



ICES

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

Advisory Committee

2010 ACOM and ACOM Expert Group ToR's

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Advisory Committee

2009/2/ACOM01 The **Advisory Committee [ACOM]** (Chair: Michael Sissenwine, USA) will work on the following tasks:

- a) meet in plenary in Copenhagen from 16–19 November 2010 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 2009 and 2010 and agree on remedial actions as appropriate;
 - iii) review progress on Advisory Services in 2010
 - iv) finalise the 2011 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 2011 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, JNRFC

MICC

2009/2/ACOM02 ICES will invite Partner Commissions and the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission to meet with the ACOM leadership (Chaired by: Michael Sissenwine, USA) 13 October 2010 in London, UK 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

2009/2/ACOM03 ICES will invite the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and other stakeholders to meet with the ACOM leadership (Chaired by: Mike Sissenwine, USA) on 26–27 January 2010 in Gdynia, Poland to:

- a) Discuss practical arrangements in 2010 for cooperation between RACs and ICES, including procedures for delivering and discussion of the ICES advice and Young fishermen's participation in ICES ASC Berlin 2009
- b) Review progress on following up of action points from the 2009 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 2009 and to present their research and advisory needs, and discuss ICES' experience of participating in RAC meetings in 2009

WGCHAIRS

2009/2/ACOM04 The **Annual Meeting of Advisory Working Group Chairs** [WGCHAIRS] (Chaired by: Mike Sissenwine) will meet at ICES Headquarters 19–21 January 2010 to:

- a) review the Table of Contents for the ICES Advisory Report for 2010 and for each Chapter identify what the Groups shall contribute;
- b) review the Table of Contents of WG reports in 2010
- 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 28 January 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Generic ToRs for Regional and Species Working Groups

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

The working group should focus on:

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

ToRs b) to f) and h) 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. Data should be provided to the data coordinators at deadlines specified in the ToRs of the individual groups. Data submitted after the deadlines can be incorporated in the assessments at the discretion of the Expert Group chair;
 - 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 2011 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
- h) Set MSY reference points (F_{MSY} and $MSY B_{trigger}$) according to the ICES MSY framework and following the guidelines developed by WKFRAME.

AFWG

2009/2/ACOM05 The **Arctic Fisheries Working Group** [AFWG]: (Chaired by: Bjarte Bogstad*, Norway) will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 22–28 April 2010 to:

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

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

AFWG will report by 6 May 2010 (and 1 October 2010 for Barents Sea capelin) for the attention of ACOM.

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

HAWG

2009/2/ACOM06 The **Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N** [HAWG] Chaired by: Tomas Gröhsler, Germany and Maurice Clarke, Ireland will meet at ICES Headquarters, 15–23 March 2010 to:

- a) compile the catch data of North Sea and Western Baltic herring on 15–16 March
- b) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups 17–23 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 3 weeks prior to the starting date.

HAWG will report by 31 March 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assesss. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
her-3a22	Herring in Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22–24 (Western Baltic Spring spawners)	Denmark	Germany	Denmark	Y	Update
her-47d3	Herring in Subarea IV and Division IIIa and VIIId (North Sea Autumn spawners)	Germany	NL	UK (Scotland)	Y	Update
her-irls	Herring in Division VIIa South of 52° 30' N and VIIg,h,j,k (Celtic Sea and South of Ireland)	Ireland	Ireland		Y	Update
her-irlw	Herring in Divisions VIa (South) and VIIb,c	Ireland	Ireland		Y	Same advice as last year
her-nirs	Herring in Division VIIa North of 52° 30' N (Irish Sea)	UK (Northern Ireland)	UK (Northern Ireland)		Y	Same advice as last year
her-vian	Herring in Division VIa (North)	UK (Scotland)	UK S		Y	Update
spr-kask	Sprat in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	Norway	Denmark	-	Y	Same advice as last year
spr-nsea	Sprat in Subarea IV (North Sea)	Denmark	Denmark	Norway	Y	Update
spr-eche	Sprat in Division VIIId,e	Norway	-	-	N	Catch statistics only

NWWG

2009/2/ACOM07 The **North-Western Working Group [NWWG]** (Chaired by: Guðmundur Þórðarson, Iceland) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 27 April – 4 May 2010 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. Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

NWWG will report by 11 May 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
cod-farp	Cod in Subdivision Vb2 (Faroe Bank)	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Y	Update
cod-farb	Cod in Subdivision Vb2 (Faroe Bank)	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Y	Same advice as last year
had-faro	Haddock in Division Vb	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Y	Update
sai-faro	Saithe in Division Vb	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands	Y	Update
cod-iceg	Cod in Division Va (Icelandic cod)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Y	Update
had-iceg	Haddock in Division Va (Icelandic haddock)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Y	Update
sai-icel	Saithe in Division Va (Icelandic saithe)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Y	Update
her-vasu	Herring in Division Va (Icelandic summer-spawners)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Y	Update
cap-icel	Capelin in Subareas V, XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W (Iceland-East Greenland-Jan Mayen area)	Iceland	Iceland	Iceland	Y	Update
ghl-grn	Greenland halibut in Subareas V, VI, XII and XIV	Greenland	Greenland	Iceland	Y	Update
smr-5614	Redfish (<i>Sebastes marinus</i>) in Subareas V, VI, XII and XIV	Iceland	Iceland	Faroe Islands	Y	Update
smn-con	Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) on the continental shelf in Subareas V, VI and XIV (Demersal)	Iceland	Iceland	Germany	Y	Update
smn-sp	Beaked Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Subareas V, XII, XIV and NAFO Subareas 1+2 (Shallow Pelagic stock < 500 m deep)	Iceland	Germany	Spain	Y	Update

smn-dp	Beaked Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Subareas V, XII, XIV and NAFO Subareas 1+2 (Deep Pelagic stock > 500 m deep)	Iceland	Germany	Spain	Y	Update
	Beaked Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Subarea XIV (East Greenland Slope)	Greenland				
cod-ewgr	Cod in ICES Subarea XIV and NAFO Subarea 1 (Greenland cod)	Greenland	Germany	Germany	Y	Update

WGBAST

2009/2/ACOM08 The **Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group** [WGBAST] (Chaired by Johan Dannewitz*, Sweden) will meet in St. Petersburg, Russia, 24–31 March 2010 to:

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

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 6 weeks prior to the meeting.

WGBAST will report for the attention of ACOM by 12 April 2010.

Fish Stock	Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
sal-2431	Salmon in the Main Basin and Gulf of Bothnia (Salmon in Subdivisions 22–31)	Finland	Finland	Finland	Y	Update
sal-32	Salmon in Subdivision 32 (Gulf of Finland)	Finland	Finland	Finland	Y	Update
trt-bal	Sea trout in Subdivisions 22–32 (Baltic Sea)	Poland	Denmark	Sweden	Y	Update

WGNAS

2009/2/ACOM09 The **Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon** [WGNAS] (Chaired by: Gérald Chaput*, Canada) will meet at ICES HQ, 22–31 March 2010, 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 2009¹;
 - 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) describe how catch and release mortality and unreported catch are incorporated in national and international stock assessments and indicate how they can best be incorporated in future advice to NASCO;
 - v) further develop approaches to forecast pre-fishery abundance for North American and European stocks with measures of uncertainty;
 - vi) provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2009 and advise on progress with analysing historical tag recovery data from oceanic areas;
 - vii) 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 2009 fisheries⁵;
 - ii) review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits;
 - iii) describe the status of the stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2011–2013, 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;
 - iv) further investigate opportunities to develop a framework of indicators or alternative methods 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 2009 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon) ⁵;
 - ii) update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;

In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the framework of indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:*

 - iii) 3.3 describe the status of the stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2010–2013 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 2009 fisheries⁵;

- ii) provide clarification of the levels of reported and unreported catch in the subsistence fishery since 2002,

In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the framework of indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:*

- iii) describe the status of stocks and provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2010–2012 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};
- e) Effects of mariculture on populations of wild fish (OSPAR request 2010/3). To provide advice on the current state of knowledge on the interaction of finfish mariculture on the condition and wild fish populations (both salmonid and non-salmonid) both at a local and regional scale, including from parasites, escaped fish and the use of fish feed in mariculture. Advice is requested on how the interactions will change as a result of an expansion of mariculture activities. OSPAR suggest that this should be addressed through a risk analysis approach, making best use of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and that an important aspect of the outcome will be clear identification of the specific aspects of the risk analysis where additional research effort may best be targeted to reduce the uncertainty in the risk analysis⁸.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGNAS will report by 8 April 2010 for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

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 by-catch of other species in salmon gear, and on the by-catch of salmon in any existing and new fisheries for other species is also requested.*
6. *In response to questions b-iii, c-iii 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-iii, 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-iii and c-iii.*

The aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI.

8. *The scale of cultivation of both fish and shellfish species in coastal waters of the OSPAR area continues to increase. In some countries, the value of aquaculture products exceeds that from wild capture fisheries. Aquaculture is currently concentrated in coastal waters taking advantage of the sheltered conditions available there, and also in response to other practical economic and engineering factors, such as accessibility for operators and to downstream processing facilities, and the difficulty and cost of maintaining structures in open water offshore areas.*

Some of the environmental interactions of coastal aquaculture operate on very local scales. These include enrichment of the seabed by waste feed and faeces, or the potential toxic effects of used chemicals such as medicines and antifoulants. These generally can be regulated through local licensing and consenting systems.

However, other forms of environmental interactions have the potential to have influence over rather larger areas. A number of these concern wild fish populations. Examples include the pressure on wild stocks to provide raw materials (fish protein and lipid) for pelleted diets for farmed fish, interbreeding of escaped farmed fish with wild stocks reducing their fitness, and the more direct stress arising from the possible transfer of parasites of farmed to wild stocks (notably sea lice from farmed salmon to wild salmon and sea trout) and consequent impacts on wild populations.

There is general agreement on the range of potential forms of interaction between farmed and wild stocks, but there is less agreement on the current and future significance of these interactions for wild stocks.

WGNAS is invited to contribute to the advice which is also addressed to WGEIM, WGPDMO and WGAGFM.

WGBFAS

2009/2/ACOM10 The **Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group [WGBFAS]** (Chaired by: Michele Casini*, Sweden) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 15–22 April 2010 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGBFAS will report by 29 April for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord. 1	Asses. Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
cod-kat	Cod in the Kattegat (part of Division IIIa)	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Y	Update
cod-2224	Cod in Subdivisions 22 to 24	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Y	Update
cod-2532	Cod in Subdivisions 25 to 32	Denmark	Latvia	Russian Federation	Y	Update
sol-kask	Sole in Division IIIa	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Y	Update
her-2532-gor	Herring in Subdivisions 25 to 29 and 32 minus Gulf of Riga	Sweden	Germany	Sweden	Y	Update
her-riga	Herring in the Gulf of Riga	Latvia	Latvia	Estonia	Y	Update
her-30	Herring in Subdivision 30, Bothnian Sea	Finland	Finland	Sweden	Y	Update
her-31	Herring in Subdivision 31, Bothnian Bay	Finland	Finland	Sweden	N	Catch statistics only e
spr-2232	Sprat in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Estonia	Poland	Estonia	Y	Update
fle-2232	Flounder in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany/ Sweden			N	Catch statistics only
bll-2232	Brill in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			N	Catch statistics only
ple-2232	Plaice in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			N	Catch statistics only
dab-2232	Dab in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			N	Catch statistics only
tur-2232	Turbot in Subdivisions 22 to 32	Germany			N	Catch statistics only

WGHMM

2009/2/ACOM11 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Stocks of Hake, Monk and Megrim** [WGHMM] (Chaired by: Carmen Fernández, Spain) will meet in Bilbao (Spain), 5–11 May 2010 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGHMM will report by 18 May 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stocks Coordinator	Assess. Coord. 1	Assess. Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
ang-78ab	Anglerfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i> and <i>L. piscatorius</i>) in Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa,b	Spain/France	Spain/France	France/Spain	Y	Same advice as last year
ang-8c9a	Anglerfish (<i>Lophius. Piscatorius</i> and <i>Lophius budegassa</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Spain/Portugal	Spain/Portugal	Portugal/Spain	Y	Update
hke-nrtn	Hake in Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI and VII and Divisions VIIIa,b,d (Northern stock);	France	France	Spain	Y	Update
hke-soth	Hake in Division VIIIc and IXa (Southern stock);	Spain	Spain	Portugal	Y	Update
mgb-8c9a	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus boscii</i> and <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Spain	Spain		Y	Same advice as last year
mgw-78	Megrim (<i>L. whiffiagonis</i>) in Subarea VII & Divisions VIIIa,b,d,e	Spain	Spain		Y	Same advice as last year
sol-bisc	Bay of Biscay sole	France	France		Y	Update
nep-8ab	<i>Nephrops</i> in Divisions VIIIa,b (Bay of Biscay, FU 23, 24)	France	France		Y	Update
nep-8c	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIIc (FU 25, 31)	Spain	Spain		Y	Update
nep-9a	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IXa (FU 26-30)	Spain/Portugal	Spain/Portugal	Portugal/Spain	Y	Update

