

## MHC Resolutions 2007

**2007/2/MHC01** The **Workshop on Benthos Related Environmental Metrics [WKBEMET]** (Chair: I. Moulaert\*, Belgium) will meet in Oostende, Belgium from 11–14 February 2008 to:

- a) review the outcomes of the “Symposium on “Marine Environmental Indicators: Utility in Meeting Regulatory Needs” held in November 2007 in London and of the Intercalibration working group for the WFD. Prepare list of the gaps in the knowledge of the applicability and performance of different indicators to the impacts of human-induced activities and changes in ecological state;
- b) test the applicability of different indicators using multiple datasets from a wide range of regions;
- c) use multiple datasets to test the performance of different indicators to human induced activities and changes in ecological state and to assess the effectiveness of performance indicators in identifying cause-effect relationships.

WKBEMET will report by 15 April 2008 for the attention of BEWG, the Marine Habitat Committee and ACOM.

### Supporting Information

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	High, since the knowledge of the applicability and performance of different indicators to the impacts of human-induced activities and changes in ecological state is of central importance for the development of future environmental indicators and descriptors.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION</b>	The main aim of this workshop is (1) to relate a list of indicators to the impacts of human-induced activities and changes in ecological state and (2) to assess the effectiveness of any potential performance indicators in identifying cause-effect relationships.
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	None.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	People are invited with experience in parameter testing and with access to benthos data sets.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	None
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	Cosponsorship by MarBEF
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	ACOM
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	BEWG, SGBIODIV
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:</b>	MarBEF

**2007/2/MHC02** The **Workshop on the role of phytobenthic communities in ICES waters** [WKPHYT] (Chair: Hans Kautsky\*, Sweden) will meet in Askö, Sweden, from 3–6 March 2008 to:

- a) explore and discuss the role of phytobenthic communities in ICES waters, including epiflora and fauna;
- b) document the population dynamics and annual cycles of phytobenthos communities on a regional scale;
- c) elaborate connections with WFD and the role of phytobenthos in ICZM and its socio-economic valuation;
- d) finalize the ICES TIMES draft on Phytobenthos sampling methodology.

WKPHYT will report by 15 May 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee, BEWG, WKBEMET, and WGMHM.

### Supporting Information

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	This workshop is essential for ICES to progress the developments of environmental coastal zone evaluation techniques.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</b>	The work done within BEWG has been diverse and has included sampling methodology and all aspects of benthos ecology. For several years phytobenthos has been included in the remits of the Committee since phytobenthos has a natural and logical link with the normally treated zoobenthos part of benthos ecology. Phytobenthos forms not only the shelter for coastal fish and invertebrate epifauna but is also increasingly an object of harvesting and specialized usage as a valued natural material and thus a source of income for the coastal population. The new WKPHYT will focus on the phytobenthos, a field that has been neglected in ICES work so far. Recent OSPAR requests asked especially for phytobenthos expertise on a European scale; this expertise could not easily be provided. The workshop will help to build scientific capacity in ICES. Both methodology and scientific contents need to be updated and collectively documented to support activities in the mentioned contact groups. There is a clear connection to the remits of the WFD which will form the matrix for future advice and the coastal zone management relies on valuation methods which include socio-economic facets.
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	People from the benthos community and new experts from the phytobenthos scene
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	None specific
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	None specific.
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	A close link with ACOM activities.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	Links to BEWG and WGICZM
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:</b>	ICES will seek widened participation for this group from the Baltic (BMB) and from other North Atlantic and North American States.

**2007/2/MHC03**      **The Working Group on Marine Sediments in Relation to Pollution [WGMS]** (Co-Chairs: F. Smedes, Netherlands, and Patrick Roose\*, Belgium) will meet from 3–7 March 2008 in Vigo, Spain, to:

- a) review and comment on the report of the data assessment from the 2007 meeting of OSPAR/MON in relation to sediments;
- b) together with MCWG and based on intersessional work, finalise Technical Annexes for alkyl PAH in sediment and for inclusion in the JAMP Guidelines for monitoring Contaminants in Sediments (OSPAR agreement 2002-16) (OSPAR request 2, 2007);
- c) review the application of proposed background concentrations for the following alkylated PAHs in sediments:
  - i) C1-, C2- and C3-naphthalenes;
  - ii) C1-, C2- and C3-phenanthrenes, and
  - iii) C1-, C2- and C3-dibenzothiophenes, and parent dibenzothiophene (OSPAR request 3, 2007);

In view of this review investigate if the proposed background concentrations of alkylated PAHs in sediment can be updated in the light of new data supplied intersessionally. (OSPAR request 3, 2007):

- d) prepare the following tools to support the coordinated monitoring of dioxins, planar CBs and PFOS under the OSPAR CEMP (OSPAR request 4):
  - 1. technical annexes to the JAMP Guidelines for monitoring Contaminants in Sediments (OSPAR agreement 2002-16) according to the structure of the existing technical annexes covering the following:
    - i) monitoring of dioxins sediments, taking into account advice from SIME 2007 that monitoring of dioxins in sediments should only be carried out in specific areas (such as sedimentation areas or estuaries) because of time lag (10 – 12 years) in deposition of quantities required for sampling;
    - ii) monitoring of PFOS in sediments;
  - 2. review the existing technical annexes on monitoring of chlorinated biphenyls in sediment and propose revisions so that they are adequate for monitoring of planar CBs in this compartment, taking into account advice from SIME that monitoring in sediments should be undertaken only if levels of marker PCBs are e.g. 100 times higher than the BACs;
  - 3. develop background concentrations for dioxins. (OSPAR request 4);
- e) evaluate, with MCWG, the results of the passive sampling trial survey (PSTS) for water and sediment collaborative work addressing i) intercalibration, and ii) environmental interpretation of the results;
- f) review the experiences of the use of Guidelines on the use of passive samplers prepared over the last two years;
- g) review ongoing and new projects involving passive sampling:
  - i) review and report on projects that combine biological effects measurements with passive sampling;
  - ii) receive information and comment on national projects involving the use of passive samplers in, inter alia, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, France, and Scotland;
  - iii) review the progress of international cooperative projects involving passive sampling, including the ICON project;
- h) revise the Annex 6, "Sediment dynamics in relation to sediment monitoring" of the WGMS 2005 report in the manner indicated by ACOM and prepare it for publication in the Cooperative Research Report series, focusing on finalisation at WGMS 2008;
- i) receive and comment on reports containing new information concerning the importance of sediment dynamics for sediment monitoring;

