

2009 ACOM and ACOM Expert Group ToR's

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Advisory Committee

2ACOM01 The **Advisory Committee [ACOM]** (Chair: Michael Sissenwine, USA) will work on the following tasks:

- a) meet in plenary in Lisbon 30/11-3/12 2009 to:
 - i) review directions and guidelines provided by Council and Bureau and client requests for information and advice;
 - ii) review the performance of the advisory function in 2008 and 2009 and agree on remedial actions as appropriate;
 - iii) review progress on Advisory Services in 2009
 - iv) finalise the 2010 workplan
 - v) agree on proposals on Pro bono publico advice and information compilation;
 - vi) review guidelines for the advisory work and amend as appropriate
 - vii) consider research needs as input to the Scientific Committee; and provide advice and guidance on future scientific needs and priorities related to the work of ACOM
- b) work by correspondence (web conferences) according to the workplan, *inter alia* to adopt advice;
- c) present the advice to Partner Commissions by the ACOM Chair or his designate. The advice on North Atlantic Salmon will be presented to NASCO by the chair of WGNAS.
- d) hold Consultations at national expense in Berlin, Germany in September 2009 during the 2009 ASC Meeting to:
 - i) discuss the 2010 workplan including Terms of Reference, dates and venues for groups reporting to ACOM in 2010 and 2011;
 - ii) conduct other business related to the functioning of ACOM.

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. Advice drafting groups will develop the draft advice text for adoption by ACOM.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	Chair, vice chairs, and nationally nominated and <i>ex officio</i> members. Chairs of the Expert groups with advisory tasks are invited to the ACOM Consultations in September. The ACOM Chair may invite experts to the September Consultations as appropriate.
OBSERVERS	Clients, Stakeholders (incl. RACs) and NGOs.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	The meeting will normally be held at ICES HQ but because of the UN Conference on climate which is held in Copenhagen for two weeks around 1 December the meeting is moved to Lisbon as the hotel situation in Copenhagen will be very difficult.
FINANCIAL:	Included in the Secretariat budget
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	SciCom on research needs
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC (DG Fish, DG Env), HELCOM, OSPAR, AMAP, NASCO, NEAFC, JNRF

Generic ToRs for Regional and Species Working Groups

The following ToRs apply to: AFWG, HAWG, NWWG, NIPAG, WGWISE, WGBAST, WGBFAS, WGNSSK, WGCSE, WGHMM and WGANSA.

The working group should focus on:

ToRs a) to g) for stocks that will have advice,

ToRs b) to d) and f) for stocks with same advice as last year.

ToRs b) to c) and f) for stocks with no advice.

- a) Produce a first draft of the advice on the fish stocks and fisheries under considerations and the regional overview according to ACOM guidelines.
- b) Update, quality check and report relevant data for the working group:
 - i) Load fisheries data on effort and catches (landings, discards, bycatch, including estimates of misreporting when appropriate) in the INTERCATCH database by fisheries/fleets;
 - ii) Abundance survey results;
 - iii) Environmental drivers.
 - iv) Propose specific actions to be taken to improve the quality of the data (including improvements in data collection).
- c) Produce an overview of the sampling activities on a national basis based on the INTERCATCH database);
- d) In cooperation with the Secretariat, update the description of major regulatory changes (technical measures, TACs, effort control and management plans) and comment on the potential effects of such changes including the effects of newly agreed management and recovery plans.
- e) For each stock update the assessment by applying the agreed assessment method (analytical, forecast or trends indicators) as described in the stock annex. If no stock annex is available this should be prepared prior to the meeting.
- f) 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:
 - i) Input data (including information from the fishing industry and NGO that is pertinent to the assessments and projections);
 - ii) Where misreporting of catches is significant, provide qualitative and where possible quantitative information and describe the methods used to obtain the information;
 - iii) Stock status and 2010 catch options;
 - iv) Historical performance of the assessment and brief description of quality issues with the assessment;
 - v) Mixed fisheries overview and considerations;
 - vi) Species interaction effects and ecosystem drivers;
 - vii) Ecosystem effects of fisheries;
 - viii) Effects of regulatory changes on the assessment or projections;
- g) Where appropriate, check for the need to reopen the advice in autumn based on the new survey information and the guidelines in AGCREFA

AFWG

2008/2/ACOM02 The **Arctic Fisheries Working Group** [AFWG]: (Chair: Yuri Kovalev, Russia) will meet in San Sebastian, Spain, 21–27 April 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below).
- b) for Barents Sea capelin oversee the process of providing inter-sessional assessment.

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

AFWG will report by 7 May 2009 (and **XX** October 2009 for Barents Sea capelin) for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord.2	Advice
cod-arct	Cod in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)	Norway	Russia	Norway	Advice
cod-coas	Cod in Subareas I and II (Norwegian coastal waters)	Norway	Russia	Norway	Advice
had-arct	Haddock in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)	Norway	Russia		Advice
sai-arct	Saithe in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)	Norway	Norway		Advice
cap-bars	Capelin in Subareas I and II (Barents Sea), excluding Division IIa west of 5°W	Norway	Russia	Norway	Advice
ghl-arct	Greenland halibut in Sub-areas I & II	Norway	Russia		Same advice as last year
smn-arct	Red fish <i>Sebastes mentella</i> Subareas I and II	Russia	Norway		Advice
smr-arct	Red fish <i>Sebastes marinus</i> Subareas I and II	Norway	Russia		Advice

HAWG

2008/2/ACOM03 The **Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N** [HAWG] (Co-chairs: Tomas Gröhsler, Germany and Maurice Clarke, Ireland) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 17–25 March 2009 to:

- a) compile the catch data of North Sea and Western Baltic herring on 17–18 March
- b) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups 19–25 March (see table below).

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

HAWG will report by 30 March 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 1	Advice
her-3a22	Herring in Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22–24 (Western Baltic Spring spawners)	Denmark	Germany	Denmark	Advice
her-47d3	Herring in Subarea IV and Division IIIa and VIIId (North Sea Autumn spawners)	Germany	NL	UK (Scotland)	Advice
her-irls	Herring in Division VIIa South of 52° 30' N and VIIg,h,j,k (Celtic Sea and South of Ireland)	Ireland	Ireland		Same advice as last year
her-irlw	Herring in Divisions VIa (South) and VIIb,c	Ireland	Ireland		Same advice as last year
her-nirs	Herring in Division VIIa North of 52° 30' N (Irish Sea)	UK (Northern Ireland)	UK (Northern Ireland)		Same advice as last year
her-vian	Herring in Division VIa (North)	UK (Scotland)	UK S		Advice
spr-nsea	Sprat in Subarea IV (North Sea)	Denmark	Denmark	Norway	Advice

NWWG

2008/2/ACOM04 The **North-Western Working Group** [NWWG] (Chair: Guðmundur Þórðarson, Iceland) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 29 April – 5 May 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below).

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

NWWG will report by 11 May 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

FishStock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Advice
cod-farp	Cod in Subdivision Vb2 (Faroe Bank)	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Advice
cod-farb	Cod in Subdivision Vb2 (Faroe Bank)	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Same advice as last year
had-faro	Haddock in Division Vb	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Advice
sai-faro	Saithe in Division Vb	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Advice
cod-iceg	Cod in Division Va (Icelandic cod)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Advice
had-iceg	Haddock in Division Va (Icelandic haddock)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Advice
sai-icel	Saithe in Division Va (Icelandic saithe)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Advice
her-vasu	Herring in Division Va (Icelandic summer-spawners)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Advice
cap-icel	Capelin in Subareas V, XIV and Division IIa west of 5° W (Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Advice
ghl-grn	Greenland halibut in Subareas V, VI, XII and XIV	Greenland	Greenland	Iceland	Advice
smr-5614	Redfish (<i>Sebastes marinus</i>) in Subareas V, VI, XII and XIV	Iceland	Iceland	Faroe Islands	Advice
smn-con	Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) on the continental shelf in Subareas V, VI and XIV (Demersal)	Iceland	Iceland	Germany	Advice
smn-ocn	Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Subareas V, VI, XII, XIV and NAFO Subareas 1+2 (Pelagic fisheries in the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas)	Germany	Iceland	Spain	Advice
cod-ewgr	Cod in ICES Subarea XIV and NAFO Subarea 1 (Greenland cod)	Greenland	Germany	Germany	Advice

WGBAST

2008/2/ACOM05 The **Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group** [WGBAST] (Chair: Atso Romakkaniemi, Finland) will meet in Oulu, Finland, 24–31 March 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below);
- b) consider if TAC's by assessment units or groups thereof would better reflect the population structure and fisheries effects and provide information that will allow ACOM to advise accordingly;
- c) evaluate (in coordination with WGNAS) the possible reasons for the low at-sea survival of salmon stocks;

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGBAST will report for the attention of ACOM by 8 April 2009.

FishStock	Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Advice
sal-2431	Salmon in the Main Basin and Gulf of Bothnia (Salmon in Subdivisions 22–31)	Finland	Finland	Finland	Advice
sal-32	Salmon in Subdivision 32 (Gulf of Finland)	Finland	Finland	Finland	Same advice as last year
trt-bal	Sea trout in Subdivisions 22–32 (Baltic Sea)	Poland	Denmark	Sweden	Advice

WGNAS

2008/2/ACOM06 The **Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon** [WGNAS] (Chair: Jaako Erkinaro*, Finland) will meet at ICES HQ, 30 March – 8 April 2009 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 2008¹;
 - ii) report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
 - iii) continue the work already initiated to investigate 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 abundance³;
 - iv) provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2008 and advise on progress with analysing historical tag recovery data from oceanic areas;
 - v) evaluate the results of studies that estimate the level of pre-spawning mortality of salmon caught and released by anglers and the implications for stock assessments;
 - vi) identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements⁴.

- b) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:
 - i) describe the key events of the 2008 fisheries⁵;
 - 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;
 - iv) describe the status of the stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2010–2012, 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 rebuilding⁶;
 - v) further develop methods to forecast PFA for northern and southern stocks with measures of uncertainty;
 - vi) further investigate opportunities to develop a framework of indicators that could be used to identify any significant change in previously provided multi-annual management advice.

- c) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:
 - i) describe the key events of the 2008 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)⁵;
 - 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) update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
 - iv) describe the status of the stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2009–2012 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁶;

- d) With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:
- i) describe the key events of the 2008 fisheries⁵;
 - 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) describe the status of stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2009–2011 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^{6,7};
 - iv) 4.4 update the framework of indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

WGNAS will report by 15 April 2009 for the attention of ACOM and DFC.

Notes:

1. With regard to question a.i, ICES is asked to ensure that the terminology used in presenting the data on ranching is clearly defined. For the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal.

2. With regard to question a.ii, ICES is requested to include information on any new research into the migration and distribution of salmon at sea.

3. With regard to question a.iii, 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.

4. 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.

5. In the responses to questions b.i, c.i and d.i 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 bycatch of other species in salmon gear, and on the bycatch of salmon in any existing and new fisheries for other species is also requested.

6. In response to questions b.iv, c.iv and d.iii provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice.

7. In response to question d.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 b.4 and c.4

WGBFAS

2008/2/ACOM07 The **Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group [WGBFAS]** (Chair: Steen Christensen, Denmark) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 22–28 April 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below);

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGBFAS will report by 1 May for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Asses. Coord. 2	Advice
cod-kat	Cod in the Kattegat (part of Division IIIa)	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Advice
cod-2224	Cod in Subdivisions 22 to 24	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Advice
cod-2532	Cod in Subdivisions 25 to 32	Denmark	Latvia	Russian Federation	Advice
sol-kask	Sole in Division IIIa	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Advice
her-2532-gor	Herring in Subdivisions 25 to 29 and 32 minus Gulf of Riga	Sweden	Germany	Sweden	Advice
her-riga	Herring in the Gulf of Riga	Latvia	Latvia	Estonia	Advice
her-30	Herring in Subdivision 30, Bothnian Sea	Finland	Finland	Sweden	Advice
her-31	Herring in Subdivision 31, Bothnian Bay	Finland	Finland	Sweden	No advice
spr-2232	Sprat in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Estonia	Poland	Estonia	Advice
fle-2232	Flounder in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany/ Sweden			No advice
bll-2232	Brill in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			No advice
ple-2232	Plaice in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			No advice
dab-2232	Dab in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			No advice
tur-2232	Turbot in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			No advice

WGHMM

2008/2/ACOM08 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Stocks of Hake, Monk and Megrim** [WGHMM] (Chair: Carmen Fernandez, Spain*) will meet at ICES HQ, 5–11 May 2009 to:

- a) Address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below).