WGCSE

2009/2/ACOM12 The **Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion** [WGCSE] (Co-Chairs: Colm Lordan, Ireland and Pieter-Jan Schon, UK) will meet at ICES HQ, 12–20 May 2010 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGCSE will report by 26 May 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Perform assessment	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	Y	Update
cod VIIe-k	Cod in Division VIIe-k (Celtic Sea)	France	France	Ireland	Y	Update
cod-iris	Cod in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK (England)	UK (England)		Y	Update
cod-rock	Cod in Division VIb (Rockall)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		N	Catch statistics only
cod-scow	Cod in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update
had-7b-k	Haddock in Divisions VIIb-k	Ireland	Ireland	France	Y	Update
had-iris	Haddock in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update
had-rock	Haddock in Division VIb (Rockall)	Russia	Russia	UK (Scotland)	Y	Update
had-scow	Haddock in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update
meg-scrk	Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp</i>) in Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) and sub-area IV (North Sea)	Ireland	Ireland	UK (Scotland)	Y	Update
nep-11	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIa (North Minch)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update
nep-12	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIa (South Minch)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update
nep-13	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIa (Firth of Clyde)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update
nep-14	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIa (Irish Sea East)	UK (England)			Y	Update
nep-15	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIa (Irish Sea West)	UK (Northern Ireland)	UK (Northern Ireland)	Ireland	Y	Update
nep-7bcj	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIb,c,j,k (Porcupine Bank)	Ireland	Ireland		Y	Update

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
nep-17	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIb (Aran Grounds, FU 17)	Ireland	Ireland		Y	Update
nep-19	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division VIIa,g,j (South East and West of IRL, FU 19)	Ireland	Ireland		Y	Update
nep-2022	<i>Nephrops</i> in Divisions VIIfgh (Celtic Sea, FU 20-22)	France	France	Ireland	Y	Update
ple-7b-c	Plaice in Division VIIb,c (West of Ireland)	Ireland			Y	Update
ple-7h-k	Plaice in Divisions VIIh,k (Southwest of Ireland)	Ireland	Ireland	Belgium	Y	Same advice as last year
ple-celt	Plaice in Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea)	UK (England)	UK (England)	Belgium	Y	Update
ple-echw	Plaice in Division VIIe (Western Channel)	UK (England)	UK (England)	France	Y	Update
ple-iris	Plaice in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	UK (England)	UK (England)		Y	Update
sol-7b-c	Sole in Division VIIb, c (West of Ireland)	Ireland			N	Catch statistics only
sol-7h-k	Sole in Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland)	Ireland			Y	Same advice as last year
sol-celt	Sole in Divisions VIIf,g (Celtic Sea)	Belgium	Belgium	UK (England)	Y	Update
sol-echw	Sole in Division VIIe (Western Channel)	UK (England)	UK (England)	France	Y	Update
sol-iris	Sole in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Belgium	Belgium		Y	Update
whg-7e-k	Whiting in Divisions VIIe-k	Ireland	Ireland	France	Y	Update
whg-iris	Whiting in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Ireland	Ireland	UK (Northern Ireland)	Y	Update
whg-rock	Whiting in Division VIb (Rockall)	Ireland			N	Catch statistics only
whg-scow	Whiting in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	UK (Scotland)	UK (Scotland)		Y	Update

WGNSSK

2009/2/ACOM13 The **Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak** [WGNSSK] (Chaired by: Clara Ulrich Rescan*, Denmark and Ewen Bell*, UK) will meet at ICES HQ, 5–11 May 2010 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below). The Sandeel and Norway pout assessments 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGNSSK will report by 18 May and 17 September 2010 (Sandeel/Norway pout) for the attention of ACOM. The group will report on the AGCREMP 2008 procedure on reopening of the advice before 8 October and will report on reopened advice before 29 October.

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coordinator	Assessment Coord. 1	Assessment Coord. 2	Perform assessment	Advice
cod-347d	Cod in Subarea IV, Division VIIId & Division IIIa (Skagerrak)	UK(England)	UK(England)	Denmark	Y	Update
had-34	Haddock in Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	UK(England)	Y	Update
nep-5	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVbc (Botney Gut - Silver Pit, FU 5)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-6	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVb (Farn Deeps, FU 6)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-7	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Fladen Ground, FU 7)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-8	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVb (Firth of Forth, FU8)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-9	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Moray Firth, FU9)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-10	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Noup, FU 10)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-32	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVa (Norwegian Deeps, FU 32)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-33	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IVb (Off Horn Reef, FU 33)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	Denmark	Y	Update
nep-iiiia	<i>Nephrops</i> in Division IIIa (Skagerak Kattegat, FU 3,4)	Denmark	Sweden	UK(Scotland)	Y	Update
nop-34	Norway Pout in Subarea IV and Division IIIa	Denmark	Denmark	Norway	Y	Update
ple-eche	Plaice in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	France	France	Belgium	Y	Update
ple-kask	Plaice in Division IIIa (Skagerrak - Kattegat)	Denmark	Denmark	Sweden	Y	Same advice as last year
ple-nsea	Plaice Subarea IV (North Sea)	Netherlands	Netherlands	Belgium	Y	Update

sai-3a46	Saithe in Subarea IV (North Sea) Division IIIa West (Skagerrak) and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)	Norway	Norway	Germany	Y	Update
san-nsea	Sandeel in Subarea IV excluding the Shetland area	Denmark	Denmark	Norway	Y	Update
san-shet	Sandeel in Division IVa North of 59° N and West of 0 ° E – (Shetland area)	UK/ Denmark			N	Catch statistics only
san-kask	Sandeel in Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegatt)	DK			N	Catch statistics only
san-scov	Sandeel in Division VIa	DK			N	Catch statistics only
sol-eche	Sole in Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	Belgium	Belgium	France	Y	Update
sol-nsea	Sole in Subarea IV (North Sea)	Netherlands	Netherlands	Belgium	Y	Update
whg-47d	Whiting Subarea IV (North Sea) & Division VIIId (Eastern Channel)	UK(Scotland)	UK(Scotland)	UK(England)	Y	Update
whg-kask	Whiting in Division IIIa (Skagerrak – Kattegat)	Sweden	Sweden	Denmark	N	Catch statistics only

NIPAG

2009/2/ACOM14 **The Joint NAFO/ICES *Pandalus* Assessment Working Group** [NIPAG] (Chaired by: Carsten Hvingel, Norway) will meet in ICES HQ, 20–27 October 2010 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

NIPAG will report by 28 October 2010 on the ICES shrimp stocks for the attention of ACOM.

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

WGWIDE

2009/2/ACOM15 The **Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks** [WGWIDE] (Chaired by: Beatriz Roel, UK) will meet in Vigo, Spain, 28 August –3 September 2010 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below).
- b) evaluate the 2010 survey preliminary estimates of mackerel SSB and horse mackerel egg abundance. The evaluation will be the basis for a decision on whether to use the estimates in the assessments. This decision should be made on the first day of the working group meeting (August 28th). Members are encouraged to review and discuss the results prior to the meeting.

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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date. Results from the mackerel egg survey to be used as basis for the preliminary NEA mackerel SSB index should be circulated by August 23rd (Monday).

WGWIDE will report by 7 September 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

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

WGANSA

2009/2/ACOM16 The **Working Group on Anchovy and Sardine** [WGANSA] (Chaired by: Dankert Skagen, Norway) will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 24–28 June 2010 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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGANSA will report by 3 July 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

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

WGDEEP

2009/2/ACOM17 The **Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources** [WGDEEP] (Chaired by: Tom Blasdale, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 7–13 April 2010 to:

- a) address generic ToRs for Fish Stock Assessment Working Groups (see table below).
- b) Impacts of human activities on cold water corals and sponge aggregations (OSPAR request 2010/5) - Provide advice on impacts of human activities on cold water corals and deep sea sponge aggregations including:
 - 1) total amounts and % of these habitats affected by human activity over the past decade, on a year by year basis, in the OSPAR Maritime Area;
 - 2) specific sites within the North-East Atlantic where records show that more than 100kg of live coral of 1000 kg of live sponges have been have been trawled as a result of human activities in the past;
 - 3) what is known about the status of coral reefs and sponge aggregations in these areas
 - 4) recovery rates of these species if and when damaged or removed;
 - 5) possibilities for re-creation of these habitats

The request (OSPAR request 2010/5) has been allocated to WGDEC but WGDEEP is requested to provide contributions before 15 March to WGDEC.

- a) Comment and make proposals for improvements on draft of a Best Practice Manual for scientific surveys in areas closed to fishing (NEAFC request).

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.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGDEEP will report by 23 April 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Advice doc. (Fish Stock)	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord.	Perform assessment	Advice
alf-comb	Alfonsinos/Golden eye perch (<i>Beryx</i> spp.)	Portugal (Azores)	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
arg-comb (arg-icel)	Greater silver smelt in Subdivision Va	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
arg-comb (arg-rest)	Greater silver smelt in other areas (Subdivisions I, II, IIIa, IV, Vb, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, and XIV)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
bli-comb (bli-5a14)	Blue ling in Subdivisions Va and XIV	UK (England and Wales)	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
bli-comb (bli-5b67)	Blue ling in Subdivisions Vb, VI, and VII	UK (England and Wales)	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
bli-comb (bli-rest)	Blue ling in other areas (Subdivisions I, II, IIIa, IVa, VIII, IX, and XII)	UK (England and Wales)	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update

bsf-comb (bsf-soth; bsf-89; bsf-rest)	Black scabbardfish (<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>) in Northeast Atlantic	Portugal	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
gfb-comb	Greater forkbeard (<i>Phycis blennoides</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic	Spain (AZTI)	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Advice
lin-comb (lin-arct)	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in Divisions I and II	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
lin-comb (lin-icel)	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in Subdivision Va	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
lin-comb (lin-faro)	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in Subarea Vb	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
lin-comb (lin-rest)	Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in Divisions IIIa and IVa, and in Subareas VI, VII, VIII, IX, XII, and XIV	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
ory-comb (ory-scrk; ory-vii; ory-rest)	Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>) in Notheast Atlantic	Ireland	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Advice
rng-comb (rng-1012; rng-rest; rng-nsea; rng-soth)	Roundnose grenadier (<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>) in Northeast Atlantic	France	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
sbr-comb (sbr-ix; sbr-x; sbr678)	Red (=blackspot) seabream in North East Atlantic	Spain (IEO)	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
tus-comb (usk-arct)	Tusk in Subareas I and II (Arctic)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
tus-comb (usk-icel)	Tusk in the Iceland Grounds (Fishing Area Va)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
tus-comb (usk-mar)	Tusk in Division XIIb (Mid Atlantic Ridge)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Advice
tus-comb (usk-rest)	Tusk in Divisions IIIa, Iva, Vb, VI, VII, VIII, IX and XIIa (other areas)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
tus-comb (usk-rock)	Tusk in Division Vb (Rockall)	Norway	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update
oth-comb	Other deep sea species combined	Ireland	UK (England and Wales)	Y	Update

WGEEL

2009/2/ACOM18 The **Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eels** [WGEEL] (Chaired by: Russell Poole, Ireland), will meet in Hamburg, Germany, 9–14 September 2010, to:

- a) assess the trends in recruitment and stock, for international stock assessment, in light of the implementation of the Eel Management Plans;
- b) develop methods to post-evaluate effects of management actions at the stock-wide level (in conjunction with SGIPEE);
- c) 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 (in conjunction with SGAESAW 2) ;
- d) provide practical advice on the establishment of 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;
- e) review and develop approaches to quantifying the effects of eel quality on stock dynamics and integrating these into stock assessments;
- f) respond to specific requests in support of the eel stock recovery Regulation, as necessary; and
- g) report on improvements to the scientific basis for advice on the management of European and American eel

Material and data for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGEEL will report by 21 September 2010 for the attention of WGRECORDS, SGEF and ACOM.

WGEF

2009/2/ACOM19 The **Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF)**, chaired by Graham Johnston*, Ireland, will meet in the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries (University of the Azores), Portugal 22–29 June 2010 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 2008 and 2009 species - specific landings data for skates from ICES Subareas IV, VI–IX, and appraise their reliability through comparison with other data sources (e.g. market sampling and discard/ observer programmes);
- c) Evaluate the status of the stocks in the table below (i.e. do update assessments);
- d) Set MSY reference points (F_{MSY} and $MSY_{B_{trigger}}$) according to the ICES MSY framework and following the guidelines developed by WKFRAME1 and WKFRAME2 for the stocks in the table below.
- e) Provide first draft of advice text for the stocks listed in the table below.
- f) Examine the potential benefits of size - based restrictions (minimum landings sizes and/or maximum landing lengths) for elasmobranchs;
- g) Undertake preliminary studies to identify important elasmobranch habitats, including nursery grounds;
- h) Finalise stock annexes for porbeagle, spurdog, kitefin shark and basking shark;
- i) To work intersessionally to finalize the elasmobranch CRR prior to the next meeting;
- j) To improve the availability of appropriate identification material for chondrichthyan fishes by (a) working intersessionally to collate and archive electronic copies of photographs; (b) further develop, circulate and test the utility of national photo - identification guides; and (c) develop a standardized user - friendly template

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

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

Fish Stock	Stock Name	Stock Coord.	Assess. Coord.	Perform assessment	Advice
skx-67-d	Demersal elasmobranchs in the Celtic Sea and West of Scotland			y	Update
skx-347d	Demersal elasmobranchs in the North Sea, Skagerrak and eastern English Channel			y	Update
skx-89a	Demersal elasmobranchs in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters			y	Update
dgs-nea	Spurdog (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic			y	Update
por-nea	Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic			y	Update
bsk-nea	Basking shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic			y	Update

cyo-nea	Portuguese dogfish (<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>) and leafscale gulper shark (<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic			y	Update
sck-nea	Kitefin shark (<i>Dalatias licha</i>) in the Northeast Atlantic			y	Update

WGHARP

2009/ 2/ ACOM20 The Working **Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP)** (Chair: Richard Merrick, USA) will work by correspondence in 2010 to plan the meeting in the Russian Commonwealth or U.S. for 4–5 days during August 2011 to:

- a) Review results of 2010–2011 surveys
- b) Provide quota advice to ICES/NAFO member states of their harvests of harp and hooded seals;
- c) Provide advice on other issues as requested

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGHARP will report by September 2011 for the attention of the ACOM and NAFO Scientific Council.

