development of management strategies is a field with many aspects, which at present are spread over a large number of specialised expert groups in ICES, as well as in fora outside ICES. The purpose of maintaining SGMAS is to provide a forum for synthesis of ongoing work, to set standards and provide updated guidelines for future developments.</p> <p>ToR a): As management strategies are being developed and evaluated, much experience is gained that should be assembled and used in future work. This includes pure methodological issues, but also the processes leading to management strategies, including interactions with stakeholders and decision makers. Progress was made in this direction in 2007, and will be extended in future meetings.</p> <p>ToR b): This ToR is the core of the role of SGMAS as a forum for synthesizing the outcome of parallel processes within and outside ICES. In 2007, the WKEFA was set up to specifically examine the use of environment information in management strategies, with the intention that the insight gained by this group should be brought back into the general frameworks developed by SGMAS. Similar processes are ongoing in a variety of expert groups.</p> <p>ToR c): Without standard analytic stock assessments, managers need other kinds of information as basis for their decisions. Combining such information in terms of indicators of the state of the stock, understanding how such indicators are linked to the state of the stock and how a management strategy using such information can perform is a relatively new, but rapidly growing field, which SGMAS has already started to explore. Important projects have contributed to this field, e.g. FISBOAT, and there is experience gained in other parts of the world. Again, the role of SGMAS is to synthesise experience and insight, and contribute to further development in the field.</p> <p>ToR d): SGMAS has made an inventory of methods for evaluating management strategies. The critical examination of such methods is largely the task of WGMG, but SGMAS should still maintain an overview of existing methods.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is well-manned by the correct people.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities, production of report.
FINANCIAL:	None.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Strong links to ACOM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	SGMAS will assemble results with relevance to the process of developing and evaluating management strategies from a wide range of EGs. Such groups include WGFS, SGRAMA, WGMG, WKEFA, SGFIAC, WGSAM, WGRED, WGECO the previous REGNS and others.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is similar work going on elsewhere, and SGMAS will follow those developments.

WGNEW

2007/2/ACOM25 The **Working Group on Assessment of New MoU Species** [WGNEW] (Co-Chairs: Henk Heessen, Netherlands and Jean-Claude Mahé, France) will meet by correspondence in 2008 to:

- a) review and coordinate progress on EC funded small-scale project on analyses of data for new assessment species:
 - i) sea bass,
 - ii) flounder (except for the Baltic)
 - iii) common dab (except for the Baltic),
 - iv) lemon sole
 - v) brill (except for the Baltic),
 - vi) turbot (except for the Baltic),
 - vii) witch flounder,
 - viii) red gurnard,
 - ix) tub gurnard,
 - x) grey gurnard,
 - xi) striped red mullet
 - xii) John dory

WGNEW will report by August 2008 for the attention of ACOM, LRC and RMC.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High. The new MoU lists these species as new and extra species for which EC and NEAFC want advice on their management.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN	<p>The MoU between the EC and ICES lists a number of new species for which the EC wants routine advice from ICES regarding management of the fishery on them.</p> <p>This WG is regarded to deal with the issues for the fish species mentioned. For the work to progress, there is a need for an EC funded small-scale project on analyses of data for new assessment species. The meeting by correspondence will make sure that the group is on top of the development of the small-scale project (if it gets funded).</p> <p>The Working Group should then meet in the summer of 2009 to consider possibilities for fish stock assessments/input to management processes/indicators of the species mentioned in the ToRs and specifically:</p> <p>review of knowledge on stock structure, existing fisheries monitoring programmes and surveys including the EU Data Collection Programme, existing databases made available for fish stocks assessment.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements, beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting by correspondence in 2008.
PARTICIPANTS:	10–15
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Production of report
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	RMC and LRC
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	

WGSTAL

2007/2/ACOM26 The **Fishery Statistics Liaison Working Group** [WGSTAL] (Chair: Franco Zampagna, IT), Eurostat) will meet in Luxembourg for **two** days in June 2008 to:

- a) review the cooperation between ICES and Eurostat and detailing the future procedures within the framework of the ICES/Eurostat Partnership Agreement;
- b) review progress with the FIGIS/FIRMS project (for information);
- c) discuss the sources, quality and use of data on non-reported landings and provide guidance on how best to estimate the magnitude of these landings;
- d) review the report of the Intersessional Meeting of the CWP and agree follow-up actions within the Eurostat/ICES partnership on fisheries statistics;
- e) review the progress with implementation by ICES and Eurostat of the finer breakdown of fishing areas for the reporting of catches (STATLANT 27A and EU legislation);
- f) review progress on the development of sustainability indicators.
- g) Review progress with the project on establishing a consolidated electronic database of catch statistics for the period before 1973.

WGSTAL will report by **XX** June 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of the working group is essential to maintain contact with the national statistical focal points and to ensure a continuation in the quality of the fisheries statistical data not least for use by the fish stock assessment working groups.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN	<p>[Action number 4.2]</p> <p>Detailed, high quality fisheries statistics are essential for fish stock assessments. In particular to TOR on “non-reported landings there should be a discussion based on the use of catch statistics made by the assessments groups. The scientists are using these data but the reliability of the official statistics is under dispute. There is documentation of non-reported landings of significant magnitude in some fisheries. This documentation is emerging from the processing industry and from the scientists.</p> <p>The revised EU legislation on catch statistics has been adopted. This legislation results from NEAFC and IBSFC for a more detailed breakdown of the statistical divisions of the NE Atlantic and the meeting will review the implementation of the legislation by the national authorities.</p> <p>The meeting will review the progress made by the ICES Secretariat in computerising the extensive historic hard-copy archives held by ICES, the problems encountered and the incorporation of the data in the Eurostat/ICES database.</p> <p>TOR f) will be based on ICES and Eurostat’s joint participation in the EEA working group and the input both organisations have given to the DG Fish process, focusing on the use in fisheries management. If appropriate, a participant from the EEA should be invited.</p> <p>Eurostat will add to the agenda with topics that are of specific interest to their work, topics under discussion include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) development of data on employment in the fisheries sector 2) report of the study on supply balance sheets for fisheries. 3) revisions to the legislation on landings and aquaculture data. 4) discrepancies in FAO, OECD and Eurostat trade data.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	The Secretariat shall prepare appropriate working papers in particular on progress with developing data checking software.
PARTICIPANTS:	Fisheries Statisticians from national statistical offices The meeting will include more than 50 participants. (ICES member countries, most EU and accession countries and several IGOs).

	WGSTAL will meet together with Eurostat's Working Group "Fisheries Statistics".
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	ICES has entered into a Partnership with Eurostat on developing and running fisheries statistics systems covering the Northeast Atlantic fisheries. ICES and Eurostat will be in the fringe and back-to-back with this meeting meet with Eurostat to review the Secretariat arrangements as stipulated in our agreement. Eurostat will make the practical arrangements for the WGSTAL meeting. ICES will meet with Eurostat in the margin of this meeting to review progress with the project on establishing software for data checking and to review the cooperation between the two secretariats.
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Closely linked to ACOM activities.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	

WKHMP

2007/2/ACOM27 The **Workshop on Herring Management Plans [WKHMP]** (chair: Mark Dickey-Collas*, The Netherlands) will be established and will meet at ICES HQ, 4 February 2008 to:

- a) evaluate the management plans agreed between Norway and the European Community concerning herring of North Sea origin :
 - i) With particular respect to :
 - 1) achieving the highest yields long-term from these stocks;
 - 2) ensuring conformity with the precautionary approach;
 - 3) achieving yields as stable as possible, consistent with achieving a high yield from the stocks and achieving conformity with precautionary principles.
 - ii) provide recommendations on any appropriate alterations to the target fishing mortality rate(s) (para. 2), the rule concerning stability of TACs (para 5), or the degressive rate of fishing mortality at lower stock sizes (para. 3).
 - iii) Consider what (if any) limits on TAC variations could be applied to the TAC for herring by-catches in the North Sea
 - iv) Advise on the circumstances in which para. 6 should apply, and the action to be taken in such circumstances.
 - v) comment on any other pertinent aspect of the management plan.
- b) identify multi-annual plans for Herring Western Baltic, Kattegat, Skagerrak (Sub-Div 22-24) :
 - i) Of the following form
 - 1) the sum of the regulated catches for the stock of spring-spawning herring in the Western Baltic, the Skagerrak and the Kattegat ("the stock") shall be set according to a fishing mortality of [A].
 - 2) notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, the sum of the regulated catches shall not be altered by more than [B] % with respect to the sum of the regulated catches for the previous year.
 - 3) Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, in the event that the spawning stock size for the stock is estimated at less than [C tonnes / appropriate model-specific units], the sum of the regulated catches for the stock shall be adapted to assure rebuilding of the spawning stock size to above [C] without incurring the restriction referred to in Paragraph 2. ICES should propose a TAC-setting calculation in such cases.