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGHMM will report by 18 May 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stocks Coordinator	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Advice
ang-78ab	Anglerfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i> and <i>L. piscatorius</i>) in Divisions VIIIb-k and VIIIa,b	Spain/France	Spain/France	France/Spain	Advice
ang-8c9a	Anglerfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i> and <i>L. piscatorius</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Spain	Spain	Portugal	Advice
hke-nrtn	Hake in Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI and VII and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (Northern stock);	France	France	Spain	Advice
hke-soth	Hake in Division VIIIc and IXa (Southern stock);	Spain	Spain	Portugal	Advice
mgb-8c9a	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus boscii</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Spain	Spain		Advice
mgw-8c9a	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Spain	Spain	France	Advice
mgw-78	Megrim (<i>L. whiffiagonis</i>) in Subarea VII & Divisions VIIIa,b,d,e	Spain	Spain	France	Advice
sol-bisc	Bay of Biscay sole	France	France		Advice
nep-8ab	<i>Nephrops</i> in Divisions VIIIa,b (Bay of Biscay, FU 23, 24)	France	France		No advice
nep-8c	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIIc (FU 25, 31)	Spain	Spain	Portugal	No advice
nep-9a	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IXa (FU 26-30)	Portugal	Portugal	Spain	No advice

Note: *Nephrops* in FU16 and FU17 moved to WGCSE

WGCSE

2008/2/ACOM09 The **Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion** [WGCSE] (co-chairs: Colm Lordan, Ireland* and Pieter-Jan Schon, UK*) will meet at ICES HQ, 13–19 May 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below);

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGCSE will report by 25 May 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Advice
ang-ivvi	Anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i>) in Division IIa, IIIa, Subarea IV and VI	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	Denmark, Norway	Advice
cod VIIe-k	Cod in Division VIIe-k (Celtic Sea)	France	France	Ireland	Advice
cod-iris	Cod in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK (England)	UK (England)		Advice
cod-rock	Cod in Division VIb (Rockall)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		No advice
cod-scow	Cod in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice
had-7b-k	Haddock in Divisions VIIb-k	Ireland	Ireland	France	Same as last year
had-iris	Haddock in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice
had-rock	Haddock in Division VIb (Rockall)	Russia	Russia	UK (Scotland)	Advice
had-scow	Haddock in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice
meg-scrk	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp</i>) in Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)	Ireland	Ireland	UK (Scotland)	Advice
nep-11	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIa (North Minch)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice
nep-12	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIa (South Minch)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice
nep-13	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIa (Firth of Clyde)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice
nep-14	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIa (Irish Sea East)	UK (England)			No advice
nep-15	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIa (Irish Sea West)	UK (Northern Ireland)	UK (Northern Ireland)	Ireland	Advice
nep-7bcj	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIb,c,j,k (Porcupine Bank)	Ireland	Ireland		No advice
nep-17	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIb (Aran Grounds, FU 17)	Ireland	Ireland		Advice
nep-19	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIa,g,j (South East and West of IRL, FU 19)	Ireland	Ireland		No advice
nep-2022	<i>Nephrops</i> in Divisions VIIfgh (Celtic Sea, FU 20-22)	France	France	Ireland	No advice

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Advice
ple-7b-c	Plaice in Division VIIb,c (West of Ireland)	Ireland			No advice
ple-7h-k	Plaice in Divisions VIIh,k (Southwest of Ireland)	Ireland	Ireland	Belgium	Same as last year
ple-celt	Plaice in Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea)	UK (England)	UK (England)	Belgium	Advice
ple-echw	Plaice in Division VIIe (Western Channel)	UK (England)	UK (England)	France	Advice
ple-iris	Plaice in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK (England)	UK (England)		Advice
sol-7b-c	Sole in Division VIIb, c (West of Ireland)	Ireland			No advice
sol-7h-k	Sole in Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland)	Ireland			No advice
sol-celt	Sole in Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea)	Belgium	Belgium	UK (England)	Advice
sol-echw	Sole in Division VIIe (Western Channel)	UK (England)	UK (England)	France	Advice
sol-iris	Sole in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Belgium	Belgium		Advice
whg-7b-c	Whiting in Division VIIb, c (West of Ireland)	Ireland			No advice
whg-7e-k	Whiting in Divisions VIIe-k	Ireland	Ireland	France	Same advice as last year
whg-iris	Whiting in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Ireland	Ireland	UK (Northern Ireland)	Same as last year
whg-rock	Whiting in Division VIIb (Rockall)	Ireland			No advice
whg-scow	Whiting in Division VIIa (West of Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Advice

WGNSSK

2008/2/ACOM10 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak** [WGNSSK] (Chair: Chris Darby, UK) will meet at ICES HQ, 6–12 May 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below). The Sandeel and Norway pout assessment shall be developed by correspondence;

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGNSSK will report by 18 May and 18 September 2009 (Sandeel/Norway pout) for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Advice
cod-347d	Cod in Subarea IV, Division VIIId & Division IIIa (Skagerrak)	UK(England)	UK(England)	Denmark	Advice
had-34	Haddock in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	UK(England)	Advice
nep-5	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVbc (Botney Gut - Silver Pit, FU 5)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	No advice
nep-6	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVb (Farn Deep, FU 6)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Advice
nep-7	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Fladen Ground, FU 7)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Advice
nep-8	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVb (Firth of Forth, FU8)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Advice
nep-9	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Moray Firth, FU9)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Advice
nep-10	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Noup, FU 10)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	No advice
nep-32	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Norwegian Deep, FU 32)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	No advice
nep-33	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVb (Off Horn Reef, FU 33)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	No advice
nep-iiiia	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IIIa (Skagerrak Kattegat, FU 3,4)	Denmark	Sweden	UK(Scotland)	No advice
nop-34	Norway Pout in Subarea IV and Division IIIa	Denmark	Denmark	Norway	Advice
ple-eche	Plaice in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	France	France	Belgium	Advice
ple-kask	Plaice in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Advice
ple-nsea	Plaice Subarea IV (North Sea)	Netherlands	Netherlands	Belgium	Advice
sai-3a46	Saithe in Subarea IV (North Sea) Division IIIa West (Skagerrak) and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)	Norway	Norway	Germany	Advice

san-nsea	Sandeel in Subarea IV excluding the Shetland area	Denmark	Denmark	Norway	Advice
san-shet	Sandeel in Division IVa North of 59° N and West of 0 ° E – (Shetland area)	UK/ Denmark			No advice
sol-eche	Sole in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	Belgium	Belgium	France	Advice
sol-nsea	Sole in Subarea IV (North Sea)	Netherlands	Netherlands	Belgium	Advice
whg-47d	Whiting Subarea IV (North Sea) & Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	UK(England)	Advice
whg-kask	Whiting in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	Sweden	Sweden	Denmark	Same advice as last year

NIPAG

2008/2/ACOM11 **The Joint NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Working Group** [NIPAG] (Co-Chairs: Carsten Hvingel*, Norway and Joanne Morgan*, Canada) will meet in Halifax, Canada 21–29 October 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below);
- b) consider shrimp stocks as decided by NAFO Sc. C.
- c) compile, update, analyse and document time-series of by-catches in the shrimp fishery

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

NIPAG will report by 30 October 2009 on the ICES shrimp stocks for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Advice
pand-barn	Northern Shrimp (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) in Subareas I and II (Barents Sea)	Norway	Norway	Norway	Advice
pand-sknd	Northern shrimp (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) in Division IIIa West and Division IVa East (Skagerrak and Norwegian Deeps)	Denmark	Norway	Sweden	Advice
pand-flad	Northern shrimp (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) in Division IVa (Fladen Ground)	Denmark	Denmark	Denmark	Same advice as last year

WGWISE

2008/2/ACOM12 The **Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks** [WGWISE] (Chair: Beatriz Roel, UK) will meet from at ICES Headquarters, 2–8 September 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below).

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below.

WGWISE will report by 15 September 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Advice
her-noss	Herring in the Northeast Atlantic (Norwegian spring-spawning herring)	Iceland	Norway	Russia	Advice
hom-nsea	Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in Division IIIa, Division IVb,c and VIId (North Sea stock)	Norway	Netherlands	Denmark	Same advice as last year
hom-soth	Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in Division IXa (Southern stock)	Spain	Spain	Portugal	Advice
hom-west	Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in Divisions IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa,, VIIa-c, e-k, VIIIa-e (Western stock)	Norway	UK (England & Wales)	Netherlands	Advice
mac-nea	Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components)	Ireland	UK (Scotland)	Netherlands	Advice
whb-comb	Blue whiting in Subareas I-IX, XII and XIV (Combined stock)	Spain	Denmark	Russia	Advice

WGANSA

2008/2/ACOM13 The **Working Group on Anchovy and Sardine** [WGANSA] (Chair: Dankert Skagen, Norway) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 15–19 June 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below);
- b) compile, investigate and report all the information on recent changes in the pelagic community in the Bay of Biscay to assess the possibility of a regime shift.

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. This will be coordinated as indicated in the table below. ToR b) will need intersectional work prior to the WGANSA meeting.

WGANSA will report by 19 June 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Advice
ane-pore	anchovy in Division IXa	Spain	Spain	Spain	Advice
ane-bisc	anchovy in Subarea VIII (Bay of Biscay)	Spain	Spain	France	Advice
sar-soth	Sardine in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Portugal	Portugal	Spain	Advice

WGDEEP

2008/2/ACOM14 The **Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources** [WGDEEP] (Chair: Tom Blasdale, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 9–16 March 2009 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below);
- b) further develop assessment methodologies for deep-water species through exploratory assessments.
- c) review and consider recent research into unaccounted mortality in commercial fisheries (in conjunction with WGDEC);
- d) Review ongoing work for reducing unintended effects on the seabed and associated communities of fishing operations and gears, including ghost fishing (in conjunction with WGDEC);
- e) Consider request from OSPAR on the status of biodiversity of deepwater ecosystems and how it could be measured, for example by using diversity indices (in conjunction with WGDEC);
- f) Consider the impact of deepwater fisheries in areas for which information has not been analysed to date, for example the orange roughy fishery on the shelf slope of the Porcupine bank and the roundnose grenadier fishery to the north of Hatton bank by using VMS and historic data. (In conjunction with WGDEC);
- g) Review the development of fine scale VMS analysis in relation to habitats and assess vulnerability of deepwater banks, shelf slope and seamounts (in conjunction with WGDEC);
- h) Review the biological parameters that should be collected on the NEACS survey by stock in addition to those specified by PGNEACS.

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 and for that their meetings will be at the same time.