- j) provide expert knowledge and guidance to ICES Data Centre (possibly via sub-group) as requested;
- k) review recent developments in the application of normalisation in the assessment of sediment quality in the Barents Sea;
- l) review developments in the use of QUASIMEME information in the interpretation of field data on the ratios of contaminant concentrations;
- m) review and report on a survey of metals in North Sea sediments in relation to Background Concentrations carried out by Germany.

WGMS will report by 1 April 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee and ACOM.

### Supporting Information

<b>Priority:</b>	This Group handles key issues regarding monitoring and assessment of contaminants in sediments.
<b>Scientific Justification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Anticipating that the report of the proposed 2007 assessment will be available before the meeting, WGMS can review and comment the progress made;</li> <li>b) New data may warrant the revision of the proposed Background Concentrations. Relate to <b>OSPAR request no. 3, 2007</b></li> <li>c) WGMS 2007 proposed BC values but to strengthen the basis of the values more data need to be collected to evaluate the present values. Relate to <b>OSPAR request no. 3, 2007</b></li> <li>d) This will be in response to <b>OSPAR request no. 4</b></li> <li>e) This agenda item will review the intersessional progress of the Passive Sampling Trial Survey by WGMS and MCWG and assess whether passive sampling techniques are technically ready for use in the OSPAR monitoring program. An interpretation of the survey data may reveal the usefulness of passive sampling.</li> <li>f) Guidelines for <i>In Vitro</i> Passive Sampling have been prepared for use in the Passive Sampling Trial Survey and experiences should be collected to further improve and elaborate them.</li> <li>g) The combination of passive sampling with biological effect measurements is a strong approach to the coupling of a measure of contaminant exposure and biological effect. It is directly relevant to integrated approaches to monitoring (c.f. WKIMON) and to international initiatives on environmental health assessment (e.g. ICON project). Receiving and review of national reports of projects involving the use of passive samplers by WGMS will build further experience on the field and use of passive sampling. Review by WGMS will contribute to the ICON objectives.</li> <li>h) Response to internal ACOM advice</li> <li>i) The annex on Sediment Dynamics for the OSPAR Sediment Monitoring Guidelines (send to ACOM) will assist OSPAR and HELCOM, on the incorporation of sediment dynamics in the interpretation of sediment monitoring data. However as new information comes available a revision in future is foreseen and therefore WGMS will continue to collect information and examples on the subject;</li> <li>j) This is in compliance with a continuing requirement from the ICES Data Centre in relation to the development of DOME and associated software</li> <li>k) Cooperation of WGMS members with PINRO in order to normalise data collected by PINRO for grain-size will allow assessment of sediment quality in the Barents Sea in accord with OSPAR guidelines.</li> <li>l) During WGMS 2007, correlations between systematic differences in QUASIMEME data and apparent differences in field data were observed. This led to an intersessional work package that needs review during the 2008 meeting</li> <li>m) Receiving a report on a survey carried out by Germany (BSH) on metals in North Sea sediments in relation to Background Concentrations may refresh the view on BC values benchmark for the status of the North Sea concerning metals in sediments.</li> </ul>
<b>Resource Requirements:</b>	None required.
<b>Participants:</b>	-
<b>Secretariat Facilities:</b>	None required

<b>Financial:</b>	None
<b>Linkages to Advisory Committees:</b>	ACOM
<b>Linkages to other Committees or Groups:</b>	WGBEC, MCWG
<b>Linkages to other Organisations:</b>	OSPAR, HELCOM

**2007/2/MHC04** The **Marine Chemistry Working Group [MCWG]** (Chair: E. McGovern, Ireland) will meet in Helsinki, Finland from 3–7 March 2008 to:

- a) together with WGMS prepare the following Technical Annexes for inclusion in the JAMP Guidelines for monitoring Contaminants in Sediments (OSPAR agreement 2002-16) and JAMP Guidelines for monitoring Contaminants in Biota (OSPAR agreement 1992-2) according to the structure of the existing technical annexes as follows:
  - i) based on intersessional work, finalise technical annexes on alkyl PAH in sediment and biota and organotins in biota (OSPAR request 2, 2006);