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:	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.
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 Scientific Council
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	SSGEF, SSGSUE, WGMME.
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

2009/2/ACOM21 The **Working Group on Assessment of New MoU Species** [WGNEW] (Chaired by: Henk Heessen, Netherlands and Jean-Claude Mahé, France) will meet in ICES HQ 11–15 October 2010 to:

- 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.
- b) These results will be presented in the form of
 - i) dataseries considered indicative of stock trends/status
 - ii) proposals for analytical assessments if appropriate
 - iii) comments on additional data collection that would improve the assessment of stock status
- c) This will be done on the basis of data and methods prepared before the meeting.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGNEW will report by 25 October to ACOM and SSGSUE.

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:	SSGSUE
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	

WGSTAL

2009/2/ACOM22 The **Fishery Statistics Liaison Working Group** [WGSTAL] (Chaired by: Franco Zampagna, IT), Eurostat) will meet in Luxembourg 3–4 June 2010, 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 11 June 2010 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

	<p>than 50 participants. (ICES member countries, most EU and accession countries and several IGOs).</p> <p>WGSTAL will meet together with Eurostat’s Working Group “Fisheries Statistics”.</p>
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Closely linked to ACOM activities.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	

Ecosystem related Expert Groups

WGECO

2009/2/ACOM23 The **Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities** [WGECO] (Chaired by: Ellen Kenchington, Canada) will meet at ICES Headquarters, 7–14 April 2010 to:

- a) Assess the development of integrated ecosystem assessments, in particular focusing on how assessments will be used for the MSFD and considering the use of the IOC's (in press) best practice recommendations. This assessment would include a gap analysis in terms of the availability of suitable state and pressure indicators;
- b) Address the data analyses required to examine the relationships between perturbation and recovery capacity, or some other element of "cost", for ecosystem components where there is still little information available (e.g., habitats, benthos, fish assemblages, communities in general);
- c) Continue to work on the proportion of large fish EcoQO indicator for the North Sea;
- d) Review methods used to determine "good environmental status" under the WFD, HD and MSFD, including a discussion of reference points and indicators;
- e) Conduct a detailed, quantitative, evaluation of a limited number (2 or 3) of management schemes to assess the extent to which they actually reflect the high level definitions and are supported by a scientific evidence base. Possible case studies include the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the Norwegian Integrated Management Plan for the Lofoten-Barents Sea area. This would include the last four years of ecosystem-based management schemes. The plans should be assessed using a common framework.
- f) Extending marine assessment and monitoring framework used in Chapter 10 of the QSR 2010 (OSPAR request 2010/1)

To review the methodology used by the OSPAR workshop on the development of Chapter 11 of the QSR 2010 (Utrecht workshop) and taking into account, inter alia, ICES work on integrated assessment, provide advice on the following aspects:

- i) improvements that could be made to the thresholds between different assessment classes, including any scientific basis for proposed thresholds;
 - ii) extending the methodology to support the assessment of plankton communities; (Utrecht workshop)
 - iii) improving the method for working at different scales, such as the level of an OSPAR Region, the level of sub-Regions such as the Irish Sea or the Channel or the level of an estuary or an MPA;
- g) Environmental interactions of wave and tidal energy generation devices (Marine wet renewables). OSPAR request 2010/4

Provide advice on the extent, intensity and duration of direct and indirect effects and interactions of marine wet renewable energy production (wave, tidal stream and tidal barrage systems) with the marine environment and ecosystems of the OSPAR maritime area, and with pre existing users of these ecosystems, including:

- i) actual and potential adverse effects on specific species, communities and habitats;
- ii) actual and potential adverse effects on specific ecological processes;
- iii) irreversibility or durability of these effects.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGECO will report by 26 April 2010 to the attention of the Advisory Committee.

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) Integrated assessments are still undergoing development and revision. This ToR will assist that process by identifying gaps in knowledge to complete the process specifically as it pertains to the MSFD.</p> <p>Term of Reference b) Assessment of significant adverse impact of fisheries and other activities requires an ability to determine levels of damage which can be sustained without loss of ecosystem function. This ToR will review the methodology for determining relationships between perturbation and recovery capacity in selected ecosystem components.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) WGECO advanced its work on the proportion of large fish indicator in 2009, however new information arising from modeling efforts give reason to suppose that revisiting this ToR in 2010 will further advance our advice on this issue.</p> <p>Term of Reference d) In their 2009 report, WGECO endorsed a review of how high level policy terms were being implemented and referred to discussion at the 2009 International Wadden Sea Symposium (Wilhemshaven, Germany) where the status descriptors referring to 'good' conditions from WFD, HD and MSFD attracted a lively discussion and their practical implications remained partly contentious. WGECO proposes to begin its review of these terms, following on from its ToR A of 2009, with the "good environmental status" descriptor.</p> <p>Term of Reference e) WGECO has recommended to ACOM that this ToR be conducted and requests confirmation and suggestions of which plans to work on. Norway has been managing the Norwegian section of the Barents Sea as an ecosystem for four years now. This summer a joint Norwegian-Russian report on the status of the Barents Sea will be published in English, which will be an accessible document for all the members of the WGECO. In addition, Norway is preparing an evaluation of the management scheme these four years, for a national evaluation report in the spring next year. Inclusion of the plan came by suggestion of Norwegian members of the WGECO. The Baltic Sea Action Plan was viewed by WGECO as another plan which was similarly well-developed.</p> <p>Terms of Reference f) This is an OSPAR request (2010/1) and contributions are expected also from WGHAME and WGBEC.</p> <p>Terms of Reference g) This is an OSPAR request (2010/4)</p>

	<p>The utilisation of marine resources of wave and tidal energy for the generation of electricity is a new, but rapidly growing, sector of marine industry. Parts of the OSPAR area are particularly suitable for this type of development. Full or reduced scale devices have been tested at various locations, and the industry is now moving towards planning for the installation of arrays of full scale devices with commercial exploitation in mind.</p> <p>The industries are by no means mature, and there is considerable diversity in the engineering design of power generators, as well as uncertainty in the predicted interactions of the devices with the marine environment and its ecosystems (habitats and species).</p> <p>National and international targets for renewable energy production clearly indicate that development will be rapid over the next decade, and will continue beyond then to meet the need for low carbon technologies. The low level of understanding of the environmental interactions of these devices, and of appropriate mitigation measures, may tend to inhibit development, and also limit the degree to which marine spatial planning can contribute to positioning wet renewable energy within a framework of sustainable exploitation of the sea. Potentially significant interactions include those with protected species (e.g. marine mammals, seabirds) and habitats, coastal processes. A clear understanding of these interactions will be an important aspect of licensing of wet renewables developments, and will include assessments against the requirements of the EU Habitats and Species Directive, and Birds Directive, which in turn are linked with the OSPAR Biodiversity Strategy and assessment against OSPAR EcoQOs.</p> <p>The response is likely to be an initial response that tries to define the potential scope of the impacts and identify critical research needs. The advice might take the form of recommended monitoring and assessment pilot projects using this technology.</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 20–25 members and guests.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There are no obvious direct linkages with the Advisory Committees.
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 Fishing Activities.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The work of this group is sometimes aligned with similar work in FAO.
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.

WGMME

2009/2/ACOM24 The **Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology** [WGMME] (Chaired by: Sinead Murphy, UK) will meet in Horta, The Azores, from 12–15 April 2010 to:

- a) Review the effects of wind farm construction and operation on marine mammals and provide advice on monitoring and mitigation schemes;
- b) Review the current contaminant loads reported in marine mammals in the ICES area, the cause–effect relationships between contaminants and health status, and the population-level effects of environmental impacts;
- c) Further development of the framework for surveillance and monitoring of marine mammals applicable to the ICES area;
- d) Review and report on any new information on population sizes, population/stock structure and management frameworks for marine mammals;
- e) Provide information on abundance, distribution, population structure and incidental capture of marine mammals off the Azores;
- f) Review of the scope, objectives and technical issues of the initiative for a European Marine Mammal Tissue Bank;
- g) Update on development of the ICES seal database, status of intersessional work.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGMME will report to the attention of the Advisory Committee (ACOM) by 29 April 2010.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	
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 guests.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WGMME reports to ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	

SGBYC

2009/2/ACOM25 The **Study Group for Bycatch of Protected Species [SGBYC]**. (Chaired by: Simon Northridge, UK) will meet at ICES headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 1–4 February 2010 to:

- a) Review annual national reports submitted to the Commission under Regulation 812/2004: collate bycatch estimates and review mandatory and pilot projects and scientific studies carried out under thus regulation.
- b) Collate other recent estimates of bycatch of protected species (birds, mammals, reptiles, fish) in the ICES and EU regions;
- c) Review ongoing bycatch mitigation trials, compile recent results, upload relevant study details to “the database” and make recommendations for further work;
- d) Compile bycatch data intersessionally as described in our 2009 report, and assess the development and utility “the database”.
- e) Assess the scale of relevant discard survey data available at a national level and update the discard survey table.
- f) Continue to develop technical aspects of bycatch monitoring and assessment to improve and coordinate bycatch monitoring and assessment schemes: specifically in 2010 focusing on the how representative the monitoring data are with respect to the fleet data.
- g) Review and further develop the proposals for the ICES-NAMMCO workshop on Observation Schemes for Bycatch of Mammal and Bird Observation Schemes (WKOSBOMB)..

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

SGBYC will report by 1 March 2010 to the attention of the Advisory Committee.

Supporting Information:

PRIORITY:	HIGH
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Overall areas of interest: Unintended catches of non-commercial or limited commercial value species of conservation concern. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodologies of bycatch estimation; • Bycatch estimate clearing house; • Development and review of mitigation measures; • Co-ordinating activities conducted under EU Regulation 812/2004.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None beyond usual Secretariat facilities.
PARTICIPANTS:	13–21 members.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Secretariat support with meeting organisation and final editing of report.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGE TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	ACOM

LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGFTFB, WGMME, WGSE, WGEF, PGCCDBS, SCICOM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	NAMMCO, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMSM, GFCM, EC

WGDEC

2009/2/ACOM26 The **ICES-NAFO Working Group on Deepwater Ecology** [WGDEC] (Chaired by: Robert J. Brock, USA) will meet at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, 22–26 March to:

- a) Continue to update coldwater coral and sponge maps;
- b) Assess the association of fish species with sponge grounds using trawl survey data where available;
- c) Review the science used in assessing vulnerable marine ecosystems and the “Encounter Clause”; and
- d) Monitoring methodologies for ocean acidification (OSPAR request 2010/2)
 - i) Provide, on the basis of a review of existing methodologies and experience, recommendations for cost efficient methods for monitoring ocean acidification (OA) and its impacts, including possibilities for integrated chemical and biological monitoring. Specifically this should provide:
 - ii) advice on appropriate spatial and temporal coverage for monitoring, considering different oceanographic features and conditions and key habitats/ecosystems at risk from OA in the OSPAR maritime area,
 - iii) advice on the status and maturity of potential indicators of OA impacts, on species, habitats and ecosystems that could be considered for inclusion in OSPAR monitoring programmes.
- e) Impacts of human activities on cold water corals and sponge aggregations (OSPAR request 2010/5)
 - i) Provide advice on impacts of human activities on cold water corals and deep sea sponge aggregations including:
 - ii) total amounts and % of these habitats affected by human activity over the past decade, on a year by year basis, in the OSPAR Maritime Area;
 - iii) specific sites within the North-East Atlantic where records show that more than 100kg of live coral or 1000 kg of live sponges have been have been trawled as a result of human activities in the past;
 - iv) what is known about the status of coral reefs and sponge aggregations in these areas
 - v) recovery rates of these species if and when damaged or removed;
 - vi) possibilities for re-creation of these habitats
- f) Comment and make proposals for improvements on draft of a Best Practice Manual for scientific surveys in areas closed to fishing (NEAFC Request).
- g) Summarize the environmental factors influencing sponge distribution in the North Atlantic based on the distribution of sponge *taxa*.
- h) Provide a description of sponge species occurring at depths greater than 1500 m.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGDEC will report by 9 April 2010 to the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem affects of fishery, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.</p>
<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>Term of Reference a) 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) 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>WGDEC has reviewed the literature on the association of sponge grounds with fish and other fauna. With the location of the sponge grounds now mapped it should be possible to evaluate the association of fish within these areas through analyses of the trawl survey data. Specifically, comparisons of fish catch and diversity inside and outside sponge grounds at similar depths and areas could be statistically analysed. It is expected that further information on the sponge species constituting the sponge grounds on the NW Atlantic will be available in 2009. This will allow for biogeographical assessment and examination of the environmental factors responsible for creating sponge habitat and determining community composition. WGDEC feels that there is now sufficient data to produce a summary of the sponge species inhabiting depths below 1500 m in the North Atlantic and that such a summary would be useful, in particular to researchers working at such depths. Data gaps from western Greenland and the NE USA have been identified, and in the event that more information from those areas is provided to the WGDEC, maps on the distribution of sponge grounds in the North Atlantic should be updated. Sponges have been identified as key components of vulnerable marine ecosystems by FAO. It is expected that the work produced under this and previous ToRs will have direct relevance to NAFO, NEAFC, ICES and other organizations concerned with the protection of VME.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) Using existing scientific knowledge and data, assess the VME (vulnerable marine ecosystem) 'encounter rules' for commercial vessels as currently formulated by NAFO and NEAFC, taking into account similar rules in other regions, and offering suggested refinements, as appropriate.</p> <p>RFMOs globally have been seeking to implement the requirements of the UN 2006 Resolution 16/105 with regard to protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems from the effects of bottom fishing. In doing so, scientific advice has routinely been sought (e.g. mapping the distribution of corals and sponges). Section 83 (d) of the resolution calls for fishing activities to cease where, in the course of fishing operations, vulnerable marine ecosystems are encountered. WGDEC proposes to review the scientific advice on what constitutes such an encounter and to suggest approaches that would best fit the situation in the North Atlantic. Currently, NEAFC and NAFO have provisionally stated that in a single trawl tow, up to 100 kg of live corals and 1000 kg of live sponges may be caught as bycatch before fishing operations should cease and move on.</p> <p>Terms of Reference d) This is an OSPAR request 2010/2 and WGZE will contribute to this request and MCWG will contribute with chemical aspects.</p> <p>Terms of Reference e) This is an OSPAR request 2010/5 and there might be contributions from WGDEEP. NEAFC has informed that only VCMS data is available.</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:	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. NAFO

AGMAN

2009/2/ACOM27 An *Ad hoc* Group on the Development of a Best Practice Manual for scientific surveys in areas closed to fishing (AGMAN), Chaired by Leonie Dransfield* (Ireland), will be created and meet at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, in September/October 2010 for 2–3 days to: **NO MEETING HELD**

- a) Finalise the Best Practice Manual for scientific surveys in areas closed to fishing;

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

AGMAN will report by XX Month 2010 to the attention of ACOM.