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

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

WGDEEP will report by 17 March 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord.	Advice
alf-comb	Alfonsinos/Golden eye perch (<i>Beryx</i> spp.)	Portugal (Azores)	UK (England and Wales)	No Advice
arg-comb	Greater silver smelt or argentine (<i>Argentina silus</i>)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
bli-comb	Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>)	UK (England and Wales)	UK (England and Wales)	No advice

bsf-comb	Black scabbardfish (<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>)	Portugal	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
gfb-comb	Greater forkbeard (<i>Phycis blennoides</i>)	Spain (AZTI)	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
lin-comb	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
ory-comb	Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>)	Ireland	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
oth-comb	Other deep sea species combined	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
rng-comb	Roundnose grenadier (<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>)	France	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
sbr-comb	Red seabream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>)	Spain (IEO)	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
usk-arct	Tusk in the Norwegian and Barents Sea (Fishing areas I and II)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
usk-icel	Tusk in the Iceland Grounds (Fishing Area Va)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
usk-mar	Tusk in XIIIb (Mid Atlantic Ridge)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
usk-oth	Tusk in Other Areas	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice
usk-rock	Tusk in VIb1 (Rockall)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	No advice

WGEEL

2008/2/ACOM15 The **Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eels** [WGEEL] (Chair: Russell Poole, Ireland), will meet in Gothenburg, Sweden, 7–12 September 2009, to:

- a) assess the trends in recruitment and stock, for international stock assessment, in light of the implementation of the Eel Management Plans;
- b) Evaluate the EU eel management plan;
- c) develop methods to post-evaluate effects of management plans at the stock-wide level;
- d) develop methods for the assessment of the status of local eel populations, the impact of fisheries and other anthropogenic impacts, and of implemented management measures;
- e) establish international databases on eel stock, fisheries and other anthropogenic impacts, as well as habitat and eel quality related data, and the review and development of recommendations on inclusion of data quality issues, including the impact of the implementation of the eel recovery plan on time-series data, on stock assessment methods;
- f) review and develop approaches to quantifying the effects of eel quality on stock dynamics and integrating these in stock assessment methods;
- g) respond to specific requests in support of the eel stock recovery Regulation, as necessary; and
- h) report on improvements to the scientific basis for advice on the management of European and American eel

WGEEL will report by 22 September 2009 for the attention of ACOM and DFC.

WGEF

2008/2/ACOM16 The **Working Group Elasmobranch Fishes** [WGEF] (Chair: Jim Ellis, UK) will meet in ICES HQ, 22–29 June 2009 in a joint meeting with the ICCAT shark sub-group to:

- a) update the description of elasmobranch fisheries for deep-water, pelagic and demersal species in the ICES area and compile landings, effort and discard statistics by ICES Subarea and Division
- b) critically review species-specific landings data for demersal elasmobranchs from national landings statistics, market sampling programmes and discard/observer programmes, in order to compile species-specific data by stock area.
- c) undertake assessments for the NE Atlantic stocks of spurdog *Squalus acanthias* and porbeagle *Lamna nasus*
- d) examine the potential benefits of size-based restrictions (minimum landings sizes and/or maximum landing lengths) for spurdog under various model scenarios
- e) finalise chapters for the ICES CRR
- f) finalise the manuscript of a photo-ID key for elasmobranchs in the ICES area.
- g) review the biological parameters that should be collected on the NEACS survey by stock in addition to those specified by PGNEACS.

WGEF will report by 6 July 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Advice
Basking shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic				No advice
Blue shark in the NE Atlantic				No advice
Deepwater sharks in the Northeast Atlantic				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in the Azores and mid Atlantic ridge				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in the Barents Sea				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in the Celtic Sea and West of Scotland				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in Iceland and East Greenland				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in the North Sea, Skagerrak and eastern English Channel				No advice
Demersal elasmobranchs in the Norwegian Sea				No advice
Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic				No advice
Shortfin mako in the NE Atlantic				No advice
Spurdog (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic				No advice
Tope in the NE Atlantic				No advice
Kitefin shark (<i>Dalatias licha</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic				Same Advice as last year

WGHARP

2008/2/ACOM17 The **Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP)** (Chair: R. Merrick, USA) will meet in ICES HQ, 24–28 August 2009 to:

- b) Review results of intersessional working groups deliberations;
- ix) Review White Sea/Barents Sea winter 2009 surveys results;
- x) Update assessments for White Sea/Barents Sea harp seals based on new data collected in winter 2009 surveys;
- xi) Review results of Canada’s winter 2008 survey results; and
- xii) Consider other requests from member states for scientific advice;

WGHARP will report by 7 September 2009 for the attention of the ACOM.

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.
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:	WGHARP reports to ACOM and NAFO Sc.C.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	LRC, RMC, WGMME, WGNPBW.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	NOAA/NMFS, 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

WGNEW

2008/2/ACOM18 The **Working Group on Assessment of New MoU Species** [WGNEW] (Co-Chairs: Henk Heessen, Netherlands and Jean-Claude Mahé, France) will meet in ICES HQ for three days in second half of 2009 to *[Postponed until 2010]*:

- a) consider possibilities for fish stock assessments/input to management processes/indicators of the following species: sea bass, flounder (except for the Baltic) common dab (except for the Baltic), lemon sole, brill (except for the Baltic), turbot (except for the Baltic), witch flounder, red gurnard, tub gurnard, grey gurnards, striped red mullet and John dory, through:
 - i) review of knowledge on stock structure;
 - ii) existing fisheries monitoring programmes and surveys including the EU Data Collection Programme;
 - iii) existing databases made available for fish stocks assessment.

WGNEW will report to ACOM and LRC.

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	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. This WG is regarded to deal with the issues for the fish species mentioned.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements, beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	10–15
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Production of report
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WGNEW reports to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	RMC and LRC
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	

WGSTAL

2008/2/ACOM19 The **Fishery Statistics Liaison Working Group** [WGSTAL] (Chair: Franco Zampagna, IT), Eurostat) will meet in Luxembourg 8-9 June 2009, 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 1950.

WGSTAL will report by 20 May 2009 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 data-base.</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:	

Ecosystem related Expert Groups

WGECO

2008/2/ACOM20 The **Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities** [WGECO] (Chair: Ellen Kenchington, Canada) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 15–21 April 2009 to:

- a) define and demonstrate with selected case studies / examples the practical interpretation of the high level terminology used in the international agreements on managing marine ecosystems. Specifically these should include the broad ecosystem management concepts ‘significant adverse impacts’, ‘vulnerable marine ecosystems’, and ‘good environmental status’. This should include explicit consideration of reference conditions, thresholds and recovery rates, in relation to both ecosystem structure and function;
- b) using two existing fishing gear types, describe the significant adverse impacts of those gears for the ICES area, using the methodology developed by WGECO in 2008. Highlight issues that are specific to geographic areas and those that are generic to the gear. Based on this process recommend any modifications to the methodology required to make it operational;
- c) assess a small number of ecosystem components in one OSPAR region to develop risk based methodology and confirm whether the methodology can be used to consistently assess the degree of impact;
- d) developing EcoQO on changes in the proportions of large fish in the North Sea.
- e) provide a prioritised list and rational for inclusion of any non-commercial fish species that should be considered for research into fishing mortality estimates by WGQAF. Priority should be assigned according to use of the information addressing ecosystem objectives. Where possible métiers and geographic locations should be included.

WGECO will report by 4 May 2009 to the attention of the Advisory Committee.

PRIORITY:	.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	ToR b) On a request of WGFTFB, WGECO has initiated the process of developing a framework to assess the efficacy of gear-based technical measures (GBTMs) in 2008. The proposed ToRs for 2009 originate from the ongoing, mutual process of collaboration between both WGs. The exchange of expertise maximises the capability of ICES in assessing possible measures designed to reduce the ecosystem effects of fisheries. Development of the methodology needs an assessment of the current significant adverse impacts of a particular gear category for each ecosystem component in an ICES area, and a list of existing and developing GBTM's, which can practically address these impacts. WGECO has the expertise to address the first ToR, whereas WGFTFB has the experience for the latter. We recommend that at least one member of each WG attend the other WG to work on these collaborative

	<p>ToRs.</p> <p>ToR c) In recent years, WGECO and OSPAR have both developed methods to assess the interactions between pressures resulting from human activities and ecosystem components. A risk based methodology has recently been developed which significantly advances this task and addresses some of the problems associated with previous techniques. It is recommended to assess a small number of ecosystem components in one OSPAR region to further develop the methodology and confirm whether the methodology can be used to consistently assess the degree of impact.</p> <p>ToR d) ICES in 2007 advised that the proportion (by weight) of fish greater than 40 cm in length should be greater than 0.3, based on the ICES Q1 IBTS survey series. WGECO considers that, both the individual stock objectives (keeping $F < F_{PA}$ and $B > B_{PA}$) and the Fish Community EcoQO should be met. Currently it is not known whether fishing each of the commercial stocks at F_{PA} is sufficient to ensure that the Fish Community EcoQO will be met, or whether additional management intervention will be required.</p> <p>ToR e) The new WGQAF is looking for advice from WGECO in planning their work schedule in the next few years and have asked WGECO for a prioritised list of non-commercial fish species for which information on F will advance the work of WGECO and ICES in developing ecosystem objectives (e.g. EcoQOs, impacts of fishing etc.)</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	OSPAR member to work together with WGECO on ToR c), the Chairs to contact OSPAR concerning ToR c
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None, other than formatting and publishing of the final report.
FINANCIAL:	There are virtually no financial implications
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WGECO reports to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	OSPAR

WGMME

2008/2/ACOM21 The **Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology** [WGMME] (Chair: Sinead Murphy*, UK) will meet in Vigo, Spain, 2–6 February 2009 to:

- a) Review the quality assurance arrangements for the following ecological quality objectives as set out in the EcoQO Handbook (OSPAR publication 2007/307) and make suggestions for their further development and/or improvement: (i) harbour seal population trends (ii) grey seal pup production (OSPAR request no. 5, 2009)
- b) Review any further information on population structure of small cetaceans in the ICES areas and provide an assessment of consequences for management for these species.
- c) Review the geographical subunits for EcoQOs for ICES areas for harbour and grey seals based on the most appropriate available data (e.g. genetic data) and make recommendations.
- d) Review any further information/analyses from SCANS II/CODA and make recommendations.
- e) Review available EU Habitats Directive FCS reports for marine mammals submitted by Member States, including a summary of any issues identified and solutions utilised. Suggest any appropriate conservation assessment criteria that can be used within the ICES area and quantitative measures against which these assessments could realistically be measured.
- f) Develop a framework for surveillance and monitoring of marine mammals applicable to the ICES area that is realistically achievable by contracting parties.
- g) Update on development of database for seals, and report on the status of any intersessional work.

WGMME will report by 16 February 2009 to the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>Terms of Reference a) responds to OSPAR request no. 5 (2009), Action Plan No: 1.</p> <p>Term of Reference b) This is important in understanding biologically appropriate management units for small cetaceans.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) This is important in understanding biologically appropriate management units for seals in the North Sea.</p> <p>Term of Reference d) SCANS II developed and tested potential methods for monitoring harbour porpoises and made a series of recommendations so that trends in abundance in time and space can be better determined between major decadal surveys. This ToR would extend this work to other species where sufficient information is available for such an analysis.</p> <p>Term of Reference e) Recommendations on quantitative monitoring objectives and quantitative assessment approaches will contribute to developing strategies for the long term maintenance of cetacean populations within the ICES area.</p> <p>Term of Reference f) An international cooperative approach needs to be established for the long term surveillance and monitoring of marine mammals in the Northeast Atlantic, and ICES WGMME provides a suitable locus for this. Development of such a framework is essential to the long-term management of cetacean populations within the ICES area.</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 20–25 members and invited experts.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WGMME reports to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	SciCom
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	OSPAR, EU (DG ENV), HELCOM

SGBYC

2008/2/ACOM22 The **Study Group for Bycatch of Protected Species [SGBYC]**. (Chair: Simon Northridge, UK) will meet 19–22 January 2009 in ICES HQ.