- ii) ICES is asked to identify combinations of values for A, B and C that would assure management of the stock that would conform to the precautionary approach, i.e. a low risk of stock depletion, stable catches and sustained high yield.
- iii) ICES should explore other relevant scenarios on its own initiative, but should include at least scenarios where A = fishing mortality = 0.25 (by analogy with North Sea and West Scotland herring) or $F_{0.1} = 0.22$ and B = limit on TAC changes = 15%.
- iv) ICES is also invited to suggest other approaches to the multi-annual management of this stock on its own initiative.

WKHMP will report by 1 February 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	According to ICES MOU with the EC ICES is obliged to evaluate agreed HCR. Furthermore, in this case ICES have been requested by the EC to do the specified investigations about possible HCRs
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	[Action numbers 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.12, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.11.2, 4.13, 4.15, 7.2] The will apply guidelines for evaluation of management strategies developed by SGMAS. The work will allow ICES to provide advice on long term strategies for the two herring stocks.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	The Secretariat shall prepare appropriate working papers in particular on progress with developing data checking software.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Workshop is expected to attract interest among involved countries. Scientists, fisheries managers and stakeholders will be invited.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Normal meeting support
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	SGMAS, HWAG

WKREFBAS

2006/2/ACOM28 The **Workshop on Reference Points in the Baltic Sea** [WKREFBAS] (Chair: Carl O'Brien, UK) will be established and will meet at ICES HQ, 12–14 February 2008 to:

- a) review and update the biological basis of limit reference points for fish stocks in the Baltic Sea area, taking into account the possible effects of species interactions and regime shifts; and
- b) evaluate the effect of applying single species reference points in a multi-species framework, with particular reference to limit and precautionary reference points as presently proposed by ICES in the Baltic Sea, and taking into account any changes suggested in response to ToR a).

WKREFBAS will report by 22 February 2008 for the attention of ACOM and AMAWGC

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work is essential for ICES to progress in the development of its capacity to assist in the development and evaluation on management strategies. Such evaluations are necessary to fulfil the requirements stipulated in the MOUs between ICES and Commissions.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	[Action numbers 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.12, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.11.2, 4.13, 4.15, 7.2] The WKREFBAS is a follow up of the WKREF 2007. The workshop will evaluate limit and precautionary reference points for stocks in the Baltic Sea area. For this area, there are indications that effects of species interactions and regime shifts have influenced productivity of the stocks substantially. Limit reference points in ICES have been established in 1998 via the SGPA, SGPRP and ACOM. Some of the limit reference points have been updated after 1998, e.g. because new information became available, because assessment methodologies changed or because the original value was inappropriately chosen. With the general change in orientation in fisheries management towards harvesting at MSY and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, there is a need to review the basis for the limit reference points and to explicitly incorporate species interactions and regime shifts. ToR b) – In 2003, the ICES SGMSNS was given a similar ToR for the North Sea following an updated key run of the MSVPA for the North Sea. Later this year in 2007, SGBFFD will be updating the multi-species assessments for the Baltic Sea and it is timely that this key run then be used to investigate existing, and potential, limit and precautionary reference points for Baltic stocks.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	None
PARTICIPANTS:	Experts with qualifications regarding institutional aspects of fisheries management, biological limit reference points, environmental regime shifts in upper trophic levels, biological fish stock interactions.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities, production of report.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM. The quality of stock assessments and management advice of Baltic herring, sprat and cod stocks.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	RMC, OCC, BCC, SGMAS, AMAWGC, WGBFAS, WGRED, WGECO, SGBFFD, WKHRPB

LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	This work serves as a mechanism in fulfillment of the MOU with EC and fisheries commissions and HELCOM.
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PGCCDBS and related Workshops

PGCCDBS

2007/2/ACOM29 The **Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling** [PGCCDBS] (Chair: Ernesto Jardim, Portugal) will meet 3–7 March, 2008 in Cyprus to:

- a) Review and follow up of last year's recommendations;
- b) Review feed-back from ICES Assessment Working Groups and other relevant Expert Groups or Workshops as communicated through the contacts officers; Where appropriate propose actions to be taken within the ICES system;
- c) Consider a report by the European Commission from the DCR Liaison Meeting and relevant STECF sub-groups on data collection issues. Where appropriate propose actions to be taken within the ICES system;
- d) Review changes in data collection procedures and communicate changes to the assessments groups through the contact officers. The Assessment Groups will consider if these changes present problems for stock assessment data and where appropriate propose procedure changes for rectifying the problems.
- e) Continue developing standards and best practises for sampling commercial fisheries. Review the workplan and actions taken so far for establishing standards and best practices and agree on an workplan for intersessional work.
- f) Continue the work on developing protocols for age calibration and maturity staging workshops;

PGCCDBS will report for the attention of ACOM by 17 March 2008.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Ad a) the recommendations include Secretariat actions on distribution of information, publication of age calibration workshop, establishing a network of contact points with the assessment groups and Ad b) PGCCDBS has established a system of contact persons with the assessment WGs and will review feed-back from the liaison officers and decide on appropriate actions by ICES. Ad c) the Commission will present a report on the performance of the DCR, d) PGCCDBS is the clearing house for communication between the DCR and Assessment WGs The meeting is placed in Cyprus as this meeting shall be held in parallel with the corresponding group for the Mediterranean EU fisheries
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM

LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	RMC
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	DG Fish (DCR)

WKSC

2007/2/ACOM30 The **Workshop on Fishers Sampling of Catches** [WKSC] (Co-Chairs: Kjell Nedreaas, Norway* and Michael Pennington*, Norway will be established and will meet at ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 10–13 June 2008 to:

- a) review existing systems with fishers sampling of catches (industry sampling systems) based on intercessional exchange of information.
- b) develop standards for designing industry sampling programs, e.g., present the effective sample size for a survey.
- c) determine sampling schemes for estimating, among other quantities, discards and unreported landings.
- d) examine general survey design such as the use of fixed stations design, the use of fishing vessels or fishery independent surveys, etc.

WKSC will report by 20 June 2008 for the attention of ACOM, LRC, RMC and PGCCDBS.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	To assess a fishery it is necessary to determine the biological characteristics, such as age and length distributions, of the commercial catch. In addition, estimates of the amount of discards will lead to more accurate assessments.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Using scientists to collect information on commercial catches is usually not cost effective. Several institutions are now employing selected fishers (often called a 'reference fleet') to measure a subsample of their catches, extract otoliths, record the amount of discards, etc. This may be a cost efficient way to collect such data but care is needed to assure that these data are as useful as possible. The purpose of ToR 1 is to review in detail present schemes for industry sampling programs. Based on ToR 1, ToR 2 and ToR 4 will develop standards for such programs.. ToR 3 will focus on estimation issues, how they can be improved and their precision (standard errors, effective sample sizes, etc.).
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	In view of its relevance to the DCR, the Workshop is expected to attract wide interest from both ICES Member States and Mediterranean EU Member States. The chairs will ensure that experiences from North America is presented to the Workshop
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	To ensure wide attendance of relevant experts, additional funding will be required, preferably through the EU, e.g. by making attendance to the Workshop eligible under the DCR. The Chairs will explore possibilities to fund participation from North America
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM and its assessment Working Groups.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	This Workshop was proposed by PGCCDBS. Outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to the Living Resources Committee and the Resource Management Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR and outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to several RFOs, including GFCM and NAFO.

WKISCON

2007/2/ACOM31 The **Joint STECF/ICES Workshop on Implementation Studies on Concurrent Length Sampling** [WKISCON] (Chair: Sieto Verver*, The Netherlands, Belgium) will be established and will meet at ICES HQ, Copenhagen, 29–31 January 2008 to:

- a) review the results of the 2007 implementation studies on concurrent length sampling of commercial landings. A standardized format for reporting and presenting the results will be sent around by the Chairs before the meeting to the national correspondents for DCR and participants;
- b) advise on best practice methods for concurrent sampling, taking into account both technical feasibility and quality aspects of data collection.