Environmental related Expert Groups

WGBOSV

2009/2/ACOM28 The **ICES/IOC/IMO Working Group on Ballast and other Ship Vectors** [WGBOSV] (Chaired by: Tracy McCollin*, UK) will meet in Hamburg, Germany 8–10 March 2010 (back to back with WGITMO with a common session) to:

- a) Continue to critically review and report on the status of shipping vector research with an emphasis on new developments in ballast water treatment technology, risk assessment, ballast water sampling devices, and selection of ballast water exchange zones to contribute to guidelines currently in preparation by IMO, and to address areas of specific interest, e.g. chemical contaminant and microbiology in ballast water and sediment,
- 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) Discuss and evaluate the sampling strategies under consideration at IMO and provide comment with the aim to prepare a written submission to relevant IMO committees in response to requested information. Statistical experts will be invited to attend and contribute at the meeting,
- d) Continue and elaborate the cooperation with PICES WG 21,
- e) 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 to the benefit of ICES SGCC (Steering Group on Climate Change).

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGBOSV will report by 20 March 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

WGITMO

2009/2/ACOM29 The ICES Working Group on Introduction and Transfers of Marine Organisms [WGITMO] (Chaired: Judith Pederson, USA) will meet in Hamburg, Germany, 10–12 March 2010 to:

- a) 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 invasions and other 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. We will add a section to our format on eradication methods undertaken by countries that have been used and whether or not they have been successful.
- b) Review options for utilizing existing databases and information resources (in ICES countries and elsewhere) to provide a more complete picture of introduced species distribution.
- c) Publish the *Crassostrea gigas* report. And explore the opportunities for the development of short communications materials on species of concern to be peer reviewed and published by ICES on the web or elsewhere.
- d) Continue to develop and discuss joint activities with PICES WG 21 during intersession that furthers cooperation and communication for resources sharing and information on introduced species (example: databases).
- e) Identify the criteria used by ICES countries to develop lists of high, moderate and low risk for intentional introductions and for those introduced species already established.
- f) Finalize the 5 year summary report (2003–2007) during intersession. Note: WGITMO has a draft five-year report, but it is missing a fisheries section including in this report.
- g) Prepare a draft of the 25-year report based on earlier National reports, literature, and other ICES country information, based on new discussions about how best to present this information to be most useful to ICES member countries. We will discuss how best to accomplish this with ICES.
- h) Finalize preparation of a draft report on the different approaches taken by ICES countries on targeted fisheries of nonindigenous species and the impact that these fisheries have had in reducing the spread and abundance of nonindigenous species. This will require intercessional preparation and editing of the report.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGITMO will report by 22 March 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of the Group is the basis for essential advice to prevent future unintentional movements of invasive and/or deleterious aquatic species including disease agents and parasites with the legitimate trade in species required for aquaculture, table market, ornamental trade, fishing and other purposes and to assess the potential of species moved intentionally to become a nuisance in the area of introduction. The work of this Group supports the core role of ICES in relation to planned introductions and transfers of organisms.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO	a) We want to document successful eradication efforts by ICES countries and identify those that were unsuccessful and why they failed. This information should be of use to developing rapid response plans.

ACTION PLAN:	<p>b) We have been developing a simple excel database on new introductions or expanding introductions and will be requesting that ICES adopt the data and maintain the database for the Working Group and ICES countries to access.</p> <p>c) We request that the Final <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> report be published by ICES. The draft is attached, final not yet received.</p> <p>d) We plan joint meetings with PICES at International Conferences and the chairs of the Working Group on Introductions and Transfers has attended PICES meetings. We propose to continue to explore options for collaboration, particularly focusing on database management options for introduced species.</p> <p>e) One of the issues raised is the ranking of invaders as high, moderate, and low risk for intentional introductions. Each country has its own criteria, but these are often contradictory between and among the ICES countries. There is a need to identify criteria used and to develop assessments that are consistent and/or identify a process for reconciling differences. Intersessionally we will compile these criteria and review them..</p> <p>f) We have not been able to finalize the 5-year report and would propose integrating the five year report into a more comprehensive report as discussed in ToR f.</p> <p>g) In reviewing the data from the first two ten year reports, we identified many gaps in the data from countries that did not report and data that was overlooked. In addition some species are identified once, but not further information on their establishment is discussed. We are proposing to request that we reorganize the report to include data from National databases, literature and the ICES Annual reports to provide a comprehensive, and list of species that reflects current nomenclature and addresses reports that remain unverified.</p> <p>h) Once species like the Chinese mitten crab are released and established, they may become a target for a fished species. Intersessionally, WGITMO will compile country records of nonindigenous species that have become targeted fisheries and report on the success of this effort next year.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None required other than those provided by ICES Secretariat and national members
PARTICIPANTS:	<p>WGITMO members and invited experts from, e.g., Australia, New Zealand, Mediterranean countries that are not members of ICES, representatives of relevant PICES WGs.</p> <p>WGITMO recommends inviting experts with relevant expertise to contribute to the Aliens Species Alert reports and experts from countries which have developed/are developing rapid response plans.</p>
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, CIEM.

SGIMC

2009/2/ACOM30 The Study Group on Integrated Monitoring of Contaminants and Biological Effects (SGIMC) (Co-chairs: Dr Ian M Davies, UK and Dick Vethaak, NL will meet at ICES Headquarters 25–29 January 2010 to:

- a) To receive Background Documents and draft assessment criteria from ICES WGBEC on:
 - i) Acetyl cholinesterase
 - ii) Mussel histopathology
 - iii) Micronucleus and Comet assay
 - iv) MT and ALA-D
 - v) Intersex in fish

and to assess their usefulness in integrated assessments.

- b) To receive Background Documents and draft assessment criteria from SGIMC Aberdeen Workshop planned for October 2009 on:
 - i) EROD
 - ii) Bile metabolites
 - iii) DNA adducts
 - iv) DR-CALUX
 - v) Contaminant-linked fish disease (liver neoplasm)

and to assess their usefulness in integrated assessments.

- c) To elaborate plans for the SGIMC Workshop proposed to be held in Spain in June 2010.
- d) To receive proposals for assessment criteria for vitellogenin and intersex in fish, and to assess their usefulness in integrated assessments.
- e) To continue towards the completion of the draft merged Guidelines for the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment of Contaminants and their effects and drafting the necessary Technical Annexes, including an annex on survey design, in the light of advice and work packages developed intersessionally by the co-chairs, and emerging requirements in other fora, for example implementation of WFD and MSFD.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

SGIMC will report by 1 March 2009 for the attention of ACOM

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The current activities of this joint ICES/OSPAR Study Group are firmly directed at meeting the needs of both organizations for integration of chemical and biological effects measurements. The output also has strong application to the development of monitoring strategies and assessment criteria for Descriptor 8 of Good Environmental Status under Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>Term of Reference a) These outputs are expected to be delivered through the WGBEC process in 2009, either through draft agenda items or TIMES series documents. SGIMC will take the output from WGBEC and consider how the proposed assessment criteria could be used in integrated assessment.</p> <p>Term of Reference b) This task is to review a comparable set of outputs from the Aberdeen Workshop planned for October 2009. It is expected that these documents will be available well before SGIMC.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) It is important that the 2010 Workshop in Spain is planned and made available to the widest range of relevant organisations and laboratories.</p> <p>Term of Reference d) The underlying documents for this item are to be developed intersessionally by the UK. VTG is an important biomarker for endocrine disruption and is a key parameter for monitoring of ED effects.</p> <p>Term of Reference e) This is an OSPAR request (2008/8). The details of this task will be elaborated by the co-chairs intersessionally. The completion of the Guidelines and associated technical Annexes is an important step in the implementation of integrated monitoring.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	The research and monitoring programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway. Additional activities are proposed through a series of Workshops. The additional resource required to undertake activities in the through meetings of SGIMC is negligible.
PARTICIPANTS:	Anticipated attendance is approximately 20 people. The developments under MSFD may attract visitors from outside the ICES.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The output from this SG is directly linked to the needs of OSPAR (and probably the EU) for advice on assessment methods and criteria, and integration of chemical and biological monitoring.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There is valuable working relationship between SGIMC and other environmental expert groups, particularly WGBEC, WGMS and MCWG. The collaboration is partly effected through joint memberships.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	The work of this group is closely aligned with the work of OSPAR (ASMO) and HELCOM, for example data assessments by OSPAR MON. It is likely that MSFD will lead to linkages with other regional Conventions.

NEW EXPERT GROUPS and other 2010 meetings(Except PGCCDBS Wks)

Dialogue Meeting on Implementing the ecosystem approach

2009/2/ACOM31 14th Dialogue Meeting on Implementing the ecosystem approach will be held XX Month 2010 in Galway, Ireland with Malcolm Windsor (NASCO), Robert O'Boyle (Canada), Mark Tasker (UK), and Dave Reid (Ireland) as Co-Conveners. **MEETING POSTPONED**

Supporting Information

Priority:	Specify why the symposium is of high priority for ICES.
Scientific justification:	Specify the relevance of the topic for the ICES Strategic Plan, especially for the science and advisory goals here. Outline if the topic has potential to open a new field of marine science, or if it accentuates current science activities in ICES. Indicate if and how the topic will reinforce existing relationships with other organizations and institutions. Not to exceed half a page of text
Resource requirements:	Organizing a symposium entails significant resource requirements, all of which must be met by the imposition of a Conference Fee. Indicate where and why additional funding requirements will be expected.
Participants:	Indicate the range of participants from ICES member and other countries that can be anticipated.
Secretariat facilities:	The Secretariat may be involved in general professional and secretarial support, and the Secretariat may provide direct assistance during the Symposium. Indicate where secretariat involvement will be expected.
Financial:	Specify the amount of funding that conveners expect from ICES. Note that ICES typically contributes to funding of the Book of Abstracts, rent of conference facilities, travel and subsistence of keynote speakers or ICES conveners, and to support for early career scientists.
Linkages to advisory committees:	Specify here if the symposium topic is directly related to the remit of the ICES Advisory Committee which may support the symposium.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	Specify here if the symposium topic is directly related to the remit of one or several ICES Expert Groups which may support the symposium.
Linkages to other organizations:	Mention here the organizations in question and the contact person(s), if applicable
Publication of proceedings	Indicate if conveners plan to use the ICES Journal of Marine Science for the proceedings, if the volume is expected to exceed 250 pages, and how then funding will be accomplished. If known, mention whom you expect to be the guest editor. State explicitly that conveners agree to the 15-month turnaround schedule for publication, if you plan on the IJMS.

WKSXIV

2009/2/ACOM32 The Workshop on the use of survey information in ICES XIVb and NAFO area 1 [WKSXIV] (Chair: (to be decided)) will be established and meet in Reykjavik late 2010/early 2011 to: **WORKSHOP CANCELLED**

- a) Explore/develop suitable indicators for stock development using available survey time series information in the areas.
- b) Develop robust procedures to enable corrections in biomass/abundance indices for years when parts of the survey area are not covered.
- c) Evaluate the usefulness of potential approaches, as e.g. transformations, to deal with high "leverage" hauls in the surveys.
- d) Evaluate the appropriate strata sizes of the East Greenland bank areas in lieu of available knowledge. Recommend supplementary research approaches if needed.
- e) Apply and test the approaches developed on the relevant survey time series

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WKSXIV will report by xx for the attention of the NWWG and ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High. Surveys presently provide the essential information for assessing the the stocks in ICES area XIV/NAFO Subarea 1.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The NWWG has identified of number of potential approaches that may enhance the usefulness of existing survey information for stock assessment purposes. The development of improved stock indicators requires intersessional work the that need be carried out in a joint NWWG workshop.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the workshop.
PARTICIPANTS:	These would include the NWWG experts working with relevant surveys and assessments.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	This group is likely to have limited demand on the ICES Secretariat.
FINANCIAL:	None specific.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACON
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	NAFO Scientific Council.
SECRETARIAT MARGINAL COST SHARE:	

WKOSBOMB

2009/2/ACOM33 A Joint Workshop with NAMMCO on observation schemes for bycatch of mammals and birds (WKOSBOMB) (co-) chaired by Simon Northridge*, United Kingdom, will be established and will meet in ICES Headquarters, Denmark, 28 June – 1 July 2010 to:

- a) Review and describe the advantages and disadvantages of existing observation schemes for marine mammals and seabirds;
- b) Recommend best practice when establishing and implementing bycatch observation schemes.