- ii) prepare technical annexes for monitoring of dioxins in biota and sediments (OSPAR request 4, 2007);
  - iii) prepare technical annexes for monitoring of PFOS in sediments, biota and water (OSPAR request 4, 2007);
  - iv) review the existing technical annexes on monitoring of chlorinated biphenyls in biota and sediment and propose revisions so that they are adequate for monitoring of planar CBs in these compartments. (OSPAR Request 4, 2007).
- b) develop background concentrations for dioxins (OSPAR request 4, 2007) and review intersessional progress in deriving background concentrations for metals, parent and alkylated PAH. (OSPAR request 3, 2007);
  - c) report on new information regarding the following contaminants in the marine environment:
    - i) perfluorinated compounds;
    - ii) peer-reviewed paper reporting the finding of MCWG international collaborative project on new information on tris(4-chlorophenyl)methanol (TCPM) and tris(4-chlorophenyl)methane(TCPMe) in flatfish;
    - iii) brominated flame retardants in the marine environment and specifically review new information on the environmental fate of DecaBDE.
  - d) report on any new annexes on Quality Assurance from the ICES/HELCOM Steering Group on Quality Assurance of Chemical Measurements in the Baltic Sea;
  - e) review and discuss use of in situ semi-continuous nutrients measurements and the progress and pitfalls of the use of these methods of data acquisition;
  - f) review available information regarding the role of nutrients and organically-bound nutrient species as potential drivers for processes which can influence the uptake and distribution of contaminants in the environment and ecosystems;
  - g) review (in collaboration with WGMS) the draft guidelines for the preparation, use and analysis of passive samplers in seawater;
  - h) critically review and report the results and findings from joint MCWG / WGMS trial-survey of passive samplers, and review any new information on the use of membrane systems for sampling, and on their incorporation within monitoring programmes;
  - i) report on the developments in Water Framework Directive monitoring programmes for physico-chemical parameters (priority substances, other pollutants, nutrient status) in transitional and coastal waters and update tables outlining national activities.
  - j) provide expert knowledge and guidance to the ICES Data Centre (via sub-group) on a continuous basis;
  - k) report information on the relationship between co-planar PCBs and marker PCBs and consider the implications for monitoring programme.
  - l) review information on integrated chemical and biological effects monitoring and assessment including information on effect directed chemical analysis (related to OSPAR request 8);
  - m) MCWG members to report information on projects of relevance to MCWG activities.

MCWG will report by 1 April 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat and Oceanography Committees and ACOM.

### **Supporting Information**

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	This Group maintains an overview of key issues in relation to marine chemistry, both with regard to chemical oceanography and contaminants. The activities are considered to have a high priority. MCWG provides input across the field of marine chemistry which underpins the advice given by ACOM, and also supports the work of national and international collaborative monitoring programmes, e.g., within OSPAR.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION</b>	<p>a) Preparation of technical annexes for JAMP guidelines is in response to OSPAR request 2, 2006 and OSPAR request 4, 2007. The advice from SIME 2007 that monitoring of dioxins in sediments should only be carried out in specific areas (such as sedimentation areas or estuaries) because of time lag (10–12 years) in deposition of quantities required for sampling should be taken into account. Also, the advice from SIME should be taken into account that monitoring of planar CBs in sediments should be undertaken only if levels of marker PCBs are e.g. 100 times higher than the BACs and that for biota monitoring of concentrations in seabird eggs could provide an alternative matrix.</p> <p>b) BCs are required for the OSPAR CEMP assessments. Continued response to OSPAR request no. 3, 2006 and request OSPAR 4, 2007 (dioxins);</p> <p>c) This was initiated among MCWG members on the basis of concerns regarding these contaminants in the marine environment</p> <p>d) This will be in response to an ICES request;</p> <p>e) This activity is initiated by MCWG to reinforce its nutrient activities;</p> <p>f) This activity is initiated by MCWG to reinforce its nutrient activities and to create a better link between contaminants dynamics and ecosystems drivers;</p> <p>g, h) These passive sampler devices will be reviewed for application to monitoring of contaminants in the marine environment; the passive sampler intercalibration exercise was initiated by WGMS/MCWG</p> <p>i) This work was initiated by MCWG and will be of interest to OSPAR/EC/ HELCOM;</p> <p>j) This is in direct response to a request by the ICES Data Centre;</p> <p>k) This is initiated by MCWG members and will be of interest to OSPAR;</p> <p>l) This is initiated by MCWG members and will be of interest to OSPAR in relation to OSPAR request no. 8;</p> <p>m) This item was initiated by MCWG based on undertakings of MCWG members at 2007 meeting (MCWG 2007 report Annex 5)</p>
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	The resource required to undertake activities within the framework of this group is negligible.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	The Group is normally attended by some 20–35 members.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	None.
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	No financial implications.
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	ACOM.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	There is a close working relationship with WGMS, WGBEC, WGS AEM and STGQAC.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:</b>	The work of this group is closely aligned with work being undertaken within the EU Chemical Monitoring Group on the requirements and implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The group provides the basis for some advice to OSPAR.

**2007/2/MHC05 The Working Group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management [WGICZM]**

(Chair: B. Morales-Nin\*, Spain) will meet in Mallorca, Spain from 11–14 March 2008 to:

- a) update and report on activities of relevant ICES Working and Study groups to identify information pertaining to coastal zone and evaluate this information relative to ICZM needs and review progress from the EU and IOC;
- b) update and report on ICZM activities in different ICES countries including information on monitoring of recreational fishing and other coastal monitoring programmes.
- c) revise and update a list of tools, data products and research needs;

- d) continue to monitor and report results generated from larger projects that are directly relevant to ICZM needs;
- e) continue to report on the effects of thermal, chemical and saline pollution produced by desalination and power plants;
- f) explore the utility of adopting standardised methods for the selection of indicators that are applicable and relevant at a local scale;
- g) further identify ICES' role in the application of the WFD, Habitat Directive, Maritime Policy (Green paper), Marine Strategy (proposed), and EU ICZM Recommendation 2002, in the coastal zone.

WGICZM will report by 7 April 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee and ACOM.