WKISCON will report 11 February 2008 for the attention of ACOM, LRC, RMC and PGCCDBS by.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High. The implementation of the proposed shift in the EU data collection framework from species-based to métier-based sampling and, above all, the requirement on concurrent length sampling of the landings (both foreseen as part of the new EU Data Collection Regulation, DCR), are likely to cause significant problems for the institutes involved in length sampling of commercial catches.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	One of the major challenges fleet-fisheries based sampling raises is the need to know the multispecies fishing mortality for each species caught within each fleet/fishery. This will require a better knowledge of the fleet behaviour in terms of specific landings composition, in particular the multispecies length frequency of the total landings. The complete representation of the multivariate length frequency requires the knowledge of the covariance between its marginal distributions, that can be obtained by e.g. sampling directly the multi species length frequency of the landings by trip, named concurrent sampling. The pragmatic implementation of such method requires a sampling effort impossible to execute due to the time available for sampling and the human resources necessary for such task. To explore the possibilities of concurrent sampling in each country, implementation studies take place during 2007. The workshop aims at analyzing the results of this implementation studies and to translate the experiences from these studies into sampling schemes that account for the requirements of the DCR framework.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	The Workshop is expected to attract wide interest from fisheries institutes involved in market sampling, both within and outside the ICES community. The proposal for this Workshop is supported by both PGCCDBS and PGMED. A participation of around 25 is expected.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	To ensure wide attendance of relevant experts, some additional funding may be required, preferably through the EU, e.g. by making attendance to the Workshop eligible under the DCR.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The implementation studies and the proposed Workshop have a direct link with the upcoming shift from stock-based to metier-based sampling and hence, are of relevance to all bodies that make use of length composition data collected under the DCR (assessment WGs, advisory committees, etc.).
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There will be important outcomes from this Workshop of interest to the ICES Living Resources and Resource Management Committees.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	Outcomes from this Workshop will be relevant to several regional fisheries organisations and advisory bodies, including ICES, NAFO, GFCM, STECF and others.

WKACCU

2007/2/ACOM32 The **Workshop on Methods to evaluate and estimate the accuracy of fisheries data used for assessment** [WKACCU] (Co-Chairs: Michael Pennington* and Jon Helge Vølstad*, IMR, Norway (to be confirmed)) will be established and will meet in Bergen, Norway, 27–30 October 2008 to:

- a) review the sources of bias and establish general parameters (indicators)/procedures to assess the bias on national level of fishery statistics (quantities landed, discards, fishing effort, CPUE) using available data, and advice on best practices.
- b) review the sources of bias and establish general parameters (indicators)/procedures to assess the bias on national level of biological data collected from the fisheries by investigating (both visual and quantitative) the data coverage by stock, area, season and fleet

WKACCU will report by 10 November 2008 for the attention of ACOM, LRC, RMC and PGCCDBS.

Supporting information

PRIORITY:	Very high priority because accuracy is crucial for guiding action. In fact, inaccurate data may result in wrong decision, leading to disastrous assessments and to waste of resources. It was decided that this workshop will focus solely on <u>accuracy</u> , and in a later workshop (2009 or 2010) to evaluate and estimate the <u>precision</u> of fisheries data.
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<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>In the current DCR and other national sampling programs and -strategies, data quality is almost solely addressed by means of target precision levels for a number of fishery-related and stock-related parameters (fishing effort, quantities landed and discarded, age composition of the landings and discards, growth curves, maturity and fecundity ogives, etc.). However, it is not because an estimate is precise that it is also accurate. For example, estimates of the landings based on sales slips will usually be very precise, but they may be very inaccurate if there is a problem of unreported landings. Similarly, estimates of the length distribution of the landings may be very inaccurate if they only cover a small part of the spatial distribution of the total landings. Therefore, there is a need of objective indicators of data accuracy that could be taken into account when setting up sampling schemes.</p> <p>For this Workshop to succeed, the following tasks need to be completed by each participating country prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Each participating country should choose one fishery as an example and present ways to assure accuracy in each of the data handling steps from the fish are caught until national data on catch-at-age is provided to the ICES stock coordinator (InterCatch). b) Possible ways to look at this could be logbooks compared with sale slips from the same vessel and/or trip; compare logbook data from vessels or trips with and without observers; combining fishing inspection (onboard observations) and control of landings with VMS data (name and frequency of vessels going to harbor); c) Each participant should prepare geographical distribution charts to the workshop of the national catches shown on a map including the same geographical cells/strata that are the basis for the geographical collection of biological stock data. d) On the same map, or on a copy of the map, suitable information about the coverage of the samples should be presented– with the aim of ensuring that all areas with catches are sampled. Percentages of catches up against samples could be presented on this geographical cells/strata basis. e) Present a list of national conversion factors used to estimate round weight from product weight f) Each country to provide details of sampling intensities (eg. number of trips sampled against total number of trips) for all sampled fleets (defined according to the Nantes meetings). g) Recommend that where possible, countries should complete the Discard Sampling Review Form (from Charlottenlund) for 2005 by fleet. If sampling design does not allow the completion of this information, the Form should be used as a means of inspiration to provide relevant data. h) Each country to provide a description of variables that are available to them for raising procedures.
<p>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>DCR (EU Data Collection Regulation) data collection system, and other national systems and data sources.</p>
<p>PARTICIPANTS:</p>	<p>In view of its relevance to the DCR, the Workshop is expected to attract wide interest from both ICES Member States and Mediterranean EU Member States. The workshop will benefit from the attendance of managers, fishers and people from the fishing industry.</p>
<p>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL:</p>	<p>To ensure wide attendance of relevant experts, additional funding will be required, preferably through the EU, e.g. by making attendance to the Workshop eligible under the DCR.</p>

LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM and its assessment Working Groups.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	This workshop was proposed by PGCCDBS. Outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to the Living Resources Committee and the Resource Management Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR and outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to several RFOs, including NEAFC, JNRFC, GFCM and NAFO. The Workshop will evaluate links with the project COST (EU FISH/2006/15:lot 2) and provide an opportunity to test and influence that project.

WKMOG

2007/2/ACOM33 The **Workshop on Maturity Ogive Estimation for Stock Assessment** [WKMOG] (Chair: David Maxwell*, UK) will be established and will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 3–6 June 2008 to:

- a) review the data structures commonly used at a national and international level and agree on a format for analysis purposes;
- b) Investigate differences in raising procedures to maturity datasets in use by different countries, compare the results between methods and data sources, identifying the advantages and limitations of each procedure, consider proposals for such raising procedures;
- c) propose best practises for summarizing and reporting the results.

WKMOG will report by 20 June 2008 for the attention of ACOM and PGCCDBS.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Medium. Maturity estimates are an important element of assessment procedures but assessment WGs do not necessarily require or use annual estimates. Some countries have developed estimation methods while others are requesting urgent international guidance. All institutes involved in providing maturity data should benefit from development of best practice at a workshop focussed on implementation.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Since 2002 the European Union has required member states to collect maturity data under the Data Collection Regulation (DCR, EC Regulations No 1543/2000, No 1639/2001 and No1581/2004). Consequently most countries collect maturity data, but lack guidance in estimating and reporting maturity. A common estimation procedure would be applied to a set of data covering a wide range of different data sources, sampling programmes and regions. The objective is to establish, if not a common methods for raising, at least a set of best practices to be used when producing estimates from maturity data. In the process, countries would have a chance to learn how to resolve specific raising issues related to their maturity sampling programs and to apply other, possibly new, methods to provide national maturity estimates.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	A data co-ordinator will be required from the participants to ensure that suitable data are available to all participants before of the meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	A mix of scientists who have developed methods and code for estimating maturity and scientists responsible for reporting estimates under the DCR. Around 20 to 25 participants are expected.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	To ensure attendance of relevant experts, additional funding through the EU is requested by making attendance to the Workshop eligible under the DCR.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There is a link to ACOM through assessment Working Groups.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR	Outcomes from this workshop will be of interest to the ICES RMC. The Workshop

GROUPS:	was proposed through PGCCDBS and will link with previous work in WKMAT and SGGROMAT.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR and outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to RCMs. The Workshop will establish links with the project COST (EU FISH/2006/15: Lot 2) and provide an opportunity to test and influence code developed in that project.

WKADR

2007/2/ACOM34 The **Workshop on Age Determination of Redfish** [WKADR] (Co-Chairs: F. Saborido-Rey*, Spain, and C. Stransky*, Germany) will be established and will meet in Nanaimo, Canada, 2–5 September 2008 to:

- a) review information on age determinations, otolith exchanges and validation work since the age reading workshop in 2006;
- b) identify sources of age determination error in terms of bias and precision, describe the corresponding interpretational differences between readers and laboratories, and agree on the ageing criteria;
- c) identify the most appropriate otolith preparation method for age determination of redfish and provide stock-specific guidelines for ageing;
- d) collate sex-specific growth information and analyse differences in growth estimates between otolith readers and preparation methods;
- e) investigate the progress in the implementation of quality control and quality assurance (QC/QA) in redfish ageing labs;
- f) prepare the publication of the results of the 2006 and 2008 workshops and the recent otolith exchanges (2007–2008) in the ICES CRR series.