- a) Co-ordinate bycatch monitoring programmes under EU Regulation 812/2004 and the Habitats Directive and review annual national reports submitted to the Commission under Regulation 812/2004
- b) Review any other new estimates of bycatch of relevant species for the EU region that are not included in national reports on Regulation 812;
- c) Review on-going bycatch mitigation trials and make recommendations for further work;
- d) In association with the ICES data centre, design and establish a database for cetacean bycatch in European Community waters and make recommendations.
- e) Continue to review and update the Compendium of Mitigation Methods and Technologies that have been used to minimise bycatch of species of interest, including methods that have failed;
- f) To review such pilot studies as have been carried out under the 812 Regulation;
- g) To review and collate available information collected under the DCR on protected species bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries;
- h) Continue to consider technical aspects of bycatch monitoring and assessment – inter-alia to consider how to assess the representativeness of existing monitoring programmes, how to determine bycatch reference limits, how best to determine sampling levels that should be applied to specific fisheries, and best methods for extrapolating observed bycatch rates to the fleet level taking account of the work of WKDRP.
- i) Consider ways to encourage, instigate or expand bycatch monitoring schemes and promote further development of bycatch mitigation measures in further EU Member States
- j) Review mechanisms and solutions across species groups relating to bycatch of protected species in gillnets.

SGBYC will report by 15 February 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High, due to EU standing request and high public interest. The Terms of Reference are in approximate order of priority.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Part of the standing request from EU to inform on levels of bycatch [and review 812/2004 reports]. This to include bycatch in ICES Areas VII and VIII. b) Part of the standing request from EU to inform on levels of bycatch [and review 812/2004 reports]. c) Part of ICES work in supporting implementation of 812/2004. d) This is a request from the European Commission. e) This is in collaboration with WGFTFB. Needed in order to ensure consistent advice provision in the future. f) This would cover programmes to examine the under 15m fleet, not covered in the mandatory part of Regulation 812/2004. g) Bycatch in demersal trawl fisheries has not been reviewed previously. h) This is needed in order to better advise on technical aspects of bycatch monitoring. i) This may be relevant to future needs under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. j) SGBYC encourages the attendance of experts in taxa other than marine mammals in order to explore whether there are common features underlying bycatch in gillnets.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None beyond usual Secretariat help.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 15–25 members.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	SGBYC reports to the ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There is a very close working relationship with WGFTFB and WGMME. The work of SGBYC is also very relevant to WGECO.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The work of this group is closely aligned to research projects funded by the EU. The OSPAR ICG-EcoQO on harbour porpoise bycatch uses the work of this group.

WGDEC

2008/2/ACOM23 The ICES-NAFO Working Group on Deepwater Ecology [WGDEC]
(Chair: Robert J. Brock, USA) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 9–13 March 2009 to:

- a) Review and consider recent research into unaccounted mortality in commercial fisheries (in conjunction with WGDEEP).
- b) Review ongoing work for reducing unintended effects on the seabed and associated communities of fishing operations and gears, including ghost fishing (in conjunction with WGDEEP).
- c) Consider the nature of threats such as fish farming and eutrophication to coastal coral reef areas, for example those in Norway, Sweden, and Scotland.
- d) Assess broader distribution patterns of species diversity of corals and sponges across the North Atlantic with a view to identifying 'hotspots' and variation in biodiversity and understanding biogeographic affinities.
- e) Consider how the status of biodiversity of deepwater ecosystems could be measured, for example by using diversity indices (in conjunction with WGDEEP).
- f) Define and map sponge associations based on taxonomic information and survey data. Assess the association of sponge fields with fish and other fauna. Provide a summary of sensitivity of different sponge species to impact and disturbance. Assess priorities areas for sponge distribution data and target areas for future surveys.
- g) Consider the impact of deepwater fisheries in areas for which information has not been analysed to date, for example the orange roughy fishery on the shelf slope of the Porcupine bank and the roundnose grenadier fishery to the north of Hatton bank by using VMS and historic data. (In conjunction with WGDEEP).
- h) Provide a list of structural habitats for the North Atlantic and assess the status of species such as *Filograna* (a polychaete) that are not currently considered as structural habitat forming organisms.
- i) Review the development of fine scale VMS analysis in relation to habitats and assess vulnerability of deepwater banks, shelf slope and seamounts (in conjunction with WGDEEP).
- j) Address the issue of scale: Advice giving when the scale of records does not match the scale of the feature/the scale of the activities to be regulated.
- k) Provide a list of species that form structural habitats (e.g. hard corals, soft corals and sponges) for which information is particularly needed from new surveys.

WGDEC will report by 16 March to the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	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.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>Action Plan No: 1.</p> <p>Term of Reference a)</p> <p>Several countries are conducting or have recently completed significant studies in this area and the subject would benefit from a review of progress and an evaluation of the results obtained. The last review of significant studies occurred in 1996 by the ICES Study Group on Unaccounted Mortalities. A review of more recent work will determine the need for revision and update on planning and methodology for studying this subject.</p> <p>Term of Reference b)</p> <p>All fishing activities have influences that extend beyond removing target species. The approach recommended by FAO is that responsible fisheries technology should achieve management objectives with a minimum of side effects and that they should be subject to ongoing review. WGFTFB members and others are currently undertaking a range of research programmes to provide the means to minimize side effects.</p> <p>Term of reference k) is for PGNEACS</p>
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 10–15 members and guests.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WGDEC reports to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of the Fisheries Technology Committee. It is also very relevant to the Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fisheries.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The work of this group is closely aligned with similar work in FAO and in the Census of Marine Life Programme.

Environmental related Expert Groups

WGBOSV

2008/2/ACOM24 The **ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Ballast and other Ship Vectors** [WGBOSV] (Chair: Anders Jelmert, Norway) will meet in Washington DC, USA, 9–11 March 2009 (back to back with WGITMO with a common session):

- 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) Comment on the final draft of the ICES Code of Best Practice for handling Hull Fouling on Vessels, after having continued working on this intersessionally.
- d) Having described the statistical problems related to BW sampling and port survey methodologies, provide information to e.g. the appropriate ICES WG on statistics, and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for further development. Communicate intersessionally the BOSV findings to IMO to support further development of the IMO Guideline for ballast water sampling no later than MEPC 58 (BLG 13).
- e) Update and refine the CoP for Port Sampling with respect to feedback from statistical expertise.
- f) Continue and elaborate the cooperation with PICES WG 21.
- g) Suggested item added intersessionally (as a consequence of the establishment of the ICES Steering Committee on Climate Change): To provide data and information on how climate change may alter the distribution of NAS and shipping operations, and hence the risks for introductions of NAS via shipping.

WGBOSV will report by 18 March 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

WGITMO

2008/2/ACOM25 The ICES Working Group on Introduction and Transfers of Marine Organisms [WGITMO] (Chair: Judith Pederson, USA) will meet in Washington, DC, USA, 11–13 March 2009 to:

- a) Prepare an overview assessment of non-indigenous species in the OSPAR maritime area
- b) To prepare an overview assessment as a contribution to the OSPAR QSR 2010 of information that is available within the ICES framework on:
 - i) the distribution, abundance of non-indigenous species introduced into the OSPAR maritime area as a result of human activities, and;
 - ii) whether the presence of these species has an adverse impacts on marine ecosystems.
- c) Where possible, graphic material should be included e.g. illustration of trends in the number of detections of new indigenous species or the number of observed established non-indigenous species or equivalent material, would be welcomed. (Points a-c) relate to OSPAR request no. 3, 2009).
- d) 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 (also including information of relevant species from other ICES member countries as appropriate), and develop an annual summary table of new occurrences/introductions of aquatic invasive species in Member Countries. And also to prepare an information bulletin of highlights for the ICES Internet site;
- e) Finalize the five year summary of national reports (2003–2007) and begin to prepare for a draft 25-year summary based on earlier reports (this requires intercessional editing of draft reports prior the meeting);
- f) Finalize the draft Alien Species Alert report on *Crassostrea gigas* and initiate development of a report on the blue crab *Callinectes sapidus* as the next Alien Species report;
- g) Continue to develop joint projects (e.g. management of database and taxonomic expertise) with PICES WG21 during intersession that furthers cooperation and communication for resource sharing and information on introduced species.
- h) Finalize the preparation of a draft report on the impact of targeted fisheries on non-indigenous species with an emphasis on ICES Member Countries; this will require intersession discussion to select species that were considered with the Code of Practice;
- i) Review the Internet-based Appendices of the ICES Code of Practice on the Introduction and Transfer of Marine Organisms. These Appendices were prepared in 2002 and may need some editing to ensure up-to-date requirements;
- j) Discuss the need of harmonizing selection criteria to develop lists of high risk, moderate risk and low risk lists for intentional introductions and for

mitigating new unintentional introductions (see e.g. the Norwegian 2008 National Report);

- k) Continue to encourage all ICES Member Countries to submit WGITMO National Reports.

WGITMO will continue to meet with WGBOSV on areas of interest to both of Expert Groups. These will include hull fouling, monitoring (e.g. Port Sampling Protocol (a TOR of WGBOSV of interest to WGITMO as some aquaculture facilities are in close proximity to ports, e.g ballast water discharge zones).

WGITMO will meet at the same time with WGBOSV with a common meeting on 11 March 2009.

WGITMO will report by 21 April 2009 to the attention of the ACOM. **A draft text on TOR a) must be provided to ICES by 1st April 2009.**

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>b-c) This is a response to OSPAR request no. 3 (2009) and a contribution to the QSR 2010</p> <p>d) Joint projects is of mutual benefit for PICES and ICES. There are other areas where we can cooperate, but the database management is a significant commitment for all Working Groups. We will continue other collaborative efforts, e.g. provide information on species native to ICES countries that are introduced in PICES countries.</p> <p>e) The group proposes to develop an outline and a set of criteria for preparing a document to respond to this ToR.</p> <p>f) This will also be useful to TOR e and contribute to consideration of targeted species and the Code of Practice.</p> <p>g) This issue is related to the discussion of risk assessment and rapid response and should use information from IMPASSE and other approaches. It also is related to TOR b, e, and f.</p> <p>h) It is requested that all countries have a designee for the WGITMO who is responsible for the National Report. Much of the data that is relevant to the TORs, e.g., early detection of an introduced species is not yet published or in gray literature. Thus, to have an individual in each country fill out the report will provide some continuity from year to year and provide an alert to neighbouring countries. Specifically, we lack representatives from Denmark, the Netherlands, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, and Russia. ICES assistance in identifying individuals who will provide National Reports, review publications, and attend meetings would be appreciated. We have appreciated the attendance, reports, and cooperative efforts of Croatia, Italy, and Australia for the current effort.</p>
<p>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>None required other than those provided by ICES Secretariat and national members</p>

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 provided by the host
FINANCIAL:	None required
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WGITMO reports to 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.

WGCHAIRS

2008/2/ACOM26 The **Annual Meeting of Advisory Working Group Chairs** [WGCHAIRS] (Chair: Mike Sissenwine) will meet at ICES Headquarters on 13–15 January 2009 to:

- a) review the Table of Contents for the ICES Advisory Report for 2009 and for each Chapter identify what the Groups shall contribute;
- b) review the Table of Contents of WG reports in 2009
- 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;

WGCHAIRS will report by 23 January 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

NEW EXPERT GROUPS (Except PGCCDBS Wks)

WKOMSE

2008/2/ACOM27 A Joint STECF/ICES Workshop on Operational Approach of Management Strategy Evaluations [WKOMSE] (Co-Chairs : Michael Sissenwine (ICES) and John Casey (STECF, Cefas, UK)) will be established and will meet in meet at ICES Headquarters, 28-30 January 2009 to:

- a) develop guidelines to approach management plans evaluations;
- b) assemble and evaluate the results from ongoing work in other Expert Groups related to management strategy;
- 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,

WKOMSE will report by 5 February 2009 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:	Considering the increasing number of stocks under management plan, it is important to establish an operational Study Group that works on a joint ICES-STECF framework for management plan evaluations.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	Preparatory work for the participants.
PARTICIPANTS:	STECF members and a selected small group of experts already with knowledge on management plans evaluations.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None, other than formatting and publishing of the final report.
FINANCIAL:	There are virtually no financial implications
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	This group feeds into the advisory process.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	The results, in terms of quality standards is relevant to all groups assessing stocks with stocks under management plans
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	STECF

WKAGME

2008/2/ACOM28 A **Workshop on Anglerfish and Megrin [WKAGME]** (Co-chairs: Paul Fernandes (UK) and Norman Graham (Ireland) will be established and will meet in Aberdeen, 23–27 February 2009 to:

- a) Assess and review the utility of fishery independent surveys to track the development of relative and absolute changes in abundance and biomass of anglerfish and megrim.
- b) Identify and propose research needs to refine estimates of survey trawl herding and catch efficiency.
- c) Identification of appropriate harvest strategies based on fishery independent surveys.
- d) Review utility of self-sampling (tally book) programmes for monitoring stock dynamics and investigate their inclusion in scientific assessments.
- e) Review and assess issues associated with commercial anglerfish catch and effort data as metrics to track stock status, exploitation rates and catch forecasts.
- f) Review issues associated with ageing and conduct inter-institute comparisons of age-length-keys.