### Supporting Information

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	In order to maintain and improve the quality of ICES advice, the specific requirements for scientific advice in support of client initiatives on ICZM need to be evaluated. In response to demands for ecosystem-based advice, ICES has adopted an ecosystem-based approach. Including the coastal zone would allow ICES to provide better holistic advice. Consequently these activities have high priority.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</b>	All ToRs also relate to Action Plan 1.9, 2.2, 2.3, 2.9, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 3.3, 4.7, 4.8, 4.14. Many ICES Study and Working groups address specific coastal zone issues. Others do not include coastal zone issues in their work, but have the expertise to, or could, with added expertise, address these issues. All the information being generated needs to be compiled and analysed to ensure consistent and integrated advice. The ecosystem based approach to the management of human activities as the leading principle for integrated coastal zone management implies that knowledge on the key ecosystem processes and properties in the coastal zone will be the core of the information ICES will be able to add into the process of ICZM. Important components include the valuation of coastal ecological niches, specific habitats, identification of essential and critical species and habitats particular to coastal areas, and development of EcoQOs specifically for the coastal zone. This work will contribute directly to the applications of emerging and present coastal directives (e.g., EU-WFD; EU-ICZM, Marine Strategy) and other local or trans-boundary management issues within ICES Member Countries.
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	New experts have been recruited during the past two years and there is a need to engage experts from Canada/USA and other ICES countries involved in ICZM and not participating actively within the WG.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	ICES Member Countries working with coastal zone issues and 1–2 socio-economic experts also involved with ICZM. The Group is normally attended by some 10–14 members and guests.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	None.
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	No financial implications.
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	There are obvious direct linkages with ACOM.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	MHC, MARC and several Working Groups within these committees.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:</b>	EU, OSPAR, HELCOM.

**2007/2/MHC06** The **Study Group on Biodiversity Science** [SGBIODIV] (Chair: Michaela Schratzberger\*, UK) will meet from 11 to 14 March 2008 at Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium to:

- a) define and report on the term, “biodiversity science”, as it is applied within ICES;
- b) review and report on the remit (main objectives) of the Study Group on Biodiversity Science in support of ICES science and advice;
- c) review and synthesise the current and emerging European and international marine biodiversity initiatives:

- d) prepare an inventory of the contribution of existing study and working groups to biodiversity science and how this information is currently taken up by Advisory and Science Committees:
- e) prepare an inventory of the current and future ICES biodiversity science needs, explore how these needs can be addressed by existing and new groups and propose mechanisms for communication and integration.

SGBIODIV will report by 18 April 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat and Living Resources Committees, BEWG and ACOM.

### Supporting Information

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	High. The work of the Group is essential if ICES is to progress with making biodiversity an integral part of ICES work..
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</b>	<p>a) The term, "biodiversity science", is defined in a variety of ways in the marine science community. It is important to clearly understand what SGBIODIV understands under this term.</p> <p>b) It is important to have assurance that the SG's products are useful in support of ICES scientific and advisory activities, and that appropriate Terms of Reference are being developed. How are the SGBIODIV ToRs linked to provision of advice for 2008?</p> <p>c) A number of initiatives have been successful in networking and integrating marine biodiversity research and data at a pan-European scale. This data and information is extremely valuable in supporting the assessment and conservation of biodiversity within the ICES area. By linking with existing infrastructures and maximising the use of existing standardised vocabularies in Europe (e.g. ERMS, NARM etc.), ICES can continue to play a key role in long-term safeguarding of biodiversity data.</p> <p>d) Currently, biodiversity science does not feature strongly in the Science or Advisory Committees of ICES. Although none of the existing Committees explicitly addresses the issue of biodiversity science, it does form an important component of several active Working and Study Groups within ICES.</p> <p>e) In order to address ICES' fundamental goals, it is vital that biodiversity science be addressed in an integrated way. Achieving a cohesive and structured approach is expected to help consolidate and further develop ICES' role as important end user of, and advocate for, biodiversity science.</p>
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	Expertise from all areas of the marine benthic and pelagic food web components.. Participation is sought from ICES countries and by scientists both from disciplines and scientific circles not normally represented at ICES.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	Not exceeding the usual requirement
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	None specific.
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	ACOM.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	Ecology and survey groups, WGDEC, BEWG
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:</b>	CBD, IMoSEB, OSPAR, HELCOM

**2007/2/MHC07<sup>1</sup>** The **Working Group on Biological Effects of Contaminants** [WGBEC] (Chair: John Thain, CEFAS, UK) will meet in Sète, France, from 31 March–4 April 2008 to:

- a) review the progress on the development of assessment criteria and integrated chemical-biological effect assessment tools;
- b) ensure EACs are available for assessments of concentrations of hazardous substances in the marine environment, which will contribute to the QSR 2010. This request will be based upon the following:
  - i) review proposals for updated EACs for PCBs developed by the Netherlands, according to the 2004 methodology;
  - ii) peer review of proposals for updated EACs for PAHs developed by the Netherlands;
  - iii) review of the basis for the updated EACs for metals in sediments proposed in 2004, with particular emphasis on the selection of partition coefficients and, as appropriate, the development of alternative proposals for these EACs;
  - iv) development of proposals for updated EACs for components included in the pre-CEMP, giving emphasis to the development of EACs for HBCD;
- c) complete the development of JAMP guidance for integrated monitoring of chemicals and their biological effects through preparing a technical annex on:
  - i) groups of biological effects methods to be deployed to address specific questions. This should provide guidance on recommended packages of chemical and biological effects for monitoring on determinant basis to ensure that chemical and biological methods were well matched and that chemical analysis underpinned biological effects monitoring;
- d) review progress with publication and electronic dissemination of biological effects techniques in the ICES TIMES series;
- e) consider progress with BEQUALM and national and international biological effect monitoring activities e.g. HELCOM, MEDPOL and WFD, and ICES ASC Indicator Workshop;
- f) assess the amount of biological effects data submitted to the new ICES database;
- g) provide expert knowledge and guidance to the ICES Data Centre (possibly via sub-group) on a continuous basis;
- h) evaluate the use of biological effects techniques for risk assessment purposes;
- i) evaluate documents prepared intersessionally on intersex in fish, micronuclei, comet assay, oxidative stress, in vitro – in vivo screening techniques and assessing toxicity of contaminants algae (phytoplankton and macrophytes);
- j) review confounding factors of salinity, temperature, season and genetic differences and how they affect biological effect responses;
- k) review progress with the ICON demonstration programme;
- l) review progress with OPSAR / MEDPOL / WFD / HELCOM / EU Marine Strategy initiatives discussed at the 2007 meeting and develop a way forward for the use and application of biological effects techniques.