WGOSBOMB will report by 15 September 2010 for the attention of the Advisory Committee.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

The output from this workshop is linked to a CRR (see separate Resolution)

Supporting information

PRIORITY	High. ICES has been approached by NAMMCO with the intention of combining resources and expertise to address the issue of best practice in designing and implementing bycatch observation schemes..
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION	<p>Term of Reference a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review methods used to quantify bycatch of mammals (and other uncommon species) in commercial fishing operations 2. To provide an assessment of best practices for the development and implementation of such bycatch monitoring schemes, 3. To exchange information with NAMMCO on bycatch rates of shared stocks of species that are considered protected in EU waters. <p>Term of Reference b)</p> <p>SGBYC will elaborate a draft outline manual on bycatch monitoring schemes, this will be elaborated at the workshop and a final product will be a manual that will be considered by ACOM and published in a suitable publication series (to be decided) during 2011.</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	Between 20 and 30 participants are expected. NAMMCO funds will be used for some invited experts. The European Commission will be invited..
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES	The Atlantic Room plus one other breakout room for three days. Aside from the usual helpful attitude from the Secretariat, few other requirements are foreseen..
FINANCIAL	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES	ACOM will consider the final report with a view to possibly providing advice.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS	SCICOM (SSGHIE, SSGSUE, SSGESST), PUBCOM, WGFTFB, WGFAST
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS	NAMMCO, European Commission (DG Mare and DG Environment), ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, OSPAR would all be interested.

PGRFS

2009/2/ACOM34 A **Planning Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys** [PGRFS] (Co-Chairs Harold Levrel* (France) and Dave Van Voorhees* (USA)) will be held in Bergen, 7–11 June 2010, to:

- a) Develop guidelines for best practices for sampling recreational fisheries, and formulate procedures for identifying and quantifying biases in sampling and survey schemes and precision of estimates, for inclusion in the ICES Quality Assurance framework.
- b) Review sampling strategies, protocols, and levels to be proposed for implementation within the EU Data Collection Framework and national centres responsible for sampling recreational fisheries;
- c) Agree a workplan for 2011 for further developing and finalising standards and best practices for sampling recreational fisheries, including recommendations for appropriate Workshops;

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

PGRFS will report for the attention of ACOM by 28 June 2010.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The Planning Group and any associated workshops are proposed in response to the EC-ICES MoU that requests ICES to provide support for the Data Collection Framework (EC Reg. 199/2008 and EC Decision 2008/949/EC). PGRFS will be complementary to PGCCDBS and PGMED and will be the ICES forum for planning and co-ordination of collection of recreational fishery data for stock assessment purposes. Building on the outcomes of the PGCCDBS Workshop on Sampling Methods for Recreational Fisheries (WKS MR F) in 2009, it will coordinate and initiate the development of methods, and develop and adopt sampling standards and guidelines. Many activities in this group will be closely linked to the activities of the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF), and DG MARE should be a member of PGRFS to ensure proper coordination with the DCF activities. Stock assessment requires data covering the total removal from the fish stocks and the PG will serve as a forum for coordination with non-EU member countries where appropriate. The PG shall develop and approve standards for best sampling practices within its remits and for recreational fisheries in the ICES area, in line with the ICES Quality Assurance Framework. The implementation of these practices will be discussed regionally and implemented nationally. The PG will coordinate initiatives for workshops and other activities to address specific problems. The success of the workshops will require a substantial amount of preparatory work in the laboratories. This preparatory work will be the responsibility of the national laboratories. ICES will be informed that this work is included in the national annual DCF work plans.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chairs no later than March 31 2010 on their intention to attend the PGRFS. Participants should follow chairs' request and deadlines on data submission and (or) work to be presented. This information will be circulated later by e-mail correspondence.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM

WGMIXFISH

2009/2/ACOM35 The **Working Group on Mixed Fisheries Advice for the North Sea** [WGMIXFISH] (Chair: Steven Holmes*, UK) will meet at ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark from 31 August – 3 September 2010 to:

- a) carry out mixed demersal fisheries projections for the North Sea taking into account the single species advice for cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, plaice, sole and *Nephrops norvegicus* that is produced by ACOM in June 2010, and the management measures in place for 2010;
- b) update the mixed fisheries annex for the North Sea based upon the format provided by AGMIXNS; and
- c) produce a draft mixed-fisheries section for the ICES' advisory report 2010 that includes a dissemination of the fleet and fisheries data and forecasts based upon the format provided by AGMIXNS.

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGMIXFISH will report by 10 September 2010 for the attention of 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 its client 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 and finished on 31 March 2009 developed further methodologies for mixed fisheries forecasts. The work under this project included the development and testing of the Fcube approach to modelling and forecasts.</p> <p>In 2008, SGMIXMAN produced an outline of a possible advisory format that included mixed fisheries forecasts. Subsequently, WKMIXFISH was tasked with investigating the application of this to North Sea advice for 2010. AGMIXNS further developed the approach when it met in November 2009 and produced a draft template for mixed fisheries advice.</p> <p>The new working group will be tasked with applying the mixed fisheries forecasts to the North Sea advice that is approved and released by ACOM.</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. The participants from the last WKMIXFISH meeting held in August 2009 are encouraged to attend; namely, Clara Ulrich Rescan (Denmark), Irene Huse (Norway), Stuart Reeves (UK), Willy Vanhee (Belgium) and Youen Vermard (France).
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities, production of report.
FINANCIAL:	None
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	SCICOM through the WGMG.

LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	This work serves as a mechanism in fulfilment of the MoU with EC and fisheries commissions.
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FIMPAS1

2009/2/ACOM54 A **FIMPAS Workshop 1** (FIMPAS1) will be established chaired by Paul Connolly* (Ireland) on 22–24 February, 2010 in the Netherlands (details to be decided) to:

- a) establish the data basis which is input to the discussions in the two following workshops FIMPAS Workshop 2 and FIMPAS workshop 3. These data include three main groups: 1) documentation of the fisheries within the designated sites, and 2) data on ecological impacts that these fisheries have on sites in relation to conservation objectives as specified by Netherlands, and 3) the geographical distribution of ecological values to be protected.
- b) based on data prepared prior to the workshop and any additional data brought to the workshop, assess the presence and sufficiency of the data for the FIMPAS project.

FIMPAS1 will report by 31 March 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

FIMPAS2

2009/2/ACOM55 A **FIMPAS Workshop 2** (FIMPAS2) will be established and chaired by Paul Connolly (Ireland) on June, 28–30, 2010 in the Netherlands (details to be decided) to:

- a) Assess the fisheries impact on the designated Natura 2000 sites on the basis of a working document that analyses the potential conflicts. The FIMPAS steering group is responsible for the production of this working paper. Stakeholders are invited to provide such additional working documents.
- b) Investigate the user conflicts between fisheries and nature protection on the basis of the results of FIMPAS Workshop 1

FIMPAS2 will report by 1 August 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

BENCHMARK WORKSHOPS

WKROUND

2009/2/ACOM36 A **Benchmark Workshop on Roundfish [WKROUND]** (External Chair: Richard Methot, USA) and ICES coordinator: Einar Hjörleifsson (Iceland) and three invited external experts: Andrew Applegate (USA), Patrick Sullivan (USA), Daniel Howell (Norway) will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 9–16 February 2010 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
Faroe saithe (Division Vb)	Luis Ridao Cruz
Icelandic saithe (Division Va)	Höskuldur Björnsson
Northeast Arctic saithe (Subareas I and II)	Sigbjorn Mehl
Northeast Arctic haddock (Subareas I and II)	Sondre Aanes
Northern stock of hake (Division IIIa, Subareas IV, VI and VII, and Divisions VIIIabd)	Michel Bertignac
Southern stock of hake (Divisions VIIc and IXa)	Santiago Cervino

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 2 March 2010

WKFLAT

2009/2/ACOM37 A **Benchmark Workshop on Flatfish Species (WKFLAT)** (External Chair: William B. Brodie (Canada) and ICES coordinator: David Millar (Netherlands) and two invited external experts: Bill Clark (USA) and Darren Gillis (Canada)) will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 25 February – 4 March 2010 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
Sole in Division IIIa (Skagerrak and Kattegat)	Jesper Boje
Plaice in VIId	Joel Vigneau
Sole in Subarea IV	Doug Beare
Plaice in VIIe	Sven Kupschus

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 19 March 2010

The workshop will be set up along the following lines;

- Day 1: Review of current methods and data
- Day 2: Consideration of proposals of new input data
- Day 3: Updating method proposals in line with latest data input
- Day 4: Review of proposals for new methods
- Day 5-6: Analysis of candidate methods
- Day 7-8: Report preparation and adoption.

WKDEEP

2009/2/ACOM38 A **Benchmark Workshop on Deep Water Species (WKDEEP)** (Chaired by: Richard Hillary (Australia) and ICES coordinators: Tom Blasdale (UK) and Phil Large (UK) and two invited external experts) will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 17–24 February 2010 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
Roundnose grenadier in Division Vb and Sub-areas VI and VII	Lionel Pawlowski
Greater Silver smelt in all areas	Gudmundur Thordarson and Elvar Hallfredsson
Tusk in Division Va	Gudmundur Thordarson
Red (blackspot) seabream in Sub-area X	Mario Rui Pinho
Deep-water squaliform sharks in all areas	Ivone Figueiredo
Greater forkbeard	Guzmán Díez

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 8 March 2010

Supporting Information:

PRIORITY:	
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p><u>Roundnose grenadier in Division Vb and Sub-areas VI and VII:</u> This species presents major assessment challenges largely driven by: life-history characteristics (long-lived (~60 years) and slow growing), changes in exploitation pattern resulting from changes in the geographical and depth distribution of trawl fisheries in relation to stock distribution, a lack of fisheries-independent survey data, and discontinuity in the availability of time-series discard data (fisheries on this stock generate high discards) and of age data. Abundance indices based on French trawl catch and effort data are available but their use in assessments is problematic because of changes in spatial and depth distribution of fishing and also changes fleet composition/fishing power. Time-series length distribution data are available for French trawl landings. Time series haul by haul data on catch and effort by French trawlers, collected in collaboration with the industry, is now available. Separable VPA was used for an exploratory assessment in 2009.</p> <p><u>Greater Silver smelt in all areas:</u> This species is long-lived (~40 years) and slow growing but is benthic-pelagic and targeted largely by pelagic trawlers. Time-series length and age data are available for some areas. Exploratory assessment methodologies used include acoustic surveys (in IIa) and, in 2009, XSA (Vb).</p> <p><u>Tusk in Division Va:</u> This is a gadoid species and as such is not particularly long-lived (20-30 years) or slow growing. It is caught largely as a by-catch in long-line fisheries for other species. Age data are sparse but there are survey data. Length distribution data are available from surveys and commercial landings. Gadget was used for an exploratory assessment in 2009.</p> <p><u>Red (blackspot) seabream in Sub-area X:</u> This species is not particularly long-lived (15-20 years) or slow-growing but is a protandric hermaphrodite (changes sex as it grows). Fisheries are artisanal (long-lines and hand-lines) and are mostly prosecuted on seamounts. Survey data are available as are length and age data. Separable VPA and XSA have been previously trialled; however, an exploratory assessment was not attempted in 2009.</p> <p><u>Deep-water squaliform sharks in all areas:</u> These include the Portuguese dogfish and the leafscale gulper shark, and are mostly long-lived (up to 60 years). Length and age data are not available and historical landings data are not available by species (although in recent years the quality of landings data has improved). Haul by haul data from French trawlers fishing in Vb, VI and VII by species back to the mid-1990s were made available in 2008. Directed fisheries for these species are currently not permitted but they are still taken as a small by-catch in other fisheries.</p> <p><u>Greater forkbeard:</u> This is a gadoid species and is considered likely to exhibit typical gadoid life history characteristics, although these are not known with any accuracy. Commercial landings are significant but this is almost entirely a bycatch species taken in other fisheries. Exploratory assessments have not yet been attempted.</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	WGDEEP and WGEF members, ecosystem integration experts, data quality experts, stakeholders
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None

FINANCIAL:	None required
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	ACOM
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGDEEP, WGEF
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	

PGCCDBS and Related Workshops

PGCCDBS

2009/2/ACOM39 The **Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling** [PGCCDBS] (Co-Chairs: Christoph Stransky, Germany, and Kjell Nedreaas, Norway) will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, 1–5 March 2010, to:

- a) Review and follow up of last year's recommendations and intersession work;
- 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 proposals for changes in data collection, that may have a potential impact on stock assessment, and summarise these changes for consideration by the Assessment Working Groups;
- d) Report on the implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) into stock assessments and advise on the further development of InterCatch,
- e) Review available methods and equipment to improve the data collection from fisheries. Report on the effectiveness of self sampling programmes versus traditional observer programmes.
- f) Agree a workplan for 2011 for further developing and finalising standards and best practices for sampling commercial fisheries;

Material and data relevant for the meeting must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

PGCCDBS will report for the attention of ACOM by 20 March 2010.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Essential
Scientific justification:	<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. 199/2008, 665/2008 and Decision 2008/949/EC).</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 Mare 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 remits 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>

Priority:	Essential
	The meeting is placed in Lisbon, Portugal, as this meeting shall be held in parallel with the corresponding group for the Mediterranean EU fisheries (PGMED)
Resource requirements:	
Participants:	Scientists involved in the EU Data Collection Framework and other data collection schemes, usually 30-40 participants.
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	SciCom, fish stock assessment working groups (AFWG, HAWG, NWWG, NIPAG, WGWIDE, WGBAST, WGBFAS, WGNSSK, WGCSE, WGDEEP, WGHMM, and WGANSA)
Linkages to other organizations:	DG Mare (DCR)

WKMERGE

2009/2/ACOM40 The **Workshop on methods for merging fleet metiers for fishery based sampling [WKMERGE]** (Co-Chairs: Mike Armstrong*, UK, and Jon Helge Vølstad*, Norway) will be established and take place at ICES HQ, 19–22 January, to:

- a) Review the definition and suitability of the sample frames used by each Member State for collecting data on metier-related biological variables required under the EU Data Collection Framework. The need for consistent approaches between Member States to meet overall objectives will be addressed.
- b) Develop guidelines for determining the appropriateness for merging metiers or vessel LOA classes at the national and regional scale.
- c) Review and develop probability-based sampling designs (appropriate for the frames defined in ToR a) that will provide the required metier-related biological data. This should be done using case studies that take into account the requirements for reporting bias and precision.
- d) Develop guidelines for estimating biological and catch characteristics for collapsed (i.e. combined) metiers in cases of non- or poorly-sampled strata or metiers.
- e) Develop guidelines for a consistent approach to documenting the statistical design of sampling schemes for metier-related biological variables in each Member State's National Programme.