WKAGME will report by 9 March 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Anglerfish is one of the most commercially important demersal species for several European fleets. In recent years, both the WGNSDS and WGHMM have failed to provide analytical assessments of stock biomass or exploitation rates due to deficiencies in catch data and ageing issues. No analytical assessment of megrim stocks in ICES area VI has been performed since 1999 and despite significant landings, megrim in ICES area IV are not considered by any ICES expert group. Since 2005, Scotland and Ireland have conducted surveys in conjunction with the commercial sector that are capable of providing minimum estimates of absolute abundance of anglerfish stocks and may present candidate surveys for relative abundance of megrim. This workshop is intended to explore the data deficiencies associated with both stocks that preclude formal assessments and explore the potential use of the recently developed surveys and tally books as the basis of future fishing opportunities.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	Preparatory work for the participants.
PARTICIPANTS:	
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None, other than formatting and publishing of the final report.
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WKAGME reports to ACOM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGNSDS, WHMM
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	

WKPOOR1

2008/2/ACOM29a A Workshop on analytical methods for evaluation of extinction risk of stocks in poor condition [WKPOOR1]. (Chair: Chris Legault*, USA) will at ICES Headquarters 18–20 May 2009 to:

- a) Review candidate methods for evaluation of risk of extinction for marine fish and shellfish including
 - i) screening methods, such as those based on relative stock size, the rate of stock decline, etc.
 - ii) methods that estimate population viability and extinction risk using empirical models that project trends, and
 - iii) methods that estimate population viability and extinction risk using age structured models and demographic information.

The methods should be evaluated in terms:

- information needs,
- reliability of estimates of extinction risk, and
- the rates of false positives (when a warning of extinction risk is triggered but should not have been), and false negatives (when a warning is not triggered but should have been). This question should also be addressed for situations when it is not possible to evaluate the extinction risks;

- b) Identify among the reviewed methods those that are appropriate for marine fish and shellfish in the ICES area;

WKPOOR will report by 29 May for the attention of the ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of the Group is essential in the progression of the development of an ecosystem approach in the fishery advice, and is related to the question of conserving biodiversity.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>Action Plan No:</p> <p>There is a gap in the knowledge on the dynamics of fish stocks in a very poor condition. Appropriate questions to be answered is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the recruitment always follow an estimated function(B-H, Ricker etc) or will it behave differently when the stock is very small? • Will a small stock have a different role in the ecosystem? • What effect will further exploitation have? • How much do we really know, - how much can we build on from experience and where is the border to the area of guessing?
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	These would include scientists with assessment background/ modelling and with an ecological perspective. Participation is sought from ICES countries.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	This group is likely to have “normal” demand on the computing resources of the Secretariat. Additional software may be anticipated beyond that which is currently available.
FINANCIAL:	None specific.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	An obvious very close link with future ACOM activities.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	Methodological issues are within the mandate of this Group.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	
SECRETARIAT MARGINAL COST SHARE:	ICES 100%.

WKPOOR2

2008/2/ACOM29b **Workshop on evaluation of the potential for extinction for fish species in the North Sea, Norwegian Sea and in the Barents Sea [WKPOOR2]** (Chair: Dankert Skagen*, Norway) will meet at IMR, Bergen, Norway on 24–27 August 2009 to:

- a) Apply methods and guidelines that were found to be appropriate by WKPOOR1 to evaluate the potential for extinction on stock and species level for the following marine fish species in the North Sea, Norwegian Sea and Barents Sea listed in order of priority:
 - 1) Redfish (*S. mentella* and *S. marinus*)
 - Spurdog
 - North Sea Cod and Norwegian coastal cod North of 62° N
 - 2) European eel
 - North Sea Sandeel
 - 3) Atlantic Halibut
 - Ling
 - Blue ling
-

WKMIXFISH

The Workshop on Mixed Fisheries Advice for the North Sea [WKMIXFISH] (Chair: Clara Ulrich Rescan*, Denmark) will meet at ICES Headquarters 26–28 August 2009 to:

- a) Compile and review available fleet and fisheries data for North Sea fisheries
- b) Carry out mixed fisheries forecast taking into account the draft advice that is produced by WGNSSK 2009 and the management measures currently in place for 2009
- c) Develop a draft overview section for the advisory report 2009 that includes a dissemination of the fleet and fisheries data and forecast

WKMIXMAN will report by 4 September to the attention of the ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work is essential for ICES to progress in the development of its 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>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. The Aframe project, which started on 1 April 2007 has developed further methodologies for mixed fisheries forecasts. The work of this project includes the development and testing of the Fcube approach.</p> <p>The workshop will be tasked with applying the mixed fisheries forecasts to the North Sea advice that is produced by WGNSSK. In 2008, SGMIXMAN has already produced an outline of a possible advisory document that include mixed fisheries forecasts. WKMIXMAN will be tasked to apply this to the North Sea advice for 2010.</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.

SGIMC

2008/2/ACOM30 **The Study Group on Integrated Monitoring of Contaminants and Biological Effects [SGIMC]** (Co-chairs: Dr Ian M Davies, UK and Dick Veethak, NL) will meet at ICES Headquarters 12--15 January 2009 to:

- a) Assess the recommendations made at WKIMON IV and to propose a detailed 2–3 year work plan to achieve the original purpose of WKIMON 1, by recommending a suite of existing, well documented biological effects techniques with good potential for practical application, and specifically
 - xiii) Recommending assessment criteria both for specific biological effects methods and of the integrated approach to monitoring, and
 - xiv) Drafting merged Guidelines for the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of Contaminants and their effects and drafting the necessary Technical Annexes.
- b) Assess the data collected by OSPAR Contracting Parties on EROD and the associated background activity levels. Taking account of:
 - i) the EROD data collected during WKIMON III
 - ii) the analysis of the EROD data conducted by WKIMON III and the associated assessment criteria that were developed
 - iii) the review of the EROD assessment criteria undertaken by WGBEC]

and, based upon:

- iv) the data currently held on the ICES database
- v) any data on EROD which has become available since WKIMON III
- vi) the assessment criteria on background activity levels to be further developed at a Workshop to be convened and hosted by Belgium in September 2008

to:

- vii) assess the quality assurance associated with the EROD data currently held on the ICES database and used in the determination of the background activity levels, and;
- viii) make an assessment of EROD data from across the OSPAR Maritime area with the background activity levels and draw conclusions on whether there are unintended or unacceptable biological effects being detected through the measurement of

1 To develop guidelines for integrated biological effects and chemical monitoring, including:

- i) specific guidelines for the integration of chemical and biological effects techniques with special emphasis on those parameters that have become mandatory in the OSPAR Coordinated Environmental Monitoring Programme;
- ii) guidelines towards integrated chemical and biological effects monitoring for the entire range of issues in the OSPAR Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme.

The workshop should take into account the possible need to monitor substances on the OSPAR List of Chemicals for Priority Action as well as substances for which monitoring is already in place, and should also consider and advise on the circumstances under which such guidelines would be applicable.

EROD. (OSPAR request no. 2, 2009 to be answered by 1 February 2009)

- c) Guidance on integrated monitoring and assessment of chemicals and biological effects (OSPAR request 8)

Complete the development of JAMP guidance for integrated monitoring of chemicals and their biological effects through preparing a technical annex on:

- 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 WGS AEM 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;

SGIMC will report by 28 January to ACOM and OSPAR. The proposed work plan will be assessed by ACOM and OSPAR and an approved work plan will provide the basis for the Terms of Reference for subsequent meetings of SGIMC.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	This is a new group whose purpose is to provide focus on delivering an integrated monitoring program and assessment procedure for contaminants in the marine environment. This is a high priority issue for OSPAR and is potentially the cornerstone for environmental assessment under the MSFD.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	TOR a) aim to ensure the continuity from WKIMON IV and prepare for future work of SGIMC. TOR b) is a request from OSPAR 2009 work Programme and final advice must be delivered by 1 st February 2009. TOR c) is a request from OSPAR work Programme 2008
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is expected to attract 17–22 members. In the light of future work related to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and involvement of the Regional Seas it is the intention to invite participants from HELCOM and MEDPOL.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The Group will report to ACOM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	The report of the Group will be of interest to MHC and various WGs including MCWG, WGBEC and WGMS
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The Group is a joint ICES/OSPAR group reporting to OSPAR.

WKFLAT

2008/2/ACOM31 A **Benchmark Workshop on Flatfish [WKFLAT]** (Chair: Tony Smith (Australia), ICES coordinator: Jan Jaap Poos (Netherlands) and two invited external experts) will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6–13 February 2009 to:

- a) 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 for the stocks listed in the Text Table below. The evaluation shall include consideration of fishery-dependent, fishery independent, and life history data currently being collected for use in the current assessment work and the proposed assessment
- b) Agree and document preferred method for evaluating stock status and (where applicable) short term outlook and update the assessment handbooks as appropriate;
- c) Develop recommendations for future improving assessment methodology and data collection
- d) As part of the evaluation:
 - i) conduct a one day data compilation workshop. Stakeholders shall be invited to contribute data (including data from non-traditional sources) and to contribute to data preparation and evaluation of data quality. As part of the data compilation workshop consider the quality of data including discard and estimates of misreporting of landings;
 - ii) consider the possible inclusion of environmental drivers for stock dynamics in the assessments and outlook
 - iii) evaluate the role of stock identity and migration
 - iv) evaluate the role of multispecies interactions on the assessments

Stock	Assessment Lead
North Sea plaice (Subarea IV)	
Plaice in VIIId (Eastern Channel)	
Plaice in VIIe (Western Channel)	
Sole in VIIId (Eastern Channel)	
Sole in VIIe (Western Channel)	

The Benchmark Working Group will report for the attention of ACOM by 6 March 2009

WKROUND

2008/2/ACOM32 A **Benchmark Workshop on Roundfish [WKROUND]** (Chair: Pamela Mace, New Zealand and ICES coordinators: Chris Darby (UK) and Eero Aro (Finland) and two invited external experts) will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 16–23 January 2009 to:

- a) 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 for the stocks listed in the Text Table below. The evaluation shall include consideration of fishery-dependent, fishery independent, and life history data currently being collected for use in the current assessment work and the proposed assessment
- b) Agree and document preferred method for evaluating stock status and (where applicable) short term outlook and update the assessment handbooks as appropriate;
- c) Develop recommendations for future improving assessment methodology and data collection
- d) As part of the evaluation:
 - i) conduct a one day data compilation workshop. Stakeholders shall be invited to contribute data (including data from non-traditional sources) and to contribute to data preparation and evaluation of data quality. As part of the data compilation workshop consider the quality of data including discard and estimates of misreporting of landings;
 - ii) consider the possible inclusion of environmental drivers for stock dynamics in the assessments and outlook
 - iii) evaluate the role of stock identity and migration
 - iv) evaluate the role of multispecies interactions on the assessments

Stock	Assessment Lead
North Sea whiting	Colin Millar
North Sea cod	Jose de Oliveira
Kattegat cod	Margit Eero
Western Baltic cod	Marie Storr-Paulsen
Eastern Baltic cod	Maris Pliksh
Celtic Sea cod	Robert Belail