WGBEC will report by 15 April 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee and ACOM.

---

<sup>1</sup> Request no. 11. Current developments within OECD/EU regarding endocrine disruptors and whether this is adequate for the marine environment will possibly be deleted and has not been included in the ToRs.

## Supporting Information

<p><b>PRIORITY:</b></p>	<p>The activities of this group will enable ICES to advise on issues relating to the design, implementation and execution of regional research and monitoring programmes pertaining to hazardous substances in the marine environment. To develop procedure for quality assurance of biological effects data and to improve assessments of data relating to the biological effects of contaminants in the marine environment.</p>
<p><b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provisional background responses and assessment criteria have been developed through WKIMON and WGBEC members. Further developmental work needs to be conducted and WGBEC needs to contribute to and evaluate this work as an ongoing process.</li> <li>b) Detailed terms of reference for this request will be prepared by the OSPAR Secretariat following consultation with the Netherlands in early September 2007, circulated to ASMO HODs for approval and forwarded to ICES. OSPAR request no. 1. It must be ensured that work is well co-ordinated with work on environmental quality standards of the Priority Substances Working group under the Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy and the associated Expert Group on EQS;</li> <li>c) Response to <b>OSPAR request no. 8</b> for the further development of guidance on integrated monitoring and assessment of chemicals and biological effects. The question of survey design is being addressed by WGSSEM.</li> <li>d) It is important for WGBEC to keep track of publication progress with biological effects methods it has sponsored. Protocols are needed for national and international programmes as well as the OSPAR programmes.</li> <li>e) AQC for biological effects methods has been identified as critical by OSPAR and international organisations; BEQUALM provides AQC for biological effect measurements and it is important that WGBEC keeps track of developments with this programme. In addition it is important that WGBEC keeps track and evaluates other national and international programmes that can influence the uptake of biological effect techniques, e.g., within MEDPOL, HELCOM etc.</li> <li>f) Biological effects data is increasingly being entered into the ICES database and WGBEC is encouraging this and monitors this activity and assists with answering queries from the ICES Data Centre.</li> <li>g) This is in direct response to a request by the ICES Data Centre.</li> <li>h) Biological effect measures are increasingly being used for risk assessment purposes, such as for dredge material disposal and WFD and WGBEC would like to evaluate current strategies being advocated and developed.</li> <li>i) WGBEC needs to review the current status of development and application of these techniques in order that it can advise where a method / approach sits in the ICES list of "recommended techniques"</li> <li>j) As biological effects data is being used for developing assessment criteria and ultimately for regional assessments it is important to fully understand and evaluate the importance of confounding factors that can influence the biological effect measurements</li> <li>k) Provisional background responses and assessment criteria have been developed through WKIMON and WGBEC members. Further developmental work needs to be conducted and WGBEC needs to contribute to and evaluate this work as an ongoing process.</li> <li>l) The ICON demonstration programme was launched in March 2007 and underpins the integrated chemical – biological effects approach advocated by OSPAR WKIMON. WGBEC needs to monitor and evaluate this activity.</li> <li>m) WGBEC needs to continue to explore and develop the links (OSPAR / MEDPOL / WFD / HELCOM / EU FWM) already made during its 2007 meeting in respect harmonisation of AQC, application of techniques and</li> </ul>

	interpretation of data.
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	The main input to this group is from National experts. Each attendee is self-funded from their own / organisation / institute resources
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	The Group is normally attended by ca. 16 members and guests
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	None required
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	No financial implications
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	ACOM
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	There are linkages with WGSAEM, MCWG, WGMS and WGPDMO.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:</b>	None identified.

**2007/2/MHC08** The **Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping** [WGMHM] (Chair: D. Connor, UK) will meet in Horta, the Azores, Portugal, from 31 March–4 April 2008 to:

- a) review progress in international mapping programmes (including MESH, EEA, OSPAR, BALANCE, HERMES, CHARM).
- b) review the range of metadata and data portals available for marine habitat mapping, and assess how these systems could be integrated or enhanced to provide more coherent international access to mapping metadata and international maps.
- c) present and review national habitat mapping activity during the preceding year, providing National Status Report updates according to the standard reporting format, an overview map, and focusing on particular issues of relevance to the rest of the meeting.
- d) (presentations strictly limited to a 10 minute overview per country; posters are encouraged for supplementary information; national status reports to be circulated prior to the meeting; outline map of study areas in shape-file GIS format)
- e) review and assess recent advances with marine mapping techniques for habitat mapping (for example, developments in multibeam backscatter analysis, and in LIDAR).
- f) review and critique guidelines for habitat mapping, including the MESH Guide to Habitat Mapping and those developed under other relevant initiatives. Identify critical gaps in the guidance available.
- g) further develop approaches for the assessment of accuracy and confidence in habitat maps, through the assessment of selected habitat maps and their associated reports/metadata, considering both the final maps and the survey design.
- h) review progress in the development of ‘discovery’ and ‘survey/method’ metadata standards for marine habitat mapping, illustrated with worked examples (e.g. from MESH) and assess whether these are suitable for wider application.
- i) review a draft document which addresses the application of and needs for habitat maps in an ecosystem-based management context.
- j) assess the role of the Working Group and its relationship to the needs of ICES science and advisory programmes.