WKMERGE will report by 5 February 2010 for attention of PGCCDBS, RCMs, STECF/SGRN; ACOM

Supporting information

Priority:	Essential
Scientific justification:	<p>This Workshop is essential for the implementation of the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF; Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 and EC Decision 2008/949/EC), in particular for the second phase (2011-2013). The DCF requires Member States to collect concurrent length composition data for all or a predefined assemblage of species, simultaneously in the catches or landings of vessels, for nationally important fleet metiers identified using a ranking system according to landings, value or effort. Decision 2008/949/EC states that <i>"In order to optimise the sampling programmes, the metiers defined in Appendix IV (1 to 5) may be merged. When metiers are merged (vertical merging), statistical evidence shall be brought regarding the homogeneity of the combined metiers. Merging of neighbouring cells corresponding to fleet segments of the vessels (horizontal merging) shall be supported by statistical evidence. Such horizontal merging shall be done primarily by clustering neighbouring vessel LOA classes, independently of the dominant fishing techniques, when appropriate to distinguish different exploitation patterns. Regional agreement on mergers shall be sought at the relevant regional coordination meeting and endorsed by STECF."</i> The North sea and Eastern Atlantic regional coordination Meeting in 2008 noted that Member States had proposed their own mergers, based on implementation constraints (availability of fisheries statistics, reduction of strata size, etc.) or on a scientific <i>a priori</i> grouping (e.g. gear types OTB and PTB, OTM and PTM, etc.). The RCM NS&EA was of the opinion that this way of merging metiers is acceptable given the obligation to have a pragmatic start of the new sampling programmes. However it was advised that the scientific evidence for metier mergers required by the new DCF needs to be evaluated once the first datasets are available, i.e. from 2010 onwards. It was recommended that the ICES PGCCDBS could be helpful in discussing the appropriate ways of carrying out these scientific analyses.</p> <p>The proposed workshop is required to ensure that Member States are defining fleet</p>

Priority:	Essential
	<p>metiers in a consistent manner and are adopting the most appropriate methods for identifying metiers to be merged. It is essential that metier definition and merging are done in such a way that the resulting merged metiers can be combined easily across Member States for analysis. The procedures adopted should lead to the optimum stratification of sampling for reducing bias and variance, and should draw on previous experience elsewhere in defining metiers.</p> <p>In addition to providing guidelines for merging of metiers prior to sampling, the Workshop will also provide advice on robust methods for collapsing poorly sampled strata prior to data analysis.</p> <p>To ensure an efficient and successful meeting, participants will be asked to prepare the following material for the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All Member States participants to provide a Working Document describing the basis for national metier definition and merging in 2009&2010; 2. Identified participants to prepare European case studies for examining applications of metier-merging methods. The PGCCDBS will liaise with RCMs to identify suitable case studies. The data for these case studies are to be available at the Workshop in the COST format. 3. Results of relevant metier-merging applications outside of Europe
Resource requirements:	
Participants:	Should include a cross section of end-users including stock assessment scientists, STECF, Commission, and statisticians. Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chairs no later than 15 th December 2009 on their intention to attend the WKMERGE. Participants should follow chairs' request and deadlines on data submission and (or) work to be presented. This information will be circulated later by e-mail correspondence.
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	Expert WGs; PGCCDBS
Linkages to other organizations:	EC – Data Collection Framework; Regional Coordination meetings

WKDRASS

2009/2/ACOM41 The **ICES Workshop on the Design of Regional Age Sampling Schemes [WKDRASS]** (Max Cardinale*, Sweden and Joel Vigneau*, France) will be established and take place at Nantes (France) to: **POSTPONED UNTIL 2011**

- a) Review existing methods used by ICES Expert Groups for estimating age compositions of international fishery catches from national sampling schemes
- b) Develop guidelines for setting up collaborative age sampling schemes – taking into account cluster sampling and effective sample size, spatial and gear-related variability in the probability of age at length, desired precision, requirements for sex-disaggregated data, and data management requirements.
- c) Compile information on alternative methods to estimate the age composition from length data and evaluate the data requirements for these methods

WKDRASS will report by XX 2011 for attention of ACOM.

Supporting information

Priority:	Essential
Scientific justification:	<p>The EU Data Collection Framework encourages the increasing development of collaborative age sampling schemes between member states. This requires appropriate quality assurance of the data while minimising the variance and risk of bias for the purpose of stock assessment. The Workshop will consider the appropriateness of existing sampling schemes and methods for estimating the age compositions for national and international fishery catches, and highlight important problems such as small effective sample size in relation to age diversity.</p> <p>The workshop will then develop guidelines for establishing collaborative sampling schemes, starting from the user-requirements for sampling coverage and precision by age, and identifying the steps that need to be taken to develop sampling schemes that take into account cluster sampling and effective sample size, spatial and gear-related variability in the probability of age at length, requirements for sex-disaggregated data, and requirements for data management. The effective sample size for estimates of proportions at age or length is a better measure of the information content than the actual number of fish sampled for age and length. The effective sample size takes into account that length and age samples are nested within primary sampling units (ports, trips, hauls), and also accounts for stratification and the number of primary sampling units sampled.</p> <p>The Workshop will also report on potential alternatives to the standard age-length key approach, for example using model-based approaches to quantify spatial or gear-related effects on the probability of age at length in samples, and identify the data requirements for such approaches.</p>
Resource requirements:	
Participants:	
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM

Linkages to other committees or groups:	Stock assessment Expert WG and PGCCDBS
Linkages to other organizations:	RCMs, PGMed ad STECF/SGRN

WKCOST

2009/2/ACOM42 The **Workshop on the implementation of the Common Open Source Tool (COST)** [WKCOST] (chair: Joël Vigneau*, France) will be established and take place in Nantes, France, 13–16 April 2010, to:

- a) Present the COST R bundle and the links between COST and other software projects, namely FishFrame, InterCatch, and FLR;
- b) Import data sets into R under the COST data structure;
- c) Explore data using the methods implemented in COST;
- d) Estimate parameters for stock assessment using the methods implemented in COST;
- e) Visualising data with COST;
- f) Expanding COST.

WKCOST will report by 3 May 2010 for attention of ACOM.

Supporting information

Priority:	Essential
Scientific justification:	<p>Issues about quality assurance are included in the current MoU between EC and ICES committing ICES to communicate any problems regarding data collected under the DCF Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 and EC Decision 2008/949/EC, and be responsible about the quality control of the aggregated data used for assessment.</p> <p>As part of this quality assurance, the approach proposed by PGCCDBS is based on a set of quality indicators computed for each parameter available for stock assessment. Three indicators are proposed (ICES CM 2007/ACFM:09): compliance with protocols, coverage of the sampling achieved and precision of the estimates. These quality indicators are under development in ICES within two dedicated workshops, WKACCU in 2008 that has dealt with the first two indicators and WKPRECISE in 2009 that will deal with the last one.</p> <p>The European project COST (http://wwz.ifremer.fr/cost) financed through the call for proposal FISH/2006/15 – lot 2, has developed R packages dedicated to raising and estimating statistical properties of data used for assessment. As such COST is an open source tool, integrating all the needs identified for the preparation of data for stock assessment, once the data has been collected. These needs include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. quality checks, exploratory analysis and validation of datasets as suggested by WKACCU 2. analysis of the stratification and possibility to re-stratify the dataset in relation to the demand, as required by the DCF i.e. merging métiers, areas (see proposal for WKMERGE). 3. raising procedures and precision estimates for <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) volume of discards (following closely the recommendations of the ICES WKDRP, 2007) (b) length and age structures of catches and landings (c) biological parameters such as mean weight at length/age, maturity at length/age and sex-ratio at length/age <p>Variations are estimated for each estimates, i.e. for every length and age classes in each of the strata. The forthcoming WKPRECISE will have the task of proposing a single precision indicator for each of the parameters, and COST has anticipated this in the structure of its resulting objects. It should then be an easy task to implement the WKPRECISE recommendations in COST as soon as they are known.</p> <p>COST has been designed to be used by responsible of field sampling for validating</p>

Priority:	Essential
	<p>and optimizing their sampling plan, and to be used by stock coordinators for the preparation of data for stock assessment. To that aim, COST includes exportation methods to FLR and to InterCatch.</p> <p>The use of COST tools by the largest number of scientists is to be promoted, although much caution must be brought to the efficiency of the training workshop.</p>
Resource requirements:	Proper training facilities are required as well as sufficient facilities concerning network connections.
Participants:	<p>It is expected that this workshop will attract a lot of participants. Therefore, it is suggested to choose participants with R programming skill and the potential to be COST contact persons in their respective countries. For ensuring the efficiency of the workshop, a maximum of two persons per participating countries should be strictly fixed.</p> <p>To ensure an efficient and successful meeting, participants will be asked to prepare datasets following the COST data exchange format in advance of the meeting. Examples of data importation from csv files are available on the COST website.</p>
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	Assessment Expert Groups, PGCCDBS, WKACCU, WKPRECISE, WKMERGER
Linkages to other organizations:	STECF/SGRN, and all RFMOs using data collected through the DCF : GFCM, ICCAT, IOTC

WKEID

2009/2/ACOM43 The **ICES Workshop on ecosystem indicators of discarding** [WKEID] (Chair: Katja Ringdahl*, Sweden, and Max Cardinale*, Sweden) will be established and take place in ICES HQ, 28 September – 1 October 2010, to:

- a) Data compilation and quality evaluation
 - i) Compile meta-data to show what data are available on discards in European waters.
 - ii) Evaluate the quality of discard data by year, area, fishery and stock.
 - iii) Identify the appropriate data for use in developing the indicator
- b) Evaluation and testing of indicators
 - i) Develop and evaluate methods for calculating a discards indicator that is sensitive to changes in discard rates and robust to changes in data collection.
 - ii) Provide the necessary supporting data on discard rates by stock and fishery to allow interpretation of the trends in the overall indicator.
- c) Draft the advice
 - i) Construct a time series of the following indicators:
 - Discarding rates of commercially exploited species
 - Discarding rates in relation to landed value

WKEID will report by 5 October 2010 for attention of ACOM.

Supporting information

Priority:	Essential
Scientific justification:	<p>The EU Data Collection Framework (DCF; Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 and EC Decision 2008/949/EC) requires the collection of data to construct an indicator on the discarding rates of commercially exploited species. The indicator is defined in the DCF as an indicator of the rate of discarding of commercially exploited species in relation to landings. The specified data required are: species, length and abundance of catches and discards based on respectively logbooks and observer trips processed separately. Data are to be linked to the level 6 for the metier classification (Appendix IV (1-5) of 2008/949/EC), meaning that data are required at the level of fishing ground, gear type, mesh band, target species. The DCF specifies collection of data on an annual basis with the exception of those which are specified to be collected at more disaggregated levels. The data specified for indicators in Appendix XIII of 2008/949/EC are to be collected at a national level in order to allow end-users to calculate the indicators at the relevant geographical scale, as given in Appendix II (sub-region/fishing ground, region or supra-region).</p> <p>Regulation 199/2008 requires Member States to collect discards data for metiers where discards are estimated to exceed 10 % of the total volume of catches. Discards will be monitored for the Group 1, 2 and 3 species (defined in Chapter III section B/B1/3 1 (f) of Decision 2008/949/EC) to estimate the quarterly average weight of discards. Furthermore, discards must be the subject of a quarterly estimate of the length distributions when they represent on an annual basis, either more than 10 % of the total catches by weight or more than 15 % of the catches in numbers for the Group 1 and Group 2 species, and — when discards take place for species length ranges which are not represented in the landings, age-reading must take place in accordance with the rules set out in Appendix VII of Decision 08/949/EC.</p>