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 20 February 2009

WKNEPH

2008/2/ACOM33 A **Benchmark Workshop on Nephrops, with UWTV surveys [WKNEPH]** (Chair: Kevin Stokesbury (USA) and ICES coordinator Ewen Bell (UK)) will be established and will meet in Aberdeen, UK, 2–6 March 2009 to:

- a) 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 for the stocks listed in the Text Table below. The evaluation shall include consideration of fishery-dependent, fishery independent (in particularly UWTV surveys), and life history data currently being collected for use in the current assessment work and the proposed assessment
- b) Agree and document preferred method for evaluating stock status and (where applicable) short term outlook and update the assessment handbooks as appropriate;
- c) Develop recommendations for future improving assessment methodology and data collection

Nephrops Stock	Assessment Lead
Nephrops in Division IVb (Farn Deep, FU 6)	Colm Lordan/Nick Bailey/?
Nephrops in Division IVa (Fladen Ground, FU 7)	
Nephrops in Division IVa (Firth of Forth, FU 8)	
Nephrops in Division IVa (Moray Firth, FU 9)	
Nephrops in Division VIa (North Minch, FU 11)	
Nephrops in Division VIa (South Minch, FU 12)	
Nephrops in Division VIa (Firth of Clyde, FU 13)	
Nephrops in Division VIIa (Irish Sea West, FU 15)	
Nephrops in Division VIIb (Aran Grounds, FU 17)	

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 3 April 2009

WKSHORT

2008/2/ACOM34 A **Benchmark Workshop on Short-lived species [WKSHORT]** (Chair: Jim Berkson (USA) and ICES coordinator Harald Gjøsæter (Norway)) will be established and will meet 31 August – 4 September in Bergen, Norway to

- a) 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 for the stocks listed in the Text Table below. The evaluation shall include consideration of fishery-dependent, fishery independent, and life history data currently being collected for use in the current assessment work and the proposed assessment. Special attention shall be paid to methods for estimating spawning stock biomass from survey results;
- b) Agree and document preferred method for evaluating stock status and (where applicable) short term outlook and update the assessment handbooks as appropriate;
- c) Develop recommendations for future improving assessment methodology and data collection
- d) As part of the evaluation:
 - i. consider the possible inclusion of environmental drivers for stock dynamics in the assessments and outlook
 - ii. evaluate the role of stock identity and migration
 - iii. evaluate the role of multispecies interactions on the assessments

Stock	Assessment Lead
Barents Sea Capelin	Sigurd Tjelmeland
Icelandic Capelin	Asta Gudmundsdóttir
Bay of Biscay Anchovy	Andres Uriarte
North Sea sprat	Mark Payne

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 15 September 2009

MICC

2008/2/ACOM35 ICES will invite Partner Commissions and the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission to meet with the ACOM leadership (Chair: Michael Sissenwine, USA) between 26–27 March 2009 at ICES HQ to:

- a) Review the performance of the ICES advisory system in 2008 and discuss issues and concerns arising since the 2008 MICC meeting
- b) Review progress with coordination of the scientific work in relation to advice on fisheries management (STECF, EFARO)
- c) Review progress with development of criteria and descriptors for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;

MIRAC

2008/2/ACOM36 ICES will invite the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and other stakeholders to meet with the ACOM leadership (Chair: Mike Sissenwine, USA) on 26–27 January 2009 at ICES HQ to:

- a) Discuss practical arrangements in 2009 for cooperation between RACs and ICES, including procedures for delivering and discussion of the ICES advice and Young fishermen's participation in ICES ASC Halifax 2008
- b) Review progress on following up of action points from the 2008 MIRAC meeting including a review of progress on development and evaluation of Management Plans and on RAC Focus groups on improving the data quality
- c) Invite RACs to report on their experience of working with ICES during 2008 and to present their research and advisory needs, and discuss ICES' experience of participating in RAC meetings in 2008

WKREDS

The **Study Group on Redfish Stock Structure** [WKREDS] (Chairs: Steve Cadrin, USA) will meet at ICES Headquarters 29–30 January (to be confirmed) 2009 to:

- a) review all reported material on the stock identity of the various redfish units (*S. mentella*) in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;
- b) identify the most likely definition of biological stocks of *S. mentella* and suggest practical management units.

WKREDS will report by **6 February 2009** for the attention of ACOM and NWWG.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	A prerequisite to sound management is proper definition of stock unit. Uncertainty in the definition of stock units of redfish (<i>S. mentella</i>) in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters has been a matter of continuous debate among assessment scientists for a number of years. The NWWG does not have sufficient expertise to thoroughly review the scientific research of redfish stock identification. The methodological approaches used include genetic differentiation, morphometrics, parasitology, growth patterns, and trace element analyses. It is essential that a separate group of experts from the fields of stock identification and stock assessment, review all published information on the stock delineation of the redfish in the Irminger Sea.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	Experts from Stock Identity Methods Working Group (SIMWG); experts on redfish biology; experts on redfish assessment methods
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	LRC (SIMWG), RMC (PGRS)
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	

WKMAMPEL

2008/2/ACOM38 **A Workshop on Multi-annual management of Pelagic Fish Stocks in the Baltic** [WKMAMPEL] (Co-chairs: Carl O'Brien (UK) and Morten Vinther (Denmark) will meet in ICES HQ 23–27 February 2009 to:

- a) Identify multi-annual management options for each of the Baltic Herring stocks (Western Herring in SD 22-24, Central Baltic, Gulf of Riga, SD 30, SD 31) and the Sprat stock based on the following form:
 - i) The sum of the regulated catches for the stock of ("the stock") shall be set according to a fishing mortality of [A].
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) 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.

Combinations of values for A, B and C shall be determined 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.

The evaluations should include A: = F_{SQ} , = MSY and an option with F below MSY and B: limit on TAC changes = 15% or no limits.

Evaluation of [A], [B] and [C] for the Central Baltic herring stock and the Baltic sprat stock shall be made for three specified Baltic cod scenarios, i.e. for low, medium and high cod abundance. The biological parameters used to evaluate [A], [B] and [C] shall be adjusted to include multi-species considerations from an increased cod stock.

WKMAMPEL will report by **2 March 2009** for the attention of ACOM

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High due to special request from the EC
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The group will address a request by the EC
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	Preparatory work for the participants
PARTICIPANTS:	10-15 participants are expected
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	The usual Secretariat support including formatting and publishing of the final report.
FINANCIAL:	The Workshop will be funded by the EC
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The workshop will report to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGBFAS, SGIAB, Scicom, ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	EC, STECF, Baltic RAC

WKIMC

The **ICES/OSPAR Workshop on Assessment Criteria for Biological Effects Measurements (WKIMC)**, chaired Dr Ian M. Davies*, will be established and will meet in Aberdeen, UK, 12–16 October 2009 to:

- a) to complete the development of supporting documents for a coherent set of biological effects measurements linked to planar organic contaminants, particularly PAHs
- b) clarify the mutually supporting role of a range of biological effects measurements in relation to OSPAR objectives and GES under MSFD
- c) develop assessment criteria for EROD, bile metabolites, DNA adducts of PAHs, DR-CALUX and aspects of fish disease related to contaminants.
- d) present proposals for the adoption and utilisation of assessment criteria for the biological effects measurements indicated above.

The workshop will be organised around the following activities, building on the activities of WKIMON and SGIMC:

Presentation and discussion of the background information

1. existing background documents on the relevant biological effects measurements will be presented, reviewed, and updated as necessary.
2. additional new supporting monitoring and research information.

Output from the Workshop

3. updated background documents
4. reviewed and revised assessment criteria (background conditions)
5. new assessment criteria for thresholds of significant (unacceptable) levels of biological effects.

WKIMC will report by 23 November 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting information

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>The purpose of this Workshop is to provide a dedicated opportunity to focus on delivering assessment criteria for a defined range of biological effects measurements. These criteria are essential to allow biological effects measurements to play their full role in OSPAR assessment processes, and will also be a key contribution to implementation of MSFD GES Descriptor 8 concerning contaminants and pollution effects.</p>
<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>Objectives of the Workshop:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to complete the development of supporting documents for a coherent set of biological effects measurements linked to planar organic contaminants, particularly PAHs b) to clarify the mutually supporting role of a range of biological effects measurements in relation to OSPAR objectives and GES under MSFD c) to develop assessment criteria for EROD, bile metabolites, DNA

	<p>adducts of PAHs, DR-CALUX and aspects of fish disease related to contaminants.</p> <p>d) to present proposals for the adoption and utilisation of assessment criteria for the biological effects measurements indicated above.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	The research programmes which provide the main input to this Workshop are already underway, and resources are committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
PARTICIPANTS:	The Workshop is expected to attract 17–22 members. In the light of current and future work related to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and involvement of the Regional Seas it is the intention to invite participants from HELCOM and MEDPOL areas.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	SharePoint
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The Group will report to ACOM and OSPAR.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	The report of the Group will be of interest to ICES Science Programme and various WGs including MCWG, WGBEC and WGMS
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The Workshop will be a joint ICES/OSPAR group reporting to both bodies.

PGCCDBS and Related Workshops

PGCCDBS

The **Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling** [PGCCDBS] (Co-Chairs: Christoph Stransky*, Germany, and Kjell Nedreaas*, Norway) will meet 2–6 March, 2009 in Montpellier, France to:

- a) Review and follow up of last year's recommendations;
- b) Review reports from PGCCDBS contact persons with Assessment Working Groups. Where appropriate propose changes to sampling strategies, protocols, and levels to be proposed for implementation within the EU Data Collection Regulation and national centres responsible for sampling commercial catches;
- c) Identify changes or proposal for changes in data collection that may have a potential impact on stock assessment and advice and summarise these changes for consideration by the Assessment Working Groups;
- d) Agree a workplan for 2010 for further developing and finalising standards and best practices for sampling commercial fisheries;
- e) Finalize the protocol guidelines for maturity staging workshops;

PGCCDBS will report for the attention of ACOM by 16 March 2009.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>The Planning Group and workshops are proposed in response to the EC-ICES MoU that requests ICES to provide support for the Data Collection Regulation (EC Reg. 1543/2000 and 199/2008; 1639/2001 and 1581/2004).</p> <p>PGCCDBS is the ICES forum for planning and co-ordination of collection of data for stock assessment purposes; it coordinates and initiates the development of methods and adopts sampling standards and guidelines. Many activities in this group are closely linked to the activities of the EU Data Collection Regulation (DCR) and DG Fish is a member of PGCCDBS to ensure proper coordination with the DCR activities. Stock assessment requires data covering the total removal from the fish stocks and the PG serves as a forum for coordination with non-EU member countries where appropriate.</p> <p>The PG shall develop and approve standards for best sampling practices within its remit and for fisheries in the ICES area. The implementation of these practices is discussed regionally and implemented nationally.</p> <p>The PG coordinates initiatives for workshops and other activities to address specific problems. The success of the workshops requires a substantial amount of preparatory work in the laboratories. This preparatory work is the responsibility of the national laboratories. ICES have been informed that this work is included in the national annual DCR work plans.</p> <p>The meeting is placed in Montpellier, France, as this meeting shall be held in parallel with the corresponding group for the Mediterranean EU fisheries (PGMED)</p>
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)

WKPRECISE

2008/2/ACOM40 A **Workshop on Methods to evaluate and estimate the precision of fisheries data used for assessment** [WKPRECISE] (Co-chairs: Jon Helge Vølstad and Sondre Aanes IMR, Norway) will be held at ICES Headquarters, 8–11 September, to:

- a) review the sources of variances and establish procedures to assess the precision 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 variability and establish procedures to assess the precision on national level of biological data collected from the fisheries.
- c) suggest quality assurance indicators for the quantities described in a) and b) to be implemented by the quality assurance framework for assessment input data.