WGMHM will report by 25 April 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat and the Fisheries Technology Committees, as well as ACOM.

### Supporting Information

<b>Priority</b>	This Group coordinates the review of habitat classification and mapping activities in the ICES area and promotes standardization of approaches and techniques to the extent possible.
-----------------	---

<b>Scientific justification and relation to Action Plan</b>	<p>Action Plan nos.: 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4, 1.4.3.</p> <p>The WG provides an important forum to present and discuss the progress of multinational programmes, in particular, within the Interreg MESH project for North West Europe, the OSPAR-wide programme, the BALANCE project for the Baltic Sea and the HERMES FP6 project. The strategies, standards and issues addressed by each programme need to be assessed to facilitate sharing of best practice, sharing of difficulties and to work towards integration of resultant maps if feasible.</p> <p>The compilation of National Status Reports is required to keep abreast of current activities and bring attention to new initiatives, developing techniques and data availability.</p> <p>In recent years there have been considerable advances in the use of remote acoustic techniques for marine exploration. Many of these new technologies provide excellent tools, which can be easily adapted to marine habitat mapping. The WGMHM provides an excellent forum in which new techniques can be shared and the relative merits discussed, transferring technology and experience.</p> <p>Review of standards for habitat mapping is of key importance to promoting best practice in mapping studies and in the interoperability of the data. The MESH project will have made significant progress on this topic in its publication of a Guide in 2007 and WGMHM should provide peer review of the work on the basis of its wider expertise, to assess whether any critical gaps exist in the available guidance.</p> <p>Assessment and presentation of issues about accuracy and confidence in marine habitat mapping, to better inform end users of potential limitations in the maps, is at an early stage in development. This is a significant new area in which WGMHM members can contribute to developing new approaches.</p> <p>Sound data management is important in the archiving and distribution of data sets and in interpreting the data to make maps and assess their confidence. There is a need to assess whether available standards are suitable for wider adoption (within ICES).</p> <p>The relevance of habitat mapping to other aspects of ecosystem structure and function needs to be examined, to reveal strengths and potential weaknesses and to highlight the relevance of habitat mapping to other sectors of research and environmental management, e.g. fisheries management.</p> <p>The importance of marine habitat mapping in ICES is growing and it is timely to assess whether the WG can improve its work in relation to the science and advisory needs of ICES (linked to proposals for restructuring ICES Science and Advisory Structures).</p>
<b>Resource requirements</b>	<p>–</p>
<b>Participants</b>	<p>Representatives from Member Countries with experience in habitat mapping and classification. Participation of the Baltic countries and from USA and Canada is particularly sought. The participation of members of BEWG, WGEXT, WGECO, WGDEC, WGFAST would be helpful in developing appropriate linkages to other areas of ICES work.</p>
<b>Secretariat facilities</b>	<p>–</p>
<b>Financial:</b>	<p>–</p>
<b>Linkage to Advisory Committee</b>	<p>ACOM</p>
<b>Linkages to other Committees or groups</b>	<p>BEWG and SGNSBP, WGEXT, WGECO, WGDEC, WGFAST and SGASC, SGEH (Baltic Committee)</p>
<b>Linkages to other organizations</b>	<p>OSPAR, HELCOM, EEA</p>

**2007/2/MHC09** The **Working Group on the Effects of Extraction of Marine Sediments on the Marine Ecosystem** [WGEXT] (Chair: Mr. Gerry Sutton, Ireland) will meet in the United Kingdom from 8–11 April 2008 as guests of Cefas, BMAPA and the Crown Estate in order to:

- a) provide a summary of data on marine sediment extraction for the OSPAR region that seeks to fulfil the requirements of the OSPAR request for extraction data to be provided by ICES and take into account any feedback or comments from OSPAR on the information submitted by WGEXT 2007;
- b) review data on marine extraction activities, developments in marine resource and habitat mapping (taking into account some of the outputs of the ICES WGMHM as appropriate), information on changes to the legal regime (and associated environmental impact assessment requirements) governing marine aggregate extraction;
- c) review scientific programmes and research projects relevant to the assessment of environmental effects of the extraction of marine sediments including interaction with the COST programme;
- d) initiate work on a new Cooperative Research Report to cover the period 2005 to 2008;
- e) continue to review and evaluate the use and application of the ICES WGEXT 2003 Guidelines across member countries;
- f) review the outputs from other relevant ICES working groups relevant to the work of WGEXT;
- g) continue to review and evaluate the scope and implementation of monitoring programmes instigated in relation to marine sediment extraction activities.

WGEXT will report by 2 May 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee and ACOM.