Priority:	Essential
	<p>The revised DCF from 2009 should not result in major changes in discard collection methods compared to the previous regulations other than the additional stratification by fleet metiers.</p> <p>ICES has received a request from DG Mare on time series of several ecosystem indicators. PGCCDBS is responsible for an indicator concerning discard rates. PGCCDBS considers that a specific workshop on this subject will be the adequate approach to tackle this request.</p>
Resource requirements:	<p><u>Approach required</u></p> <p>The Workshop will comprise an initial data compilation and evaluation stage, and a methodological stage. National data will be evaluated for completeness and accuracy, leading to a selection of species and fleet metier data suitable for exploring the development of robust indicators. The methodological step will consider forms of indicator capable of providing accurate trends in discarding rates that are robust to any changes in data collection over time. The construction of an overall indicator of discarding relative to landings will require supporting time-series of discard rates by species and metier so that the reasons for changes in the indicator can be understood.</p> <p><u>Data requirements</u></p> <p>A key requirement for the Workshop will availability of all national discards data at the trip level for each geographic region. The data required will be confirmed by the WK chairs but will be expected to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers and weight of commercially exploited species discarded by trip, by length class - Numbers and weight of each species retained from each trip (where available) by length class - Trip details: nationality, Level-6 metier details (gear type, mesh size), operational data (year, month, effort [trip duration; hours fished], location data [ICES rectangle; fishing ground; region; supra-region]), sample data (number of hauls per trip and number sampled). Vessel LOA should also be provided. - Fleet transversal data for each country (number of trips, effort [days; hours, where appropriate, landings by species], by year, month and fishing ground), for Level-6 metiers and LOA bands as defined in Appendix IV of Decision 2008/949/EC. <p>Data should be provided in the COST format by mid-June 2010 in response to a call for national data to be issued by ICES together with the EC. All countries included in the data call will be required to supply the data listed above.</p> <p>In addition to the provision of data sets, each country is required to supply a description of the data, and an evaluation of the accuracy of the data sets for each by metier using the approaches recommended by WKACCU and COST.</p>
Participants:	
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM; PGCCDBS
Linkages to other committees or groups:	RCMs

WKARGH

2009/2/ACOM44 The **Workshop on Age Reading of Greenland Halibut [WKARGH]** (Chairs: Ole Thomas Albert, Norway, and Margaret Treble, Canada), will be established and take place in Vigo, Spain, 14–17 February 2011, to:

- a) Review information on age estimations, otolith exchanges, workshops and validation work done so far.
- b) Evaluate all available information on individual growth patterns in order to achieve a general consensus about the most probable levels of longevity and growth rates for the different stocks.
- c) Report on progress in studies of otolith growth axes based on samples from Greenland halibut injected with OTC or similar substances that makes a mark in the ageing structure.
- d) Report on progress of the compilation of biometrics data of Greenland halibut otoliths from all areas where such information has been collected and analysed.
- e) To revise the age estimation procedures and explore the possibilities to use supplementary information to verify estimated ages, this include: Otolith weight and/or morphometry, as well as Length distribution in surveys and catches.
- f) Exploring mathematical methods for estimating age composition of Greenland halibut catches to be used by ICES WG.
- g) To join international experts on growth, age estimation and assessment in order to progress towards a recommended procedure for future age determination of Greenland halibut.
- h) Based on results, conclusions and recommendations from this workshop to initiate and design an international exchange of otoliths for age reading after the workshop.
- i) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see ['PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration'](#))

WKARGH will report by 3 March 2010 for attention to ACOM.

Supporting information:

Priority:	Essential. Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Assessment of Greenland halibut 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, a WK should be carried out in order to evaluate available information on otolith growth patterns, age determination issues and the current situation of age estimation of Greenland halibut which has been subject of concern of ICES AFWG and NWWG and make progress towards a solution.
Scientific justification:	Recently, several publications suggest that what is at present the most commonly used age interpretation method for Greenland halibut severely underestimates age of older specimens. The last workshop (St. Johns, 2006) demonstrated that there was no agreement or understanding of the underlying growth patterns of this species. Since then several institutions have conducted tagging programs, ageing structure comparisons, and other work in order to validate seasonal zones in otoliths.

	<p>Since stock assessments are severely hampered by this lack of clarification, it is appropriate to arrange a workshop where the results of these investigations can be presented and discussed.</p> <p>For the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs an appropriate exchange programme will be carried out after the workshop in 2011. This will include a set of otoliths (images) collected partially from tagging material and from previous WKS.</p> <p>The aim of the workshop is to identify the state of art of age estimation after validation studies conducted so far.</p>
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, ICES NWWG and AFWG, and NAFO, the Workshop should try to include international experts on growth, age estimation and assessment in order to progress towards a solution. Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chairs no later than 1 November 2010 on their intention to attend the WKARG.
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups:	PGCCDBS, NWWG, AFWG and NAFO
Linkages to other organizations cost:	There is a direct link with the EU

WKARDAB

2009/2/ACOM45 The **Workshop on Age Reading of Dab** [WKARDAB] (Chair: Ulrich Damm*, Germany) will be established and take place in Hamburg, Germany, 16–19 Nov 2010, 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 dab otoliths.
- 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 distribution in surveys and catches.
- e) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see ['PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration'](#))

WKARDAB will report by 3 December 2010 for attention of ACOM.

Supporting information:

Priority:	Essential.
Scientific justification:	Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Assessment of dab 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 dab which has been subject of concern of ICES WGNEW and make progress towards a solution. For the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs an appropriate exchange programme with a set of otoliths will be carried out during the second half of 2009. 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.
Resource requirements :	Before starting the exchange programme, the scientific institutions should make a concerted effort to compile existing information on growth and 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 tries to join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution.
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or	PGCCDBS, WGBFAS and WGNEW

Priority:	Essential.
groups:	
Linkages to other organizations cost:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR
Secretariat marginal cost share:	

WKARP

2009/2/ACOM46 The **Workshop on Age Reading of North Sea (IV) and Skagerrak-Kattegat (IIIa) Plaice [WKARP]** (Chair: Loes Bolle*, The Netherlands) will be established and take place in IJmuiden (Wageningen-IMARES), The Netherlands, 2–5 November 2010, to:

- a) Review information on age estimations, otolith exchanges, workshops and validation work done so far.
- b) Use WebGR for image annotations and data analyses (provisional, depending on the successful implementation of WebGR)
- c) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see ['PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration'](#))

WKARP will report by 19 November 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting information:

Priority:	Essential. Age determination is an essential feature in the stock assessment of North Sea plaice and plaice in division IIIa, as age structured models are used to assess the status of the stock. Age composition data are provided by different countries and hence international age reading calibration is required. The previous North Sea plaice workshop was held in 2003, and no information is available on when the last workshop was held for Skagerrak-Kattegat plaice. Therefore a an age reading workshop for these plaice stocks is considered to be due.
Scientific justification:	An otolith exchange will be carried out in 2009 aiming at assessing the current age reading quality and signalling potential age reading problems. The exchange will include otolith sets from both the North Sea and Skagerrak-Kattegat. Digitised images of the otoliths will be used for annotations. The results of the exchange will be analysed prior to the workshop. The primary aim of the workshop is to identify current age reading problems and resolve interpretation differences between readers and laboratories. Furthermore the workshop is responsible for collating information on national procedures, compiling an age reading manual and collating an agreed age reference collection.
Resource requirements:	Before starting the exchange, the participating institutes should make a concerted effort to compile otolith reference sets by area and digitise images of these sets. Specialised equipment is required for microstructure analysis
Participants:	Age readers and scientists involved in otolith research, from institutes engaged in plaice age reading. The countries likely to participate in the plaice exchange and workshop are: The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Belgium and Sweden. Other countries which may participate despite the fact that they do not collect plaice otoliths in ICES areas IV and IIIa are France, Ireland and the UK. Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chair no later than 1 September 2010 on their intention to attend the WKARP. Participants should follow chairs' request and deadlines on data submission and (or) work to be presented: - deadline for data submission (exchange age readings and annotated images): 1 April 2010 - deadline for data analyses (exchange results): 1 August 2010
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM

Linkages to other committees or groups:	Direct link with WGNSSK and PGCCDBS
Linkages to other organizations cost:	Direct link with EU DCR

WKARMAC

2009/2/ACOM47 The **Workshop on the Age Reading of Mackerel [WKARMAC]** (Chair: Lotte A. Worsøe Clausen*, Denmark) will be established and take place in Lowestoft, England, September, 1-4 November, 2010, 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 mackerel otoliths.
- d) To revise the age estimation procedures and explore the possibilities to use supplementary information for validating estimated age structures, this include:
 - Otoliths weight distributions
 - Length distribution in surveys and catches.
- e) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see [PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration](#))

WKARMAC will report by 29th November ,2010 for attention of ACOM.

Supporting information:

Priority:	Essential. Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Assessment of mackerel 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 mackerel which has been subject of concern of ICES, and make progress towards a solution.
Scientific justification:	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. 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.
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:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	ACOM

Linkages to other committees or groups:	WGWIDE and PGCCDBS
Linkages to other organizations cost:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR
Secretariat marginal cost share:	

WKMSREGH

2009/2/ACOM48 **A Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Redfish and Greenland Halibut** [WKMSREGH] (Chairs: Fran Saborido-Rey*, Spain, and Agnes Gundersen*, Norway) will be established. **POSTPONED UNTIL AUTUMN 2011**

- a) agree on a common maturity scale for Redfish (*Sebastes mentella* and *S. marinus*) and Greenland halibut across laboratories comprising a comparison of existing scales and standardization of maturity determination criteria
- b) reduce sources of error on maturity determination validating macroscopic staging,
- c) establish correspondence between old and new scales to convert time series
- d) propose optimal sampling strategy to estimate accurate maturity ogives.
- e) address the generic ToRs adopted for maturity staging workshops (see '[PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Maturity Staging](#)')

WKMSREGH will report by 15 June 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information:

Priority:	Essential. 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. Redfish and Greenland halibut species are widely distributed in the North Atlantic with transboundary populations. It is highly recommended to organize this workshop in conjunction with NAFO.
Scientific justification:	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. The expectation of TOR a) 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. TOR c) is requested to validate with histological analysis the macroscopic maturity stage, mainly stages that are normally incorrectly classified (as resting). TOR c) should be addressed to assess and, if possible to correct, the impact on maturity historical series of the new agreed maturity scale. Finally, TOR d) should consider the ecology of the species, existent surveys, commercial sampling capacity and other considerations to define and recommend the optimal sampling strategy to estimate accurate maturity ogives.
Resource requirements:	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. Guidelines on how to prepare the Workshop, as well for collecting maturity data and histological analysis for the Workshop have been prepared and available in the PGCCDBS 2009 report (Annex 12).
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 Redfish and Greenland halibut. Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chairs no later than 26 th April 2010 on their intention to attend the WKMSREGH. Participants should follow chair's request and deadlines on data submission and (or) work to be presented.

Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	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 Redfish and Greenland halibut, namely AFWG, NWWG and NAFO as well as to survey groups like the PGRS and PGNEACS
Linkages to other organizations:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR.

WKMSHS

2009/2/ACOM49 A **Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Herring and Sprat** [WKMSHS] (Chairs: Jonna Tomkiewicz*, Denmark and Gerd Kraus*, Germany) will be established and will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, end February or June 2011 to:

- a) propose standardised maturity scales for Herring and Sprat for common use among laboratories including a comparison of existing scales and identification of reliable maturity determination criteria for females and males.
- b) reduce sources of error on maturity determination through validation of macroscopic maturity criteria using e.g. histological analysis and light microscopy.
- c) establish correspondence between old and new scales to convert presently applied maturity scales and interpret former time series.
- d) propose optimal sampling strategies and sampling times for accurate classification of maturity and.
- e) define procedures to estimate spawning frequency for sprat for use in the daily egg production method (DEPM).
- f) address the generic ToRs adopted for maturity staging workshops (see ['PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Maturity Staging'](#))

WKMSHS will report by xx 2011 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Essential. Age/size at sexual maturity is a biological parameter used in the calculation of maturity ogives and subsequently of the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB), while gonadal maturity status is important for the definition of the spawning season of a species, for the monitoring of long-term changes in the spawning cycle, and other research issues focusing on the reproduction biology of fish.
Scientific justification:	Laboratories involved in collection maturity data for the various stock assessment purposes are using different macroscopic maturity scales for the same species. Even those that use the same scale, may focus on slightly different aspects. This may lead to bias of data used in fisheries stock assessment models and other studies on reproduction biology. Therefore, this workshop has the objective to define objective criteria to classify the maturity status and propose reliable common scales to be used by all laboratories involved with the assessment of herring and sprat in ICES areas. The expectation of TOR a) is to develop a standardised scales and criteria for maturity determination of herring and sprat to be used by all relevant labs. TOR c) is requested to validate the macroscopic maturity stage using histological analysis and light microscopy, with emphasis on developmental stages that are often incorrectly classified (e.g. resting). TOR c) should be addressed to assess the effects of converting historical maturity series to the new standardised maturity scale. TOR d) should consider the ecology of the species, existent surveys, opportunities to include commercial sampling and other considerations to define and recommend the optimal sampling strategy to estimate accurate maturity. Finally, TOR e) should for sprat define procedures to estimate spawning frequency as required for the application of the DEPM that may be successfully applied to sprat as an alternative to catch based stock assessments.
Resource requirements:	Before the Workshop the organising institutes will elaborate a sampling plan to obtain samples for to be application in the workshop. The sampling will be carried out during from August 2009 through July 2010. Guidelines on how to prepare the Workshop, as well for collecting maturity data and histological analysis for the Workshop have been prepared and available in the PGCCDBS 2009 report (Annex 12)

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 Herring and Sprat.
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	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 Herring and Sprat stock assesemnt, namely HAWG, WGWIDE and WGBFAS, as well as to survey groups (PGIPS, PGNAPES, WGBIFS).
Linkages to other organizations:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR.

WKMSSEL

2009/2/ACOM50 A **Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Elasmobranches** [WKMSSEL] (Co-Chairs: Fabrizio Serena*, Italy, and Mark Dimech*, Malta) will be established and take place in Valetta, Malta, 11–15 October 2010, to:

- a) agree on a common maturity scale for Elasmobranches (sharks and rays) (a list of species will be defined by PGCCDBS and PGMed 2010 after receiving responses from participants) across laboratories comprising a comparison of existing scales and standardization of maturity determination criteria
- b) reduce sources of error on maturity determination validating macroscopic staging,
- c) establish correspondence between old and new scales to convert time series
- d) propose optimal sampling strategy to estimate accurate maturity ogives.
- e) address the generic ToRs adopted for maturity staging workshops (see '[PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Maturity Staging](#)')

WKMSSEL will report to ACOM by 29 October 2010.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Essential. 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.
Scientific justification:	<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 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 of 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>
Resource requirements:	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 2009/10. Guidelines on how to prepare the Workshop, as well for collecting maturity data and histological analysis for the Workshop have been prepared and available in the PGCCDBS 2009 report (Annex 12) .