WKPRECISE will report by 1 October 2009 for the attention of PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Very high priority because variance and/or precision is crucial for guiding action. In fact, imprecise data may result in wrong decision, leading to disastrous assessments and to waste of resources. It was decided that this workshop will follow after the WKACCU workshop which solely focus on accuracy.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	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. The workshop will aim at establishing standardized/joint methods and indicators for evaluating and estimating the precision of submitted fisheries data. Definitions of standards (i.e., minimum requirements) should be made. Some laboratories have already developed suitable tools for such precision estimation, e.g., the EU COST-project (EU FISH/2006/15:lot 2) and the Norwegian ECA-model may contribute to this issue.
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	DCR (EU Data Collection Regulation) data collection system, and other national systems and data sources.
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 workshop will benefit from the attendance of managers, fishers and people from the fishing industry.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	ICES HQ general facilities
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.
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 ORGANISATIONS:	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.
COST SHARE:	

WKSMRF

2008/2/ACOM41 A **Workshop on Sampling Methods for Recreational Fisheries** [WKSMRF] (Co-chairs Dave Van Voorhees*, US, and Mike Armstrong*, UK) will be held in Nantes, France, 14–17 April 2009, to:

- a) Provide a comprehensive description of the marine recreational fisheries in each ICES country including the species/stocks targeted, the potential or known magnitude of recreational catches and effort by geographic area, time period and fishing method, and the definition of appropriate reference populations of recreational fishermen for sampling;
- b) Review the findings of existing studies on recreational fisheries including DCR Pilot Studies and their relevance for sampling schemes in other areas;
- c) Recommend appropriate statistical sampling schemes, protocols, and associated data analysis for estimating recreational fishery removals and length/age compositions, taking account of international experience and recent methodological developments. Review potential for conducting parallel studies to establish comparability of results for different sampling schemes.

WKSMRF will report by end of May 2009 for the attention of PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting Information

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>High. The revised Data Collection Regulation (DCR) will require multi-annual Community programmes for collection, management and use of biological, technical, environmental and socio-economic data from commercial and recreational fisheries. There is an urgent need to provide Member States with guidelines for statistically robust sampling and data analysis schemes and to ensure the harmonisation of methods across geographic areas.</p>
<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>EC Regulation 1639/2001 required the establishment of pilot projects on recreational fisheries for salmon in the North Sea and Baltic and bluefin tuna in all areas, and the EC Regulation 1581/2004 added cod in specified ICES areas. To date there have been few DCR pilot projects carried out, notably on Baltic cod. Other studies on recreational fisheries have been carried out by some Member States in the ICES and Mediterranean areas. However, there are very few estimates of recreational catches throughout EU waters, and sampling schemes are poorly developed. The revised DCR from 2009 onwards will require estimation of fishery removals of all important species on a fleet-fishery basis including specified recreational fishing, to support fishery management and evaluation of environmental and ecosystem impacts of fisheries.</p> <p>Terms of Reference (a) and (b) of the Workshop will develop an overview of the nature, magnitude and potential impacts of recreational fisheries in EU waters in the ICES and Mediterranean areas, as a basis for developing appropriate sampling schemes. Term of Reference (c) will build on the experiences gained in existing EU studies, and in countries such as the United States and Australia which have well-established recreational fishery sampling programmes, to develop generic guidelines for designing statistically robust surveys and sampling schemes for collecting data on EU recreational fisheries. The Workshop will draw on the outcomes of the 2008 ASC Theme Session on. Small-scale & Recreational Fisheries Surveys, Assessment, and Management.</p> <p>In order for the Workshop to succeed, the following tasks need to be completed by each participating country prior to the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparation of a Working Document describing the recreational fisheries occurring in each ICES Division, according to fishing method groupings that could be used for defining the populations for sampling (e.g. shore fishing, private boats, charter boats).

	Information should be given (where known) on target and by-catch species, spatial and seasonal patterns of fishing, qualitative or quantitative information on catches, fishing effort (e.g. numbers of anglers x number of days spent fishing by method, area and time period), potential for access-point and other forms of direct catch and effort surveys, likely sources of bias, and any other factors relevant to the establishment of statistical survey and sampling schemes to estimate total effort, catches and size compositions. A pro-forma for key information will be provided to facilitate inclusion of consistent information in the Workshop report.
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS :	
PARTICIPANTS :	In view of its relevance to the DCR, the Workshop is expected to attract a wide participation from Member States in the ICES and Mediterranean areas. There will be a requirement for participants with detailed knowledge of national recreational fisheries, as well as international experts on statistical design of recreational fishery survey and sampling schemes.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
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 and providing funding for invited overseas experts.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	ICES Resource Management Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR. Outcomes from this Workshop will be relevant to several regional fisheries organisations and advisory bodies, including ICES, NAFO, GFCM, STECF and others.
COST SHARE:	

WKAEH

2008/2/ACOM42 The **Workshop on Age estimation of European hake** [WKAEH] (Co-chairs: Carmen Piñeiro*, Spain and Helene du Pontual* France) will take place in C.O. in Vigo, (IEO) Spain, by 9 to 13 November 2009 to:

- a) Review information on age estimations, otolith exchanges, workshops and validation work done so far.
- e) Analysis of the results of exchange programme between ageing labs, using a set of otoliths (images) collection partially from tagging material and from previous WK collection with the purpose of inter-calibration age readers involved in Stock assessment.
- f) Report on progress of the compilation of biometrics data of hake otoliths from Southern stock.
- g) To revise the age estimation procedures and explore the possibilities to use supplementary information for validating estimated age structures, this include:
 - iv) Otoliths weight distributions
 - v) Length distribution in surveys and catches.
- h) To develop mathematical methods for estimating hake catches age composition to be used by ICES WG.
- i) To join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution

WKAEH will report by 13 November 2009 for the attention of PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting information:

An otolith exchange exercise for European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) will carry out during 2008 aimed to deal with problems of hake age estimation. Following the outcome of this exercise, IEO is going to organize a workshop and the end of 2009.

Up to now France, Portugal, Spain, Ireland and England were participating in the otolith exchanges and workshops. However the age estimation of hake is a complex task that requires also a concerted effort to join international experts on growth, age estimation and Scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution.

PRIORITY:	Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Assessment of hake stocks using age structured models has proved useful in establishing a diagnosis on stock status. However, the approach has several limitations and shortcomings such as stock structure, natural mortality and growth. Age data is provided by different countries and are estimated using international ageing criteria which have not been validated. Therefore, an otolith exchange programme and WK should be carried out in order to know the current situation of age estimation of hake which has been subject of concern of ICES WG HMM and make progress towards a solution.
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<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>Hake age estimation method has not been validated although progress has been made regarding precision on age data along the last decade: international reading otoliths exchanges and workshops (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004).</p> <p>The results obtained indicated that the confident age range dropped from 5 to 3 years old, since WK2001 and this loss of precision is associated with applying ageing criteria, which are not validated.</p> <p>This problem has a potential effect on the drift of individual readers through time that is not evaluated since 2004.</p> <p>For the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs an appropriate exchange programme with a set of otoliths (images) collection partially from tagging material and from previous WKS collection will be carried out for next year.</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to identify the current ageing problems between readers from both stocks through a reference collection. To identify the state of art of age estimation after validation studies conducted so far.</p>
<p>RESSOURCE REQUIREMENTS :</p>	<p>Before starting the exchange programme, the scientific institutions should make a concerted effort to compile the existing tagging material (digital otolith images) that can be used as a reference collection.</p>
<p>PARTICIPANTS:</p>	<p>In view of its relevance to the DCR, and ICES WG, the Workshop try to join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution.</p>
<p>SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:</p>	
<p>FINANCIAL:</p>	<p>Additional funding will be required for facilitate the attendance of the scientists. The workshop will be eligible under the EU - DCR.</p>
<p>LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:</p>	<p>ACOM</p>
<p>LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:</p>	
<p>LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS COST:</p>	<p>There is a direct link with the EU DCR and outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to ICES WGHMM.</p>

WKARA

2008/2/ACOM43 A **Workshop on Age reading of European anchovy** [WKARA] (Co-Chairs: Gualtiero Basilone*, Italy, Enrico Arneri*, Italy, and Begonia Villamor, Spain); will be held in Mazara del Vallo, Italy, 9–14 November 2009, to:

- a) Produce a reference collection from different ecosystem (different growth rates) for (*Engraulis encrasicolus*).
- b) Review information on sampling requirements, age determination and validation techniques on this species;
- c) Compare different otolith-based age determination methods;
- d) Identify sources of age determination error in terms of bias and precision: i.e. analyse different validation techniques and describe the corresponding interpretational differences between readers and laboratories, and agree on a common ageing criteria;
- e) Analyse growth increment patterns and provide specific guidelines for the interpretation of growth structures in otoliths;
- f) Create a reference collection of otoliths and start the development of a data base of otolith images;

WKARA will report by 24 November 2009 for the attention of PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. In order to arrive at appropriate management advice ageing procedures must be reliable. Otolith processing methods and age reading methods might differ considerably between countries. Therefore, otolith exchanges should be carried out on a regular basis, and if serious problems exist age reading workshops should be organised to solve these problems.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The aim of the workshop is to identify the present problems in <i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i> age determination, assess variability of growth patterns among different ecosystems, improve the accuracy and precision of age determinations and spread information of the methods and procedures used in different ageing laboratories. An otolith exchange will start in 2008 and at the workshop, in 2009, results from the otoliths circulation will be presented and discussed.
RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN:	Actually, in the frame of DCR, age determination is performed according to different age assigning criteria used locally in the scientific Institutions which deal with this topic. The need of a common and standardized system for unique identification of pattern of otolith rings deposition in fish have to be considered as an important priority to optimize DCR.
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 Mediterranean and Atlantic areas ICES, NAFO, GFCM.
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 and providing funding for invited overseas experts.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR and outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to several RFOs. ACOM and WGANSA
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR.

WKACM

2008/2/ACOM44 A **Workshop on Age reading of Red mullet *Mullus barbatus* and Striped mullet *Mullus surmuletus*** [WKACM] (Co-chairs: Kelig Mahé* (France) and Chryssi Mytilineou*, Greece); will be held in Boulogne sur Mer (France), 30 March–3 April 2009, to.

- a) Review information on age determination, and validation work on these species;
- b) Compare different otolith-based age determination methods;
- c) Identify sources of age determination error in terms of bias and precision: i.e. analyse different validation techniques and describe the corresponding interpretational differences between readers and laboratories, and agree on a common ageing criteria;
- d) Analyse growth increment patterns and provide specific guidelines for the interpretation of growth structures in otoliths;
- e) Create a reference collection of otoliths and start the development of a data base of otolith images.

The Workshop is an otolith exchange exercise for both *Mullus* species (i.e. *Mullus barbatus* and *Mullus surmuletus*) started during 2007 aimed to deal with possible problems of *Mullus* ageing. Up to now France, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, UK and Greece are participating in the otolith exchange exercise.

WKACM will report by 21 April 2009 for the attention of PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting information

PRIORITY:	Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. In order to arrive at appropriate management advice ageing procedures must be reliable. Otolith processing methods and age reading methods might differ considerably between countries. Therefore, otolith exchanges should be carried out on a regular basis, and if serious problems exist age reading workshops should be organised to solve these problems.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The aim of the workshop is to identify the present problems in <i>Mullus</i> spp. age determination, improve the accuracy and precision of age determinations and spread information of the methods and procedures used in different ageing laboratories. A number of samples of otoliths is circulating (2007) among different laboratories to assess the precision of age readers. At the workshop, in 2008, results from the otoliths circulation will be presented and discussed.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	In view of its relevance to the DCR, the Workshop is expected to attract wide interest from both Mediterranean EU and ICES Member States.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	Additional funding will be required for facilitate the attendance of the scientists. The workshop will be eligible under the E.U. - DCR.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM

LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	
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

WKMSSPDF

2008/2/ACOM45 **A Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of sole, plaice, dab and flounder** [WKMSSPDF] (Chairs: Ingeborg de Boois* and Cindy van Damme*, The Netherlands) will be established and will take place in IJmuiden, Netherlands, 22–26 February 2010 to:

- a) Compare applied maturity scales and main criteria followed by the scientists/technicians involved in the national sampling, to classify each maturity stage for males and females.
- b) Validate macroscopic maturity determination with histological analysis. To be checked
- c) Standardise the criteria to classify each maturity stage.
- d) Propose a common scale, with common classification criteria, to be used by all laboratories.
- e) Identify the optimal sampling time to estimate maturity ogives.