WKADR will report by 15 October 2008 for the attention of ACOM, RMC, NWWG, SGRS, AFWG and PGCCDBS.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The Workshop is essential for the continuation of the efforts directed at analytical age-based assessment for redfish within the North-Western Working Group and NAFO.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>Reliable age determination data are the basis of age-based analytical assessment of the species and stocks under investigation. For redfish, recent studies and the 2006 age determination workshop have revealed considerable discrepancy in ageing criteria.</p> <p>Due to these discrepancies, redfish otoliths are seldom routinely aged, and hence age-based analytical assessment is normally not conducted for any stock. For the alternative length based or age-length based methods, reliable estimates of growth rates are essential.</p> <p>The 2006 workshop has collated the latest knowledge on redfish age determination since the previous workshop in 1995. Several sets of otoliths were read during that workshop, giving hints on the interpretational differences between readers and the effects of different otolith preparation methods on the age estimates. The results clearly illustrated the need for further intercalibration.</p> <p>Since the workshop in 2006, several thousand additional age readings and a series of otolith exchanges have been carried out, and the age reading labs have started implementing quality control and quality assurance (QC/QA) measures. A workshop in 2008 is highly recommended to analyse the results of these latest data and to monitor the QC/QA progress in the age reading labs.</p> <p>Action Plan Numbers: 1.1, 1.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.12</p>
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	Provide sound, credible, timely, peer-reviewed, and integrated scientific advice on fishery management and the protection of the marine environment in response to requests from regulatory commissions, Member Countries, and partner organisations.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS :	
PARTICIPANTS :	10–15
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	N/A
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	LRC, NWWG, SGRS, AFWG, SGASAM?
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	NAFO, NEAFC

Age reading workshops

The Age reading workshops shall:

- a) compile information on laboratory procedures;
- b) resolve interpretation differences between readers and lab's;
- c) update (create) the ageing manual;
- d) collate agreed age reference collection;
- e) formulate follow-up actions;
- f) formulate target and threshold statistics.

Each workshop will meet for at most five days.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Required to quality assure input data for fish stock assessment, such as age and length distributions, of the commercial and of research survey catches.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	Will be provided under the DCR data collection system.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop eligible under the 2008 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	There is a direct link to ACOM through the relevant Fisheries Assessment Working Group
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKART

2007/2/ACOM35 The **Workshop on Age Reading of Turbot [WKART]** (Chair: Bart Maertens*, Belgium) will be established and will meet 24–27 June, 2008 in Oostende, Belgium to:

- a) decrease the relative/absolute bias and improve the precision (reduce CV) of age determinations between age readers of the different age reading laboratories;
- b) evaluate the results of the previous exchange;
- c) create a manual;
- d) collate agreed age reference collection;
- e) formulate follow-up actions
- f) answer to the relevant generic TORs defined by PGCCDBS.

WKART will report by 7 July 2008 for the attention of ACOM, WGNSSK, WGBFAS and PGCCDBS.

Supporting Information

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS) meeting in Valetta, March 2007, identified turbot (<i>Psetta maxima</i>) as one species requiring an ageing workshop to evaluate and improve the age interpretation based on stained slides of the otoliths. The Workshop can build on the results of the recent otolith exchange and will be the first ageing workshop for turbot.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	Baltic and North Sea age determination experts from the 7 countries who participated in de exchange (UK, Belgium, The Netherlands, Sweden, Poland and Latvia) extended with age determination experts from other countries/institutes where turbot is of interest.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop eligible under the 2008 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	ACOM, Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) and the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS)
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKARBH

2007/2/ACOM36 The **Workshop on Age Reading of Baltic Herring** (WKARBH) (Chair Georgs Kornilovs*, Latvia) will be established and will meet in Riga, Latvia, 9–13 June 2008 to:

- a) discuss disagreements in age reading results from the otoliths samples read during the exchanges and determine the possible reasons for that;
- b) perform the comparative age determination of new otolith samples during the workshop and determine the precision in age readings and relative bias;
- c) estimate improvement in age reading concerning precision and bias by comparing exchange sets and the sets at the workshop;
- d) update the manual for age reading of Baltic herring (interpretation of rings and edges, period of opaque and translucent ring formation);
- e) make recommendations for further cooperation between Baltic herring age readers, otolith sample exchange, bilateral cooperation, workshop.

WKARBH will report by 28 July 2008 for the attention of ACOM, WGBFAS and PGCCDBS.

Supporting information

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	ICES had established Baltic Herring Age Reading Study Group (BHARSG) in 1997 and dissolved it in 2001 considering that BHARSG has accomplished the tasks set in ToRs. BHARSG found that regular workshops would maintain the agreement between readers and ensure precision. Since 2001 the experts continued cooperation by preparing Baltic Herring otolith samples and circulating them between national laboratories. These exchanges included approximately 10-11 experts from 9 countries. The exchange program needs to be evaluated and individual age determination experts need to reconfirm interpretation and quality measures in order to assure a consistent age determination process.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	Baltic herring age determination experts from 9 countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden). Experts from national institutes of all these countries participated in the exchange program.

SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop eligible under the 2008 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	There is a direct link to ACOM through the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKARBS

2007/2/ACOM37 The **Workshop on Age Reading of Baltic Sprat (WKARBS)** (Chair: Georgs Kornilovs*, Latvia) will be established and will meet in Klaipeda, Lithuania, 17–20 March 2008 to:

- a) discuss disagreements in age reading results from the otoliths samples read during the exchanges and determine the possible reasons for that; a) Check the accomplishment of recommendations made at the previous workshop; Estimate improvement in age reading concerning precision and bias by comparing exchange sets and the sets at the workshop;
- b) update the manual for age reading (interpretation of rings and edges, period of opaque and translucent ring formation); a) Make recommendations for further cooperation between Baltic sprat age readers, otolith sample exchange, bilateral cooperation, workshop.

WKARBS will report by 15 May 2008 for the attention of ACOM, WGBFAS and PGCCDBS.

Supporting information

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	In 2004 Baltic Sea Regional Project initiated exchange of Baltic sprat otolith samples between relevant age determination experts. 11 experts from 9 countries participated in this exchange program. To evaluate the results of the otolith samples exchange in 2006 Baltic Sprat Age Reading Workshop was held in Charlottenlund, Denmark in the frames of Baltic Sea Regional Project. The workshop stated rather high disagreement between readers in interpretation of Baltic sprat age, differences in optic equipment used for age determination of sprat, low precision level, inconsistencies in annual age composition. After the workshop a new otolith sample exchange was started. The exchange program needs to be evaluated and individual age determination experts need to agree on interpretation and quality measures in order to assure a consistent age determination process.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	Baltic sprat age determination experts from 9 countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden). Experts from national institutes of all these countries participated in the exchange program.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop eligible under the 2008 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	There is a direct link to ACOM through the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKARFLO

2007/2/ACOM38 The **2nd Workshop on Age Reading of Flounder [WKARFLO]** (Co-Chairs Johan Modin, Sweden and Ann-Britt Florin, Sweden) will meet in Rostock, Germany, 27–29 May 2008 to:

- a) evaluate the 2007 exchange of sectioned and stained otoliths;
- b) conduct an experiment on the feasibility of broken and burnt otoliths for age determination of flounder;

- c) conduct an experiment on the influence of length information on age determination;
- d) prepare an international manual for age determination of flounder in the Baltic Sea;
- e) initiate and update protocols for national reference collections;
- f) establish a protocol for updating historical data.

WKARFLO will report by 30 June 2008 for the attention of ACOM, LRC, RMC, WGBFAS and PGCCDBS.

Supporting Information:

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	There have been indications (mean weight at age, yearclass estimates) that age determination differs between countries. A previous WS has confirmed substantial differences in age determination by national age readers. A new method has been developed (sectioning and staining of otoliths) and preliminary evaluations during the WKARFLO meeting in 2007 give reasons for improvement. Sectioned otoliths from national sampling is currently circulated in an exchange program between Baltic laboratories. The exchange program needs to be evaluated and individual age determination experts need to agree on interpretation and quality measures by an international manual in order to assure a consistent age determination process.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	In view of its relevance to the DCR, the Workshop is expected to attract wide interest from ICES Member States that participate in biological sampling of flounder.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	To ensure wide attendance of relevant experts, additional funding will be required, preferably through the EU, e.g. by making attendance to the WS eligible under the DCR.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There is a direct link to ACOM through the Baltic Fisheries Working Group.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	This Workshop was proposed by PGCCDBS. Outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to the Living Resources Committee and the Resource Management Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKARNSC

2007/2/ACOM39 The **Workshop on Age Reading of North Sea Cod (WKARNSC)** (Co-Chairs: Lotte Worsøe* Clausen, Denmark, and Hans Høie*, Norway) will be established and will meet 5–7 August 2008 in Hirtshals, Denmark, to:

- a) compile information on laboratory procedures. Prior to the workshop participants are asked to supply the Chairs with their national ageing manual. These will form the base for the creation of a common agreed ageing manual to be applied by all laboratories ageing North Sea cod;
- b) resolve interpretation differences between readers and laboratories by performing an in depth analysis of difference in age reader interpretation of otolith spatial patterns and explore the usage of metric measurements of otolith structures as a solution to minimize the divergence in age estimation of North Sea cod;
- c) evaluate the use of traditional age determination combined with recent development in image analysis in order to include back-calculation of length at age and growth based on age structures defined by age-readers;
- d) collate agreed age reference collection. The otoliths applied under ToR b) and c) will be the first otoliths in an agreed age reference collection.