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	Current activities are concerned with developing the understanding necessary to ensure that marine sand and gravel extraction is managed in a sustainable manner, and that any ecosystem (and fishery) effects of this activity are better understood so that mitigative measures can be adopted where appropriate. These activities are considered to have a very high priority.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION:</b>	<p>(a) This work responds to a request from OSPAR to gather data for the entire OSPAR region on aggregate extraction activities. This information is to be provided and collated in advance of the meeting and reviewed in relation to item (b). We aim to seek the support of existing WGEXT members and participants in an attempt to improve and extend reporting of national data to WGEXT in order to satisfy the OSPAR request.</p> <p>(b) &amp; (c) An increasing number of ICES Member Countries undertake sand and gravel extraction activities and others are looking at the potential for future exploitation. Each year relevant developments under these headings are reviewed and summarised. This provides a useful forum for information exchange and discussion. National reports are submitted electronically prior to the meeting. National Reports should be submitted, using the new reporting template, no later than 16th March 2008.</p> <p>(d) To respond to any feedback received to ensure the report accurately reflect the needs of ICES and OSPAR.</p> <p>(e) WGEXT wish to begin to review the 2003 WGEXT Guidelines to ensure they remain fit for purpose across member countries and take account of developments in the underpinning science.</p> <p>(f) An increasing amount of monitoring activity takes place in connection with licensed aggregate extraction across ICES member countries. WGEXT wish to consider the scientific robustness and rationale behind the design, implementation and effectiveness of such monitoring activities.</p>
<b>RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN</b>	The principal focus of WGEXT work is in relation to Action 2.13 of the ICES Action Plan 2003-2007.
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Most countries collect data and information routinely on aggregate extraction activities. The additional work in presenting these data in a standardised form for the new electronic template is considered small, but in the long-term should result in a reduction in effort.

	Reviews of research activity are of programmes that are already under way and have resources committed.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	WGEXT is normally attended by 20–25 members and guests.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	Finnish Environment Institute
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	No additional financial implications
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	ACOM
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	BEWG, WGMHM, REGNS
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:</b>	Work is of direct interest to OSPAR and HELCOM.

**2007/2/MHC10** The **Benthos Ecology Working Group** [BEWG] (Chair: H. Rumohr) will meet in Torre Grande, Sardinia, Italy, from 21–25 April 2008 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) 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);
- c) plan the next North Sea Benthos Project 2010;
- d) review and consider recent developments in ongoing benthos research in the ICES area;
- e) discuss and report on new methods for sampling and analytical practices for benthos including electronic ones;
- f) report and discuss possible climate enforced changes in the benthos in the Mediterranean compared to ICES waters;
- g) consider the Mediterranean phytobenthos in relation to Northern European environments;
- h) report and discuss on the outcome of the workshop on Benthos Related Environmental Metrics (WKBEMET).

BEWG will report by 15 May 2008 for the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee, STGQAB, and ACOM.

## Supporting Information

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem affects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</b>	<p>Action Plan 1.2.1, 2.2.1, 2.13, 4.12, and 2.11</p> <p><b>a)</b> This is to support a request from OSPAR</p> <p><b>b)</b> This will support the STGQAB response to OSPAR request no. 10. The request was already included in the 2007 ICES Work Programme for STGQAB but the response was not entirely acceptable.</p> <p><b>c)</b> This project is one of the central activities throughout the existence of the group and will provide valuable data with relevance to OSPAR and EU requests.</p> <p><b>d)</b> This is a prerequisite for the scientific information status of the group</p> <p><b>e)</b> This a prerequisite for update of method recommendations and Quality Control routines</p> <p><b>f)</b> This reflects ICES cooperation with the mediterranean CIESM. Input is also awaited from colleagues from the Mediterranean.</p> <p><b>g)</b> This continues the attempts to include phytobenthos in ICES benthos work and make the results ready for potential OSPAR requests. It will shed some light on pan-European environmental dynamics</p> <p><b>h)</b> This a consequence of the proposed workshop on the performance testing of environmental metrics.</p>
<b>JUSTIFICATION OF VENUE (IN A NON-ICES MEMBER COUNTRY)</b>	<p><b>1)</b> If the ToRs of the group explicitly limit its activities to the ICES area meetings should normally be held in an ICES member country. <i>This is not the case for BEWG.</i></p> <p><b>2)</b> The host country should normally be linked to ICES (member or affiliate country or co-sponsor of the EG). <i>Italy is not an ICES affiliate but is an EU country and member of CIESM a potential future partner of ICES.</i></p> <p><b>3)</b> The host institute should include scientists who are already members of the EG. <i>This is not the case, the contacts are from earlier IOC group meetings in Torre Grande and from EU sponsored meetings under MARBEF.</i></p> <p><b>4)</b> The inviting country should benefit from hosting the meeting. <i>This is obvious from the agenda and from the fact of the invitation.</i></p> <p><b>5)</b> ICES in general and the EG in particular should benefit from the expertise and knowledge of the host country or region. Specifically where the response to the EG ToRs can be enhanced by the proposed hosts. <i>This is the case and is part of the agenda in TOR d and e. This is a reaction to research in consequences of climate change and global warming and the potential consequences of this. This will be future requests for advice by OSPAR; EU and HELCOM.</i></p> <p><b>6)</b> The EG should not have held a meeting in a non-member country during the last three years. <i>BEWG met 2005 in Copenhagen, 2006 in Crete (Greece is an ICES affiliate) and 2007 in Germany.</i></p> <p><b>7)</b> The EG should evaluate the cost implications of the venue choice. This should consider what additional cost that would be incurred by the usual attendees, and particularly ICES members. It should also evaluate whether the choice would limit attendance by these members. <i>There are no additional cost implications. On the contrary, Sardinia is a cheap destination compared to other destinations in Europe and especially in Canada and the US. This is because of cheap charter flights and cheap accommodation early in the year. It should be noted here that meetings at ICES Headquarters are under the most expensive venues in Europe. This choice of venue does not limit attendance by members it enforces participation of experts because of its attractive character and the chance to meet new colleagues .</i></p>
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	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.
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	The Group is normally attended by some 20–25 members and guests.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	None.
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	No financial implications.
<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY</b>	There are linkages to ACOM and ACOM.