WKMSSPDF will report by 8 March 2010 for the attention of PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting Information

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>The maturity stage is an important biological parameter to be used in the calculation of maturity ogives (and therefore of Spawning Stock Biomass), for the definition of the spawning season of a species, for the monitoring of long-term changes in the spawning cycle, and for many other research needs regarding the biology of fish.</p>
<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>Laboratories involved in collection maturity data for the various assessment WG's are using different macroscopic maturity scale for the same species. Even those that use the same scale, may be using slightly different criteria to classify the maturity stages that are more prone to a subjective interpretation. This may lead to bias in the data that may be going to be used, for example, in fisheries stock assessment models, or in any other kind of analysis. Therefore, this workshop has the objective of reaching an agreement on a common scale to be used, but also to define objective criteria to classify the maturity stages of that scale.</p> <p>The expectation of TOR a) has the goal of measuring in what extent the criteria to classify maturity stages is coherent between technicians, and to identify where are the major sources of disagreement.</p> <p>TOR b) validate with histological analysis the macroscopic maturity stage, mainly the resting stages that are incorrectly classified as immature.</p> <p>With TOR c) it is intended to minimise those sources of disagreement, by discussing the structure and the criteria to be used in the common scale.</p> <p>The expectation of TOR d) is to have a common scale for maturity stage, with a common set of criteria to classify each stage, to be used by all labs.</p> <p>The TOR e) is to selected the spawning season period considered to estimate maturity ogive.</p> <p>It is recommended that the Workshop be organised in 2009.</p>

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	<p>Before the Workshop the organising institute will setup a sampling plan for collecting samples for to be used during workshop. The sampling will be carried out during 2009.</p> <p>For all species, the sampling parameters are: total length; gonad visual inspection - maturity stage by a standard maturity scale and the usual maturity scale used by the institute; total weight; gonad weight; liver weight; gutted weight; gonad photo; age; histological maturity stage; microscopic preparation photo.</p> <p>This workshop will be based on the analysis of both digital photos of gonads and fresh gonads. Therefore facilities suitable to examine fresh biological material must be available during the workshop. It would be necessary to have a web server for storage and easy access to the photos collected by the participants before the workshop.</p>
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 sole, plaice, dab and flounder.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	<p>To obtain all biological data before the Workshop, funding is needed for buying fresh ungutted fish, to estimate age and to process gonads histology.</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
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	This workshop is proposed by PGCCDBS. Outcomes from this Workshop will be of interest to all Working and Study Groups related to sole, plaice, dab and flounder, namely WGNSSK, WGBFAS, WGSSDS and WGNSDS, as well as to survey groups like the IBTSWG and WGBEAM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR.

WKMSC

2008/2/ACOM46 A **Workshop on crustaceans (*Aristeus antennatus*, *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Nephrops norvegicus*) maturity stages** [WKMSC] (Chair: Fabio Fiorentino*, Italy) will be established and take place in Messina, Italy, 19–23 October 2009, to:

- a) Compare the macroscopic maturity scales for *Aristeus antennatus*, *Aristaeomorpha foliacea*, *Parapenaeus longirostris*, *Nephrops norvegicus* used in the different laboratories;
- b) Standardizes the criteria to classify each maturity stages to be used for DCR and discuss on the existing maturity scales;
- c) Formulate conversion rules to make possible the correspondence between the locally used scales and the common ones;
- d) Validate the macroscopic maturity stages according to the common standardized scales possibly using histological confirmation;;
- e) Standardize the criteria to classify each maturity stage;
- f) Propose a common scale, with common classification criteria, to be used by all laboratories;
- g) Use of digital photos to identify the maturity stages for the different species.

WKMSC will report to RCM Med, PGMed, PGCCDBS, and ACOM 2 November 2009.

Supporting information

<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>The identification and macroscopic classification of maturity stages can play a key-role in the assessment fishery resources and there is an urgent need for reliable and up-to-date information on the maturity parameters for all formally assessed species to improve the quality of these estimates.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In order to get this aim, several Mediterranean countries already made an effort to build up a Maturity Photo database (Report of the DCR MEDITS Working group, Nantes, France, 15-18 March 2005: wgmedits2005-wgreport-final.doc) and developed standard operational procedure to calibrate and classify the description of the maturity stages per fishery resources (fish, crustaceans and cephalopods). This group should be aware the recommendation of the Medits workshop.</p> <p>The expectation of the TORs is that the Workshop produces a comparative description of the scales used in the different labs and set off standard operational procedures and methodologies to facilitate the validation and classification of the different maturity stages.</p>
<p>RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Before the Workshop each scientific Institution should collect digital photos of maturity stages as much is possible.</p>

PARTICIPANTS:	In view of its relevance to the DCR, the Workshop is expected to attract wide interest from both Mediterranean EU and ICES Member States.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None
FINANCIAL:	Attendance to the Workshop is eligible under the 2009 DCR
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There is a direct interest from several international (ICES, NAFO GFCM) advisory committee for a common effort toward the standardization of assessing procedures.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKAREA

2008/2/ACOM46 The **Workshop on Age Reading of European and American Eel** [WKAREA] (Chair: Françoise Daverat (France); co-chairs Hakan Wickström (Sweden), Russell Poole (Ireland) and John Casselman (Canada)) will be established and will meet 20–24 April 2009 in Bordeaux, France to:

- a) review literature and current practices on eel age reading;
- b) review the methods used by participating institutes to prepare and store eel otoliths, and the processes and protocols currently used to read them (including quality assurance methods);
- c) review approaches for validating eel age reading;
- d) conduct an otolith exchange study between participating institutes before the workshop to compare age reading results;
- e) establish a common methodology for age reading and determine the precision and bias of corresponding age reading data;
- f) establish a common methodology for otolith preparation and age reading;
- g) determine the precision and bias of eel age reading data derived from different readers and methods;
- h) develop a manual to describe the agreed methodology; and
- i) recommend, if needed, a framework to improve and to validate age reading.

WKAREA will report by 4 May 2009 for the attention of the PGCCDBS, SciCom, and WGEEL.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Eel age reading is requested in a large extend by EU data collection regulation while many practices are currently in use
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	European and American eel stocks are currently in a severely depleted state. The European Union adopted a regulation to restore european eel population and has consequently reinforced the need to have a comprehensive view of eel population dynamics. In agreement with that view, the requirement of eel biological data, including age, have been strengthened by the EU data collection regulation. However many methods for age reading have been used throughout Europe and no agreed standards have been established. Standerdized age date will be of crucial importance to assess the status of the stock at the species level or at least at the European level. Given the high concern on the American eel and the close biology of the species whith European eel, it is of high interest to jointly study both species.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	some infrastructure as microscopes, grinding facilities etc
PARTICIPANTS:	Experts from age reading for one of the two species.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	The Secretariat will be involved as normal in general professional and secretarial support.
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Workshop will support the provision of advice for ACom and scientific understanding of eel for SciCom
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGEEL, SciCom, PGCCDBS
LINKAGES TO	Other institutes involved in establishing EU Eel Management Plans and similar

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	Management Plans in North America
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WKFAR

2008/2/ACOM47 The **Workshop on the Format of the ICES Advisory Report (WKFAR)**, chaired by Carl O'Brien, UK, will be established and will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 3–5 December 2009 to:

- a) define the format of the advice for Commissions and Governments including the following elements;
 - i) a content list for the advice
 - ii) a proposal for a format that meet this content list
 - iii) a proposal for which media that should be the primary delivery mechanism (web, CD, printed version)

WKFAR will report by 18 December 2009 for the attention of the Advisory Committee.

WKFORM

2008/2/ACOM48 The **Workshop on the Form of the ICES Advice (WKFORM)**, chaired by Michael Sissenwine, USA, will be established and will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 1–3 December 2009 to:

- a) Review ICES policy for fisheries advice;
- b) Identify a policy on how ICES will take account of the DG MARE model for constraining changes in the TAC from one year to the next. The workshop should consider how to deal with this policy paper in the context of shared EU-Norway stocks.
- c) Identify an ICES policy for MSY based advice that is consistent with Clients needs including the time frame in which this target should be reached;

The workshop should lay down the basis for a policy paper for ACOM's approval. This ACOM policy shall be used to explain the ICES advisory policy to Commissions, RACs and the general informed public and if possible be used for introduction to the Annual Advisory Report.

WKFORM will report by 18 December 2009 for the attention of the Advisory Committee.

WKARGC

The **Workshop on Age reading of Greenland cod** [WKARGC], co-chaired by Einar Hjörleifsson, Iceland, and Heino Fock, Germany will be established and take place in Reykjavík, Iceland, 1–4 September 2009, to:

- a) Review information on age estimations, otolith exchanges, workshops and validation work done so far.
- b) Analysis of the results of exchange programme between ageing labs, using a set of otoliths (images) collection partially from tagging material and from previous WK collection with the purpose of inter-calibration age readers involved in Stock assessment.
- c) Report on progress of the compilation of biometrics data of Greenland cod otoliths from 3 stocks (Iceland, Greenland inshore, Greenland offshore).
- d) To revise the age estimation procedures and explore the possibilities to use supplementary information for validating estimated age structures, this include:
 - i) - Otoliths weight distributions
 - ii) - Length distributions in surveys and catches.
- e) To develop mathematical methods for estimating Greenland cod catches age composition to be used by ICES WG.
- f) To join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution
- g) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see 'PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration')

Supporting information:

WKARGC will report by 1 October 2009 for attention of ACOM.

PRIORITY:	Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Assessment of Greenland cod stocks using age structured models has proved useful in establishing a diagnosis on stock status. However, the approach has several limitations and shortcomings such as stock structure, natural mortality and growth. Age data is provided by different countries and are estimated using international ageing criteria which have not been validated. Therefore, an otolith exchange programme and WK should be carried out in order to know the current situation of age estimation of Greenland cod which has been subject of concern of ICES WG NWWG and make progress towards a solution.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION:	A preliminary exercise between Greenland, Iceland and Germany in reading a test sample of some 200 cod otoliths from Greenland waters revealed considerable differences in results between ageing labs. A working document containing the results from this exercise will be published for the next ICES NWWG meeting in April 2009. For the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs an appropriate exchange programme with a further set of otoliths (images) collection partially from tagging material and from previous WKs collection will be carried out for next year. The aim of the workshop is to identify the current ageing problems between readers through a reference collection comprising both broken and transsectioned material. To identify the state of art of age estimation after validation studies conducted so far.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	Before starting the exchange programme, the scientific institutions should make a concerted effort to compile the existing tagging material (digital otolith images) that can be used as a reference collection.
PARTICIPANTS:	In view of its relevance to the DCR, and ICES WG, the Workshop try to join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution.

SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
FINANCIAL:	Additional funding will be required for facilitate the attendance of the scientists and invited experts. The workshop will be eligible under the EU - DCR.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	PGCCDBS, NWWG
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS COST:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR. Link to NAFO Scientific Council.

AGSAN2

The **Ad-hoc group on North Sea sandeel** (AGSAN2) chaired by Tore Jakobsen (Norway) will be established and take place in ICES HQ, 19–21 October 2009 to:

- a) Review and update the procedure for a real time monitoring (RTM) programme for possible use in 2010. This review shall address the criticisms expressed by ICES on the April–May 2009 RTM process.
- b) Establish a work plan with the view of benchmarking the North Sea sandeel assessment process. The work plan shall indicate when this benchmark can be held and include commitments for input to the preparations for this benchmark. The benchmark shall cover all elements of the assessment process, i.e. assessment data, model and estimation procedure, projection model and possible in-year TAC revision procedure.

The AGSAN2 will report by 3 November 2009 for the attention of ACOM.