Digitized images will be saved in a database format along with annotated agreed ages;

- e) make recommendations for further cooperation between North Sea Cod age readers, otolith sample exchange, bilateral cooperation, and workshop.

WKARNSC will report by 1 September 2008 for the attention of ACOM, WGNSSK and PGCCDBS.

Supporting information

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The recent exchange of North Sea Cod otoliths under PGCCDBS during 2005/2006 showed an agreement percentage well below the acceptable limit of 90% (Woods 2006). The age estimations were positively biased giving an unacceptable overestimation of ages compared to the modal age and even experienced readers did not show a high agreement within and between laboratories. Clarifying the diverging perception of age structures among age readers and explore the usage of metric measurements of otolith structures as solutions to minimizing the divergence in age estimation would potentially improve the agreement between readers and form the basis of an agreed method to interpret growth structures in otoliths of North Sea cod.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	North Sea Cod age determination experts from 8 countries (Denmark, Norway, Belgium, UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden). Experts from national institutes of all these countries participated in the exchange program.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop eligible under the 2008 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	There is a direct link to ACOM through WG on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) and PGCCDBS
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKSPMAT

2007/2/ACOM40 The **Workshop on Small Pelagics (*Sardina pilchardus*, *Engraulis encrasicolus*) maturity stages** [WKSPMAT] (Chair: Gualtiero Basilone*, Italy) will be established and will meet in Mazara del Vallo, Italy, 10–14 November 2008 to:

- a) Produce a reference collection;
- b) Produce maturity stage sampling protocols;
- c) Review/define prime sources of data;
- d) Review/define the Data Deliverers to Assessment Working Groups;
- e) Propose Follow up for problems, uncertainties;
- f) Define distribution scheme for the results;
- g) compare the macroscopic maturity scales for *Sardina pilchardus*, *Engraulis encrasicolus* used in the different laboratories;
- h) standardizes the criteria to classify each maturity stages to be used for DCR and discuss on the existing maturity scales;
- i) formulate conversion rules to make possible the correspondence between the locally used scales and the common ones;
- j) validate the macroscopic maturity stages according to the common standardized scales eventually using histological confirmation;
- k) standardize the criteria to classify each maturity stage;
- l) propose a common scale, with common classification criteria, to be used by all laboratories
- m) use of digital photos and fresh gonads to identify the maturity stages for the different species.

WKSPMAT will report by the end of 2008 for the attention of ACOM, RCM Med, PGMed and PGCCDBS.

Supporting information

SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	In the Small Pelagic fish species the identification and macroscopic classification of maturity stages can play a key-role in the assessment fishery resources. To set a sustainable fishery policy and regulations it is necessary to obtain data and information on the sexual maturity to compute maturity ogives, for discriminating life phases (juveniles, adults) and for the estimation of Spawning Stock Biomass. Moreover, the identification and classification of maturity stages can be used for the best determination of spawning period according to different geographical and environmental areas and to study the relationship between length at maturity and fishery exploitation on a temporal scale. Actually, in the frame of DCR, maturity stages are collected according to different macroscopic scales used locally in the scientific Institutions. The need of a common and standardized system for identification and macroscopic classification of maturity stages in fish resources have to be considered as an important priority to optimize DCR.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR data collection system.
PARTICIPANTS:	Reproductive fishery scientist experts in reproductive biology from several countries. Members of international commissions ICES, NAFO. GFCM will give their contribution in standardizing the maturity stage assignment on the basis of the aim of the sampling program and on the microscopic histological examination of gonadic tissues..
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop eligible under the 2008 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	There is a direct interest from several international (ICES, NAFO GFCM) advisory committees for a common effort toward the standardization of assessing procedures
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

Ecosystem related Expert Groups

WGECO

2007/2/ACOM41 The **Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities** [WGECO] (Chair: Ellen Kenchington*, Canada) will meet at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, for 8 days from 6–13 May 2008 to:

- a) review and integrate the contributions of WGITMO, WGLESP, WGZE, BEWG, WGFE, WGSE, WGMME, WGOH, WGECO 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’, based on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc/Study groups on:
 - i) Hydrographic Attributes
 - ii) Trend Analyses and Quantifying Relationships (SGSMACCC)
 - iii) Formulating Hypotheses and Predictions about Mechanisms (SGWRECC)
 - iv) Selecting Species for More Intensive Investigations
 - v) and provide a draft final report for OSPAR;
- b) prepare a draft final assessment of the environmental impact of marine fisheries as a contribution to the Quality Status Report 2010, with reference to the scoping report completed by WGECO in 2007;
- c) review the progress made by WGSAM and WGFE in modelling management action (range of demersal community average fishing mortality), and associated timescales involved, to achieve the Fish Community EcoQO target of “The proportion (by weight) for fish greater than 40cm in length should be greater than 0.3” (with a $\pm 10\%$ range in target values). Consider the results of the analyses undertaken by these two WGs and carry out any additional analysis or modelling required so as to complete the matrix below, which could then be used as the basis for the provision of advice to meet the EcoQO target.

Fishing mortality averaged across the seven main demersal species (cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, sole, plaice, Norway pout)	EcoQO Indicator Proportion (by weight) of fish > 40cm in length	Time to reach Indicator target
$0.85F_{pa}$	0.27	?
	0.30	?
	0.33	?
$1.00F_{pa}$	0.27	?
	0.30	?
	0.33	?
$1.15F_{pa}$	0.27	?
	0.30	?
	0.33	?

- d) begin the process of developing a framework to identify methodologies to assess and quantify the efficacy of gear-based technical measures introduced to reduce the environmental impact of fishing.

- e) building on previous work on ecosystem assessments during WGECO 2007 and OSPAR paper BDC 07/3/10-E, complete the process of scoring interactions between the pressure of human activities and ecosystem components, and plan the populating of cells in the assessment matrix with state or pressure indicators currently available or under development;
- f) based on the process undertaken to produce the draft report described at a), make recommendations for developing capacity within ICES to monitor change and use statistical tools in relation to hydrographic change and requests in similar areas;

WGECO will report by 15 May 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) Completion of a requested two-year process in ICES to provide a background document on effects of hydrographic change for OSPAR's QSR 2010.</p> <p>b) Response to a request to ICES to provide a background document on effects of fishing for OSPAR's QSR 2010.</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 work in WGECO 2007 and uses results from two other expert groups to further develop the use of size based indicators of fish as performance metrics.</p> <p>d) request from WGFTFB, part of developing ICES capacity for advice on the ecosystem effects of fishing gears,</p> <p>e) 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 further develop the simplified framework begun by WGECO in 2007, to deliver a framework that is acceptable both within national governments and in EU and OSPAR.</p> <p>f) The process of generating the response to the OSPAR climate change request has revealed that ICES has limited capacity in this area. This work will be considered by ConC as part of their work in improving the capacity of ICES.</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:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGFE, WGDEC, WGMME, WGSE, BEWG, WGSAM,
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	OSPAR, EC

SGWRECC

2007/2/ACOM42 The **Study Group on Working Hypotheses Regarding Effects of Climate Change** [SGWRECC] (Chair: Adriaan Rijnsdorp*, The Netherlands) will be established and will work by correspondence in 2007 to:

- a) develop *a priori* hypotheses for the major ways that ecosystem components at as many levels as feasible could be altered by the effects of climate change and

climate variation, and by other major drivers of ecosystem change, particularly (but not restricted to) fishing;

- b) propose guidance for what patterns would be expected in the types of data that are available on the status and trends of various ecosystem components, as reviewed by WGECO in 2007; were the hypotheses posed in a) to be true; with particular emphasis on differences in patterns that would allow strong inference to be used in interpreting any trends found on the data.

SGWRECC will report by 31 December 2007 for the attention of ACOM and relevant working groups.

Supporting information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	a) and b) This work will position the Expert Groups meeting in 2008 to conduct analyses that can be presented and interpreted in a consistent and systematic manner across Expert Groups, for integration as a response by ICES to a request for advice from OSPAR regarding “ <i>changes in the distribution and abundance of marine species in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature</i> ”
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None
PARTICIPANTS:	Suggested members: Mike Heath, Jake Rice, Chris Frid, Louize Hill. Approximately 10-15. Wide ranging expertise on community and population ecology, climate and environmental forcing, fisheries effects, and ecosystem components required. Also familiarity with EU and OSPAR marine strategies.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Some secretarial support for finalisation of the report
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Advisory Committee
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGECO, WGOH, WGFE, WGDEC, WGMME, WGSE, BEWG, WGSAM,
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	OSPAR, European Commission

SGSMACCC

2007/2/ACOM43 The **Study Group on Statistical Methods for Analyzing Climate Change Consequences** [SGSMACCC] (Chair: NN, Country) will be established and will work by correspondence in 2007 to:

- Review statistical methods available for analysis of patterns and trends in the types of environmental, population, and community data that were discussed in the Expert Group Reports reviewed in Section 9 of the WGECO 2007 Report, and for linking patterns and trends across data sets.
- Propose guidance for what methods of analyses of patterns would be appropriate for those data sets, to allow the most direct and consistent interpretation of results across all data sets.
- As preliminary results of SGWRECC become available provide guidance on the types of analytic methods appropriate for testing the hypotheses being posed with the data sets that are available, to allow the most direct and consistent interpretation of results across all data sets.