COMMITTEES:	
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	MHC, WGMHM, WGECO, WGEXT, STGQAB.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	None

**2007/2/MHC11 The Workshop on Fisheries Management in Marine Protected Areas [WKFMPMA]** (Chair: Jake Rice, Canada) will meet at the ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 2–4 June 2008 to:

- a) consolidate all information on position, effort, and fishing activities in and around the Natura 2000 sites, and finalize maps and data tables of this information;
- b) review all Conservation Objectives that have been proposed by the German Nature Ministry for each Natura2000 site for clarity and specificity, and if necessary provide operational ecological interpretations of individual objectives;
- c) based on a) and b), identify all areas where fisheries activities may affect achievement of the Conservation Objectives, and to the extent possible describe and quantify the associated risks;
- d) consolidate and report any other information on fisheries operations and goals that may be relevant to fisheries management plans in the Natura 2000 sites, including social and economic information;
- e) review socio-economic aspects to be considered in fisheries management plans in the Natura 2000 sites;
- f) develop options for managing fisheries in and around the German Natura 2000 sites, including consideration of co-management systems appropriate for management within an ecosystem approach. For each option report on the possible impacts of the management measure(s) on the fisheries, and the likelihood of achievement of the conservation objectives for the site.

WKFMPMA will report by 15 August 2008 for the attention of an ICES review group.

### Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High as an advisory request from the German government
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Action Plan No: 2.2, 2.3, 2.11, 2.13, 3.2, 3.3, 5.2, 5.3 Back to back meeting with WGECO has been highly appropriate to facilitate the progress and success of the workshop. This was not an option for 2008, however, WGECO will consider relevant questions that may arise in preparing 2008 WKFMPMA. ToRs e) and f) in particular should build upon existing work in ICES, particularly ACOM and WGECO, and the Guidelines for Implementation of the European Marine Strategy (CRR #273).
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	There are ongoing research programmes in the North Sea and in the Baltic which may provide input to this group. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group will be attended by German scientists and by participants from EU member states bordering the German EEZ, such as UK, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, and other ICES member states that are able to contribute with their experience in similar or related cases. Participation of representatives for fishermen and the fishing industry is important.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities as appropriate
FINANCIAL:	Costs including travel and per diem will be covered by a project sponsored by the German Federal Agency for Nature conservation, INA Vilm, Germany.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM, ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There is a very close working relationship with the groups of the Fisheries Technology Committee. It also is of close relevance to the Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fisheries, and to the Living Resources Committee and the Resource Management Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	none

**2007/2/MHC12** The **Working Group on Statistical Aspects of Environmental Monitoring** [WGSAEM] (Chair: Richard Duin, the Netherlands) will meet at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 15–19 September 2008 to:

- a) develop and review tools for assessing and improving quality assurance of the data generating process;
- b) complete the development of JAMP guidance for integrated monitoring of chemicals and their biological effects through preparing a technical annex on:
  - i) survey design. The purpose is to provide guidance on the selection of representative stations, taking into account requirements under the Water Framework Directive and the proposed Marine Strategy Directive, and for the selection of stations for integrated monitoring. This work should build on work by WGSAEM 2007 relating to the spatial design of monitoring programmes and should take into account the approach taken by the UK in re-designing their station network (OSPAR request 8);
- c) discuss and report on potential input by WGSAEM on providing advice to organisers of workshops where time-series and other data will be analysed;
- d) provide further advice on methods for temporal, spatial, and integrated assessments of contaminants in sediments and biological effects and inputs;
- e) continue work on statistical aspects in the development of environmental indicators and classification.

WGSAEM will report by 15 October 2008 to the attention of the Marine Habitat Committee and ACOM.

### Supporting Information

<b>PRIORITY:</b>	This Group prepares statistical advice for monitoring and assessment activities that is of great value to the quality of such activities.
<b>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</b>	<p><b>Term of Reference a)</b> This is a continuation of work started last year. It deals with the data quality assurance, which gives insight in the quality of the data processing flow (from sampling to reporting).</p> <p><b>Term of Reference b)</b> Response to <b>OSPAR request no. 8</b> for the further development of guidance on integrated monitoring and assessment of chemicals and biological effects. The question of biological effects methods is being handled by WGBEC.</p> <p><b>Term of Reference c)</b> During recent years there have been a number of exercises involving ICES members to compare long-term datasets and methodologies. WKNCT and WKEUT are two such workshops that have involved analysis of phytoplankton data sets. In advance of such activities in the future, it is recommended that advice on appropriate statistical approaches and procedures are identified in order to facilitate the estimation of variability in a robust and sound manner, and that this advice is sought from appropriate sources within ICES at the planning stages of such exercises.</p> <p><b>Term of Reference d)</b> This provides the opportunity to improve the existing assessment procedures recommended by ICES and develop new assessment procedures for marine environmental assessments. This will help the ICES Data Centre to develop appropriate data products, and may feed back into the development of monitoring strategies</p> <p><b>Term of Reference e)</b> This is a continuation of previous work to develop a proper statistical basis for environmental indicators.</p>
<b>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Access to relevant parts of the ICES Environment Database
<b>PARTICIPANTS:</b>	Representatives of all Member Countries. The Group is normally attended by 7–10 members. Increased participation of environmental statisticians is critical to the viability of this Working group.
<b>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</b>	Meeting room for 10-15 persons and associated services.
<b>FINANCIAL:</b>	No financial implications.

<b>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</b>	ACOM.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</b>	WGBEC, WGMS, MCWG, WGRED, WKIMON.
<b>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:</b>	OSPAR, HELCOM.