SGSMACCC will report by 31 January 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	a), b), and c) This work will position the Expert Groups meeting in 2008 to conduct analyses that can be presented and interpreted in a consistent and systematic manner across Expert Groups, for integration as a response by ICES to a request for advice from OSPAR regarding “ <i>changes in the distribution and abundance of marine species in the OSPAR maritime area in relation to changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature</i> ”
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None
PARTICIPANTS:	Suggestions: Verena Trenkel, Marie-Joelle Rochet, Nick Dulvy, Dave Kulka, Doug Beare, Daniel Duplisea, Richard Duin (NL), Jon Barry (UK) [WGSAEM] Approximately 10-15. Wide ranging expertise on analytical methods, climate and environmental forcing, fisheries effects, and ecosystem components required. Also familiarity with EU and OSPAR marine strategies.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Some secretarial support for finalisation of the report
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Advisory Committee
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGECO, WGOH, WGFE, WGDEC, WGMME, WGSE, BEWG, WGSAM,
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	OSPAR, European Commission

WGMME

2007/2/ACOM44 The **Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology** [WGMME] (Chair: Meike Scheidat, The Netherlands) will meet in St. Andrews, UK, 25–29 February 2008 to:

- a) Consider the reports of the Ad Hoc Groups on:
 - 1) Hydrographic Attributes
 - 2) Trend Analyses and Quantifying Relationships
 - 3) Formulating Hypotheses and Predictions about Mechanisms
 - 4) Selecting Species for More Intensive Investigations
 and use their recommendations concerning (1) recommended time series, (2) analytical methods and suitable software, (3) hypotheses and guidance for their use, and (4) a suggested list of species for intensive study, to complete ‘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
- b) Taking account of the results of SGBYC, review and provide draft advice 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.
- c) Provide an evaluation of the status of grey seals, of harbour seals and of bycatch of harbour porpoise in relation to the following Ecological Quality Objectives being applied by OSPAR in the North Sea:
 - 1) Harbour seal population size: Taking into account natural population dynamics and trends, there should be no decline in harbour seal population size (as measured by numbers hauled out) of $\geq 10\%$ as represented in a five-year running mean or point estimates (separated by up to five years) within any of eleven sub-units of the North Sea. These sub-units are: Shetland; Orkney; North and East Scotland; South-East Scotland; the Greater Wash/Scroby Sands; the Netherlands Delta area; the Wadden Sea;

Heligoland; Limfjord; the Kattegat, the Skagerrak and the Oslofjord; the west coast of Norway south of 62°N.

- 2) Grey seal pup production: Taking into account natural population dynamics and trends, there should be no decline in pup production of grey seals of $\geq 10\%$ as represented in a five-year running mean or point estimates (separated by up to five years), and in breeding sites, within any of nine sub-units of the North Sea. These sub-units are: Orkney; Fast Castle/Isle of May; the Farne Islands; Donna Nook; the French North Sea and Channel coasts; the Netherlands coast; the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea; Heligoland; Kjørholmane (Rogaland).
 - 3) Bycatch of harbour porpoise: Annual bycatch levels should be reduced to below 1.7% of the best population estimate.
- d) Review progress with the current initiative by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science to create a European Marine Mammal Tissue Bank. This initiative aims to create a resource for researchers working on pathology, life history and ecology of marine mammals in European waters.
 - e) To review the results of the 2008 'Threats to Marine Mammal Health' Workshop which is planned to take place end of January.
 - f) Review the SCANS II recommendations on quantitative conservation objectives and the IUCN or other conservation criteria. In the light of this review and realistic monitoring options, provide recommendations for quantitative conservation objectives for cetaceans that could be used in the ICES area and review any further (beyond those described in 2007) results from SCANS II and provide relevant recommendations for ICES.
 - g) Design and collate a database of historical and current data on abundance of regional seal populations.
 - h) Review and report on the outputs of the SCANS II project and report on the usefulness of future work for ICES;

WGMME will report by 1 April 2008 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) a) Completion of a requested two-year process in ICES to provide a background document on effects of hydrographic change for OSPAR's QSR 2010.</p> <p>b) 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>c) This is a response to OSPAR request no. 2 and aims to contribute to the evaluation of the results of the EcoQO system in the North Sea and the QSR 2010.</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) Accumulation of pollutants in marine mammals potentially affects population status. This addresses Goal 2 in the ICES Strategic Plan.</p> <p>f) The recommendations on quantitative monitoring objectives and approaches will contribute to developing strategies for cetacean surveillance and monitoring and in considering the use of quantitative conservation objectives as a tool for the assessment of the conservation status of cetaceans in the ICES area.</p> <p>g) This work will facilitate future work of the WG.</p> <p>h) a repeat of ToR from last year as the report to be reviewed was then not available.</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 Advisory Committee (on Ecosystems).
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	OSPAR, EU

WGDEC

2007/2/ACOM45 The **Working Group on Deep Water Ecology** [WGDEC] will be dissolved and re-established as the **ICES-NAFO Joint Working Group on Deep Water Ecology** [WGDEC] (Chair: Robert Brock*, USA) and will meet at ICES Headquarters from midday 10 to midday 14 March 2008 to:

- a) provide a review of the effects of fishing in OSPAR Area V;
- b) review the 'Guidelines for management of deep-sea fisheries on the high seas' that will be considered by FAO COFI in 2008 and consider for reflection by ICES and NAFO;
- c) the types of advice that fisheries clients may request of ICES and NAFO, should the guidelines be implemented;
- d) the types of information and terms of reference that WGDEC and any other relevant expert groups may need in order to respond to requests as identified in i);
- e) if the information in ii) is not thought to be available currently, consider a plan of action to acquire and organise the necessary information;
- f) continue to collate information on habitats (research and survey results) and fisheries use (VMS and fisher's information) on Hatton Bank in order to refine the advice for closed areas;
- g) update compilations and maps of occurrence of structural habitats (hard and soft corals, large sponges) in the North Atlantic specifically identifying major coral concentrations in the Northwest Atlantic;
- h) identify or confirm the existence of coral concentrations in a specific area of NAFO Div. 3O, which roughly coincides with the zone between 400 and 2000 m deep (detailed map to be supplied by NAFO) and using the results of d), evaluate whether this zone is the most important for coral in the Northwest Atlantic;
- i) examine patterns of fishing in deep-water areas other than Rockall and Hatton banks, such as the seamounts and continental slope, to determine where intensive fishing is occurring and evaluate the likelihood of sensitive habitats being present in those areas;
- j) review codes of conduct for carrying out scientific research in sensitive deep-water habitats with a view to developing an ICES code of conduct;
- k) Continue to develop and compile a database and map of areas where biological research/survey has occurred in the deep water area (>200m) of the North Atlantic and considering the report of the Planning Group on the North-east Atlantic continental slope survey (PGNEACS), make recommendations for future work in this area;
- l) determine priority areas for multibeam or sidescan sonar survey on Rockall, Hatton Bank and adjacent seamounts;
- m) consider suitable sized buffer zones around closed areas, taking into account ability to detect closed area infringements.

A joint meeting with WGDEEP will be held on the afternoon of 10 March.

WGDEC will report by 31 March for the attention of ACOM and report on ToR a) for the attention of WGECO by that date. WGDEC will report to NAFO Sc. C. for its June meeting.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High. This is the only group in ICES or NAFO providing information on deep water ecology. This is an expanding area of interest for fisheries managers and to OSPAR.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) A contribution to a response to a request from OSPAR on the effects of fishing on the marine ecosystem.</p> <p>b) A way of answering a request from NAFO that will be of more general applicability and will be of relevance more widely in the near future.</p> <p>c) Certain survey information was not available to ICES in 2007; advice given then will be re-examined in the light of new evidence.</p> <p>d) This is to answer a request from NAFO and the wider data is useful in answering future advisory requests.</p> <p>e) A specific request from NAFO.</p> <p>f) One of the likely outcomes of ToR b is that this activity may be required more widely. This ToR should allow a test of the approach and will be useful in advising fishery managers proactively.</p> <p>g) An examination of an issue of interest to both scientists and conservation groups.</p> <p>h) A start was made on this task in 2007; and this data will be useful in co-ordinating surveys needed in future as well as providing a resource to draw upon for answering future requests. PGNEACS plans to co-ordinate surveys.</p> <p>i) Following on from ToR c) and related to advice provided in 2007.</p> <p>j) Of great relevance to ICES in providing advice on appropriate boundaries to closed areas.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	4-5 day meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 12-15 members; a few more might be expected with the NAFO link..
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	One room for 15-18 people and the usual Secretariat support
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM: Direct link to the Advisory Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGDEEP, WGECO, WGMHM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	OSPAR, NEAFC.

WKN2K

2007/2/ACOM46 The **Workshop on dealing with Natura 2000 and Related Requests** (WKN2K) (Chair Stuart Rogers*, UK) will be established and will meet at ICES Headquarters, 5 June 2008 to:

- a) consider the outputs of WKFMPA and AGWINS (2007), and relevant sections of the reports of WGDEEP, WGDEC and views from AMAWGC:
- b) collate conservation objectives established or planned for Annex I and II species and habitats in offshore Natura 2000 sites by European Member States, advise on approaches that may be evident;
- c) for international fisheries effort distribution data, specify the temporal extent and resolution, and the spatial extent, scale and resolution, of data from international metiers that would be necessary to understand and advise on the implications of fisheries closures at offshore sites;
- d) complete the description of a consultation process for managers to assess proposals for fishery management measures at offshore Natura 2000 sites (based on work of AGWINS 2007);

- e) consider and make recommendations for future ICES work in this area.

Members of the Workshop will correspond to provide information by 1 May 2008.

WKN2K will report by 30 June for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High. This is area of rapidly expanding interest to both governments and to the RACs.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	a) WKFMPA and AGWINS have specifically examined related questions, the other groups have provided draft advice on these questions in the past. b) Conservation objectives are key to determining what management is required. A review of existing conservation objectives might provide some useful 'best practice' advice. c) It is essential to understand fishing effort occurring in protected areas in order to manage fisheries appropriately. d) Consultation processes are also important in establishing effective management measures.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	1 day meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	15-20 members might be expected.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	One room for 15-20 people and the usual Secretariat support
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Direct link to the Advisory Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGDEEP, WGDEC, WGECO, WGMHM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	OSPAR, NEAFC.

WGRED

2007/2/ACOM47 **The Working Group for Regional Ecosystem Description [WGRED]**
(Chair: Jake Rice, Canada) will meet at the ICES Headquarters, 25–29 February 2008 to:

- a) consider, following reform of the ICES advisory process, what environmental information is needed for integration by expert and review groups to ensure that environmental forcing is taken into account in drafting fisheries advice;
- b) based on a), make recommendations for relevant activities by ICES working groups;
- c) for each Eco-region to be used in the 2008 ICES advice, review, improve and update drafts of Ecosystem Overviews;
- d) 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 2008, and to the extent possible recommend ways in which this information could be used by Expert Groups and Advisory Committees.

WGRED will report by 31 March for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	WGRED is a critical group in relation to the integration of advice. a) and b) Progress with including environmental forcing into fisheries advice has been slow. This ToR should improve this situation. c) and d) Standing requests for the advisory report.
RESOURCE	.

REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 15–25 members .
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Room of appropriate size in the Secretariat.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There overviews prepared by WGRED are used directly by (all three/the) advisory committee(s).
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGECO, FTFB
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	The work of this group is closely aligned to major research projects funded by the EU and work conducted by other ICES expert groups

SGBYC

2007/2/ACOM48 The **Study Group for Bycatch of Protected Species** [SGBYC] (Chair: Simon Northridge*, UK) will be established and will meet at ICES headquarters, Copenhagen, 29–31 January 2008 to:

- a) Review methods and technologies that have been used to minimise bycatch of species of interest, including methods that have failed
- b) Review information on sustainable take limits for species and populations for which relevant data are available;
- c) Consider the advantages and disadvantages of allocating take limits, and if relevant, propose methods;
- d) Co-ordinate monitoring programmes under EU Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitats Directive;
- e) Review new estimates of bycatch of relevant species;
- f) Co-ordinate relevant bycatch mitigation trials.

SGBYC will report by 25 February for the attention of ACOM, copying to WGMME for their use by that date.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p><i>Overall areas of interest:</i> Unintended catches of non-commercial or limited commercial value species; species of conservation concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bycatch rate estimation methodology • Bycatch estimation clearing house • Mitigation measures • Determination of acceptable bycatch level
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 15–25 members .
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The work done on including environmental considerations in assessments and advice is directly relevant to formulation of the advice.
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 ORGANISATIONS:	The work of this group is closely aligned to major research projects funded by the EU and work conducted by other ICES expert groups

Environment related Expert Groups

WKIMON

2007/2/ACOM49 The Fourth **ICES/OSPAR Workshop on Integrated Monitoring of Contaminants and their Effects in Coastal and Open-sea Areas** [WKIMON IV] (Co-chairs: Ian Davies designated by OSPAR and John Thain designated by ICES) will meet in ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen 5–7 February 2008 to:

- a) complete the development of assessment criteria for specific biological effects methods
- b) undertake further development of a generic assessment framework and method for the integrated biological effect-chemical approach to monitoring and build what is available into a draft technical annex
- c) develop an initial draft technical annex on the sampling design and overall parameters of the integrated monitoring approach.
- d) Develop an initial draft technical annex on recommended packages of chemical and biological effects for monitoring on determinant basis to ensure that chemical and biological methods are well matched and that chemical analysis underpin biological effects monitoring
- e) review the organisation and scope of the international ICON Workshop of integrated biological effects and chemical monitoring and its application to both specific CEMP issues and to the general health assessment of a region.

WKIMON IV will report for the attention of ACOM and MHC for onward transmission to OSPAR (SIME) by 15 February 2008.

NB: At present OSPAR has not yet decided to support this Workshop in 2008. The ICES Secretariat will communicate these revised draft TORs to the OSPAR Secretariat with a request for support of the Workshop. If a Co-chair person cannot be designated by OSPAR, ICES will try to find a solution.

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:	<p>Action Plan No: 1.</p> <p>Term of Reference a) Finalisation of ongoing work from previous WKIMON meetings</p> <p>Term of Reference b) Required to underpin the application of the integrated approach to monitoring. It is recognised that this will need a critical review and appraisal of current methods on integrated assessments (e.g. Fullmonti, REGNS, models from Canada etc.) with a view to developing a recommendation for methods to specifically characterise the OSPAR maritime area and present a readily understandable assessment. Guidance on how to tackle different time scales should be included.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) Overall and general considerations about the integrated monitoring approach which will provide guidance to WGBEC and WGSAM in relation to OSPAR request No. 8.</p> <p>Term of Reference d) Conclusion of work by recommendation of packages of chemical and biological effects for monitoring on determinant basis</p> <p>Term of Reference e)</p>

	Plans were initiated at WKIMON III to take advantage of a Norwegian initiative in the area of North Sea Health. Various planning meetings will have occurred during 2007 (ie since WKIMON III) and a wider review of the plans and progress is required to ensure that they adequately take account of the interests of OSPAR in developing integrated monitoring for Regional assessments.
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 17 – 22 members.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The reports of the WKIMON go to advice drafting on the answer to request from OSPAR on an integrated approach to monitoring and assessment of both chemical and effects.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	The reports of the WKIMON go to MHC as well as to the MCWG and WGMS.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	SIME and ASMO under OSPAR

STGQAB

2007/2/ACOM50 The **Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Biological Measurement** [STGQAB] (Chair: J. Wikner, Sweden) will meet in ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6–8 May 2008 to:

- a) review and update the JAMP guidelines for benthos, phytoplankton and chlorophyll according to good current practice and/or international standards for acceptability of biological sampling and analytical practices required by monitoring programmes. (OSPAR request 10).
- b) review international and national interlaboratory comparisons and propose measures as required
- c) review the activities of the HELCOM Phytoplankton expert group
- d) review the outcome of the HELCOM Zooplankton Expert Network
- e) review the status of quality assurance in relation to Water Framework Monitoring Programmes and review the outcome of the intercalibration exercises with respect to biological quality elements
- f) maintain a watching brief on developments of the European Marine Strategy in relation to Quality Assurance
- g) review relevant studies in OSPAR/HELCOM participating countries in relation to Quality Assurance

STGQAB will report by 25 May 2008 for the attention of ACOM, MHC and OCC.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) This is a Response to OSPAR request no. 10. The request was already included in the 2007 ICES Work Programme and was not sufficiently responded to. The review and update should be based on input from the Benthos Ecology Working Group (BEWG) and other relevant expert group(s) on phytoplankton and chlorophyll.</p> <p>b) This item and item a) focus on QA/AQC requirements in the OSPAR monitoring and assessment area. There is an urgent need to improve the implementation and the practical use of OSPAR/ICES quality assurance</p>

	<p>guidelines.</p> <p>c) – d) These items are important in order to follow quality assurance and quality control activities in the HELCOM monitoring and assessment scheme, which is under harmonisation with EU WFD requirements and in future with EU Marine Strategy. This will involve the review of received material in order to maintain and increase the level of QA/AQC in the COMBINE programme.</p> <p>e) – f) These items focus to QA/AQC requirements of European Directives (Water Framework Directive, proposed Marine Strategy Directive) to ensure the harmonisation of HELCOM and OSPAR monitoring schemes.</p> <p>g) recurrent issue</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	Scientist from ICES Member Countries and HELCOM/OSPAR Contracting Parties, involved in QA of monitoring of biological variables. The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests. Participation from OSPAR contracting parties is encouraged in order to address in particular TOR a)
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting room and secretariat assistance is required
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	MCWG, WGZE, ZEN, PGPYME, PEG, BEWG, SGNSBP, WGECO, WGDIM, WGSDEM, MHC, OCC, Baltic Committee
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	HELCOM, OSPAR, EU

WGBOSV

2007/2/ACOM51 The **ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Ballast and other Ship Vectors (WGBOSV)** (Chair: Anders Jelmert, Norway) will meet in ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark, 10–12 March 2008 (back-to-back with WGITMO with a common meeting on 12 March) to:

- a) continue to critically review and report on the status of shipping vector 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) review the recommended input from statisticians regarding the ICES ballast water sampling manual and update this and harmonise with progress on IMO ballast water sampling guidelines (G2),
- d) establish a shared information resource regarding the identification of species. (barcoding)
- e) finalise the Code of Best Practice for Hull Fouling after having worked on this intersessionally.
- f) develop a Code of Best Practice for Port Sampling. This will require intersessional work before the next meeting.
- g) explore opportunities for cooperation between PICES WG 21, WGBOSV and WGITMO.

WGBOSV will report by 25 March 2008 to the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The current activities of this group will direct ICES towards issues related to the high priority issue of unintentional species invasion
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<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) update and harmonise the ICES ballast water sampling manual is necessary</p> <p>d) to expedite future work</p> <p>e) and f) on-going work</p> <p>g) strengthen international collaboration</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None required other than those provided by ICES Secretariat 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:	Meeting room and secretarial assistance is required
FINANCIAL:	None required
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
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 ORGANIZATIONS:	IOC, IMO, PICES, CIESM, BMB

WGITMO

2007/2/ACOM52 The **ICES Working Group on Introduction and transfers of Marine Organisms (WGITMO)** (Chair: Judith Pederson, USA) will meet at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark, 12–14 March 2008 (back-to-back with WGBOSV with a common meeting on 12 March) to:

- a) consider the reports of the Ad Hoc Groups on;
 - i) Hydrographic Attributes
 - ii) Trend Analyses & Quantifying Relationships
 - iii) Formulating Hypotheses and Predictions about Mechanisms
 - iv) Selecting Species for More Intensive Investigations

and use their recommendations concerning (1) recommended time series, (2) analytical methods and suitable software, (3) hypotheses and guidance for their use, and (4) a suggested list of species for intensive study, to complete ‘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.
- b) synthesize and evaluate national reports using the new format for reporting and contributions to the database that includes species, locations (latitude and longitude), status of invasion and other relevant information, and develop an annual summary table of new occurrences/introductions of aquatic invasive species in Member Countries and prepare a press release of highlights for distribution,

- c) finalize the five year summary of national reports (2003–2007) with the aim to prepare a 25-year summary based on earlier reports at a future meeting (intercessional editing of draft report after the meeting),
- d) conduct a half day workshop on risk assessment using the Canadian and/or U.S. and/or U.K. and/or other risk assessment approaches using a specific example (e.g. *Crassostrea gigas*; *Didemnum* sp.)
- e) prepare a draft Alien Species Alert report on *Crassostrea gigas* with the aim of editing and finalizing a report for next year’s meeting and develop an outline for an Alien Species Alert report for the Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*;
- f) develop joint projects (e.g. database management, taxonomic experts,) with PICES WG 21 during intersession that furthers cooperation and communication for resources sharing and information on introduced species.
- g) prepare a draft document on the impact of targeted fisheries on non-indigenous species (e.g. king crab, Chinese mitten crab, green crab, Manila clam);

WGITMO will report by 25 March 2008 for the attention of the ACOM.

Supporting Information

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>a) This is part of a response to an OSPAR request</p> <p>b) WGITMO recognizes that there are data gaps in the national reports and are anticipating that the use of the database and ease of submission will facilitate closing gaps in the data base. This helps in collation of the data and subsequent use of the data by interested parties. It is suggested that we have the national reports completed by the end of January to prepare short summaries to be distributed within each country. WGITMO also proposes to develop annual “press releases” to be distributed to inform countries of species of concern. The choice of species for highlighting in a “press release” will be identified based, in part, on the national reports. The annual summary table of new occurrences/introductions of aquatic invasive species is useful in the advisory process. The idea of an annual summary table on new occurrences/introductions of aquatic invasive species is based on an internal advice from ACME.</p> <p>c) The final draft of the invertebrate section is completed and other sections will be ready for review intersessionally. The development of the 25-year report will require re-evaluating information, analyzing data, and developing summaries that reflect changes in status of species over time and space. WGITMO anticipates that it will take more than one year to complete this task.</p> <p>d) WGITMO recognizes that there are numerous risk assessment approaches and that individual countries may choose one method over another. The workshop we propose will help us understand the processes involved and data used in preparing risk assessment approaches that are used by different ICES countries. A summary will be prepared for the annual report. Both Canada and the U.S. should have their risk assessment approaches ready for using one or two species to understand the details of each approach. We propose to ask experts to attend the meeting. This would help to determine which species should be included in a list for consideration of rapid response and complement the Rapid Response Guidelines. IMPASSE will not be adopted by next year, but it will be included in the discussion.</p> <p>e) Laurence Miossec will lead the effort to develop a report on <i>Crassostrea gigas</i>. We will continue to follow developments in the proposed introduction of <i>C. ariakensis</i>.</p> <p>f) Based on the outcome of the ICES/PICES meeting in Cambridge, Massachusetts in May 2007, we will identify one or two areas where we can cooperate on joint projects. These may initially be identifying databases,</p>

	taxonomic experts, and other activities. g) The request this year to review the impact of targeted fisheries on non-indigenous species was seen as an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Code of Practice and modified approaches used by countries before deliberately introducing species. We propose to develop this into a document summarizing our findings.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None required other than those provided by ICES Secretariat and national members
PARTICIPANTS:	WGITMO members and invited experts from, e.g., Australia, New Zealand, Mediterranean countries that are not members of ICES, representatives of relevant PICES WGs. 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.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting room and secretarial assistance is required
FINANCIAL:	None required
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGHABD, WGEIM, WGBOSV, WGAGFM, WGMASC, Mariculture Committee
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	WGITMO urges ICES to encourage and support a continued dialogue between WGBOSV and BMB, PICES, IMO, IOC, EU, HELCOM, EIFAC, CIESM.

WKPEST

2007/2/ACOM53 The **Workshop on Modelling of Predictive Eutrophication Status and Transboundary Nutrient Fluxes (WKPEST)** (**Chair: to be decided**) will be established and will meet in ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, for **3 days during (January/February)** to:

- a) review models used to produce nutrient reduction scenarios. This review shall be done in the light of the results of an assessment of the expected (modelled) eutrophication status of the OSPAR maritime area following implementation of agreed measures (JAMP EA-5), which is to be prepared by the OSPAR workshop on eutrophication modelling in September 2007. The review should conclude on:
 - i) whether the models used to produce nutrient reduction scenarios reflect the state of the art and are fit for the purpose of predicting the environmental consequences of nutrient reductions in the format of the Common Procedure; and
 - ii) (how future OSPAR predictive eutrophication status assessments could be improved;
- b) to provide advice on further work by OSPAR on the modelling of transboundary nutrient fluxes. OSPAR EUC(1) 2007 will provide input from its meeting in autumn 2007 including comments on the needs for advice on modelling of transboundary nutrient fluxes.

WKPEST will report by 1 March 2008 for the attention of ACOM. The advice is to be presented to the OSPAR EUC meeting taking place 1–4 April 2008.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The workshop is to be arranged as a response to OSPAR request no. 6 in the 2008 ICES Work Programme. Consequently the activity is considered to have a very high priority.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Term of Reference a) and b) formulated by OSPAR as necessary activities to develop the activities on eutrophication status and transboundary nutrient

	fluxes In the light of the results of the September workshop, EUC(1) 2007 will develop more detailed terms of reference for this request at their meeting in autumn 2007.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	The workshop is to be organised with national covering of participant expenses
PARTICIPANTS:	Experts on eutrophication and on predictive modelling
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities and support from the ICES Secretariat
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	Related to previous Workshop on Time Series Data relevant to Eutrophication Ecological Quality Objectives (WKEUT)
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	OSPAR