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:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	
Linkages to other committees or groups:	There is a direct interest from several international (ICES, NAFO, GFCM, ICCAT) advisory committee for a common effort toward the standardization of assessing procedures. RCMs, PGMed and PGCCDBS
Linkages to other organizations:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR,

WKMSCEPH

2009/2/ACOM51 **A Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Cephalopods** [WKMSCEPH] (Co-Chairs: Paola Belcari*, Italy, and Danila Cuccu*, Italy) will be established and take place in Livorno/Pisa, Italy, 8–11 November 2010, to:

- a) Compare the macroscopic maturity scales used in the different laboratories for Octopoda (*Octopus vulgaris*, *Eledone cirrhosa*, *Eledone moschata*), Sepioidea (*Sepia officinalis*), Teuthoidea (*Loligo vulgaris*, *Loligo forbesi*, *Illex coindetii*, *Todaropsis eblanae*);
- b) Standardizes the criteria to classify each maturity stage to be used for DCR and discuss on the existing maturity scales;
- c) Validate macroscopic maturity stages according to the common standardized scales possibly using histological evidences and gonadal indices (e.g. gonadosomatic index, Hayashi index), as well as some macroscopical analyses on preserved specimens..
- d) Propose a common scale, with common classification criteria, to be used by all laboratories
- e) Organize a collection of photos to identify the peculiar aspects of each maturity stage for the different species.
- f) Formulate conversion rules to make possible the correspondence between the locally used scales and the common ones;
- g) address the generic ToRs adopted for maturity staging workshops (see ['PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Maturity Staging'](#))

WKMSCEPH will report to ACOM by 1 December 2010.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Essential. 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 species.
Scientific justification:	<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 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 cephalopod 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>

Priority:	Essential. 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 species.
	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.
Resource requirements:	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 2009-2010. Guidelines on how to prepare the Workshop, as well for collecting maturity data for the Workshop have been prepared and available in the PGCCDBS 2009 report (Annex 12).
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. Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chairs no later than March 27 th , 2010 on their intention to attend the WKMSCEPH. Participants should follow chairs request and deadlines on data submission and (or) work to be presented. This information will be circulated later by e-mail correspondence.
Secretariat facilities:	
Financial:	None
Linkages to advisory committee:	
Linkages to other 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. RCMs, PGMed and PGCCDBS
Linkages to other organizations:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR

WKMSSPDF

2009/2/ACOM52 **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

PRIORITY:	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.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<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 WGNSSDS, as well as to survey groups like the IBTSWG and WGBEAM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There is a direct link with the EU DCR.

WKHERMAT

2009/2/ACOM53 **A Workshop on estimation of maturity ogive in Norwegian spring spawning herring** (WKHERMAT), chaired by Erling K. Stenevik, Norway will be established and will meet in Bergen, Norway, 1–3 March 2010 to:

- a) compare back-calculated maturity at age estimates in Norwegian spring spawning herring with annual estimates derived directly from the ecosystem survey in May.
- b) develop guidelines for sampling data on maturity at age in Norwegian spring spawning herring, for use in assessment, in accordance with the PGCCDBS guidelines for collecting maturity data and maturity ogive estimation for stock assessment purpose (see PGCCDBS Report 2009, Annex 10).

WKHERMAT will report by 30 March 2010 for the attention of the ACOM .

Supporting information

Priority	The activities of this Group will provide guidelines for sampling data in order to obtain realistic maturity ogive for NSSH. Using different maturity ogives leads to considerable differences in the estimates of SSB for this stock, leading to inconsistent advice. Consequently, this work is considered to have a very high priority.
Scientific justification	<p>Different assumptions made on the maturation of the abundant 2002 year class lead to SSB estimates of NSSH which differed up to 1 million tonnes. There is no documentation for the values used in recent years. Maturity estimates from a back calculation analysis would allow updating the ogives used in the assessment for the historical period. However, data from back calculation studies do not provide information of maturation in recent years and these have to be derived from sampling programmes. An evaluation of the maturity at age information was planned for the benchmark assessment in 2008. However, no data were made available to carry such an analysis at the time. Such an evaluation would require much more time, than can be made available in an assessment working group, and the workshop is proposed to do the work.</p> <p>Previously, maturity at age was sampled in two surveys, one of which stopped in 2008. Guidance is required to set up an appropriate protocol for sampling this information for use in future assessment.</p>
Resource requirements	No specific requirements
Participants	The Group is expected to attract approx 10 participants. Participants should also collaborate with WKMSHS preparation and meeting. Participants should inform ICES secretariat and chairs no later than 15 th January 2010 on their intention to attend the WKHERMAT. Participants should follow chair's request and deadlines on data submission and (or) work to be presented. This information will be circulated later by e-mail correspondence.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	WGWIDE, PGNAPES, PGCCDBS, WKMSHS

Linkages to other organizations	None
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Resolutions added after 1 January 2010

WKFRAME

2009/2/ACOM56 The **Workshop on Implementing the ICES MSY Framework** [WKFRAME], chaired by Ciaran Kelly, Ireland, will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22 (Midday) – 26 (Midday) March 2010 to:

- a) Provide technical guidelines for the implementation of the MSY framework that ACOM adopted in December 2009. These guidelines are for the use of expert groups and advice drafting groups;
- b) These guidelines shall address:
 - i. Estimation of F_{msy} including candidates to serve as proxies to be used when catch projection are performance,
 - ii. So called data poor situations when catch projections cannot be performed, however there is information that indicates exploitation pressure and/or stock trends (data poor situations);
- c) Illustrate the guidelines on selected stocks using the 2009 assessment and advice as basis and compare the 2009 advice with the outcome that might have resulted from an advice based on the MSY framework.

The Chair will organise the presentation of a working paper that reviews the assessment and advisory approach taken for data poor stocks. This paper shall review cases both within and outside the ICES area.

The Workshop will be open to stakeholders. The Group will report by 31 March for the attention of the Advisory Committee.

WKSAN

2009/2/ACOM57 A **Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel** (External Chair: Jim Berkson, USA, and ICES coordinator: Ewen Bell, UK and one invited external expert) will be established and will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6–10 September 2010 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) 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
Sandeel in Subarea IV excluding the Shetland	Steen Christensen, Denmark

The Benchmark Workshop will report for the attention of ACOM by 16 September 2010

The workshop will be set up along the following lines.

Day 1: Review of current methods and data

Day 2: Consideration of proposals of new input data. Updating method proposals in line with latest data input

Day 3: Review of proposals for new methods. Analysis of candidate methods

Day 4-5: Report preparation and adoption

WKMAL

2009/2/ACOM58 The **Joint MEDPOL/Blacksea/ICES Workshop on Marine Litter (WKMAL)** chaired by Francois Galgani, France, will meet in ICES HQ, 2–4 November 2010 to:

- a) Review the status of Marine Litter based on the work done by the Task Group on Marine Litter which provided scientific input to the European Commission for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Commission (draft) decision on criteria on good environmental status under Article 9(3) of the MSFD.
- b) Identify existing data on marine litter
- c) Identify on-going data collection on marine litter
- d) Describe data needs for future assessment of marine litter (taking into account the Commission Decision)
- e) Consider standards for recording of marine litter
- f) If relevant, prepare draft ToRs for a Study Group on marine Litter
- g) Propose a chair of the Study Group

WKMAL will report by 15 November for the attention of the Advisory Committee.

Supporting information

Priority	In the light of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, where Marine Litter is one of the Descriptors, there is a need to structure and coordinate the work at European level. Discussions are on-going regarding the format for collecting and reporting data on marine litter.
Scientific justification	Term of Reference a) A starting point is the scientific work provided to the EC by the Task Group on Marine Litter. Further development and coordination is needed. Terms of Reference b) Several countries are conducting or have completed significant studies in this area. Terms of Reference c) Information regarding litter is collected in connection to the IBTS, and reported to one or two countries. There may be special national monitoring programmes also. Terms of Reference d) The work should build on the Commission Decision on the MSFD and its implementation. Terms of Reference e) Several activities and discussions are on-going and there is a need to provide a common framework for recording and reporting data. Terms of Reference f) Based on the elaborations at the Workshop and identification of further work needs the establishment of a Study Group should be considered.
Resource requirements	On-going research and some monitoring programmes may provide input to this group. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is expected to attract some 20–25 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None apart from meeting facilities.
Financial	No financial implications.

Linkages to advisory committees	The advisory committees (ACOM)
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM IBTSWG (Trawl survey) is active in the collection of marine litter data as part of its coordination activities of ICES area trawls, and would benefit from the findings of this workshop.
Linkages to other organizations	MEDPOL and the Black Sea Commission. The work is relevant to the European Commission and its agencies.

WKREV812

2009/2/ACOM59 The Workshop to evaluate aspects of EC Regulation 812/2004 (WKREV812) chaired by Simon Northridge, UK will meet in ICES HQ 28–30 September 2010 to:

- a) Identify areas outside the scope of Reg. 812/2004 where measures would be necessary to be applied to reduce the incidental catches of cetaceans.
- b) Provide an evaluation of mitigation measures currently in place and an assessment on the most recent developments of mitigation measures used to reduce the incidental catches of cetaceans, including information on cost.
- c) Following the assessment made in point b) identify the most efficient mitigation measure for each species concerned by Reg.812/2004 and according to the fishing gear in use.

WKREV812 will report by 4 October 2010 for the attention of ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High, to meet direct request from European Commission
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	All three terms of reference are taken directly from a request from the European Commission.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None beyond usual Secretariat help.
PARTICIPANTS:	The EU Commission is supporting this workshop with paying travel and subsistence for 15-20 invited participants, if possible including some from the Mediterranean.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	One room for 15-20 people
FINANCIAL:	No financial implications.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	WKREV812 will report to the Advisory Committee.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	Links to SGBYC, WGMME, WGFTFB
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	

WKLYS

2009/2/ACOM60 The **ICES/OSPAR Workshop on the lysosomal stability data quality and interpretation** (WKLYS), chaired by Concepción Martínez Gómez, Spain, will meet 13–17 September 2010 in association with a MEDPOL training workshop in Università del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro", Alessandria, Italy, to:

- a) develop guidance on the interpretation of the results by using neutral red retention assay for lysosomal membrane stability in marine samples, giving particular attention to the variation in sample characteristics experienced through the ICES/OSPAR area.
- b) develop written and graphical material to elaborate, harmonise and clarify criteria of interpretation and the standard analytical method for the neutral red retention assay of lysosomal membrane stability.
- c) develop proposals for effective and repeatable external quality assurance programmes for the measurement of lysosomal membrane stability.

WKLYS will report by 15 November for the attention of OSPAR and ACOM

Supporting information

Priority	The purpose of this Workshop is to provide a dedicated opportunity to focus on improving the quality of data for a specific biological effects measurement and technique – lysosomal membrane stability by using neutral red retention assay. This will allow the measurement to play a more reliable role in OSPAR assessment processes, and also in the implementation of MSFD GES Descriptor 8 concerning contaminants and pollution effects.
Scientific justification	The workshop will provide support to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OSPAR activities against unexpected or unacceptable biological effects of contaminants - ICES Science Programme and Advisory Services - EU implementation of the MSFD <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve the ICES/OSPAR cooperation with MEDPOL
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 event is negligible.
Participants	The Workshop is expected to attract 8 - 15 members, in addition to participants from the MEDPOL area. In the light of current and future work related to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and involvement of the Regional Seas Conventions it is the intention to invite participants from the HELCOM area.
Secretariat facilities	SharePoint
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	The Workshop will report to ACOM and OSPAR.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The report of the Workshop 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, and will meet in association with a MEDPOL training event.

WKHABAL

2009/2/ACOM61 The **ICES Workshop on harmful phytoplankton that could potentially be transported or introduced by ballast water** (WKHABAL), Co-Chaired by Tracy McCollin (UK) and Joe Silke (Ireland), will meet in ICES HQ 14–15 October 2010 to:

- a) Identify species of phytoplankton, especially HAB species (and their characteristics) which are more likely to be successful as invasive species, and have significant potential ecological or economic impact, if possible;
- b) Determine if there are particular characteristics of coastal waters which favour the establishment of invasive phytoplankton.

WKHABAL will report by 15 November for the attention of the Advisory Committee (ACOM).

Background:

There is a need to develop advice on the phytoplankton most likely to be successful as invasive species, the size of inoculums and conditions that would result in an invasive species. The risk of an invasive species having a negative impact on ecosystem health or the human uses of the ecosystem is determined by the combination of the probability of a species being introduced, its survival and spread, and impact.

Therefore, priority should be given to those phytoplankton species that are known to be or have a high probability of transport by ballast water, high survival (cysts/spore formation) and high ecological or economic impact. The intention is to be able to assess risk associated with incoming ballast water that has not been exchanged/treated.

A top-ten or twenty list of high risk phytoplankton species that would not necessarily be world-wide, but region or climate-zone specific could be prepared. The list would be a watch list or an indication of high risk waters where specific (HAB) species are known to occur and cause problems.

Supporting information:

Priority	The purpose of this Workshop is to identify “invasive” phytoplankton or even providing lists of native phytoplankton so that future invasive species could be identified.
Scientific justification	The workshop will provide support to: - activities against unexpected or unacceptable effects of invasive phytoplankton - ICES Science Programme and Advisory Services - implementation of the EU MSFD and, - improve the ICES/IOC cooperation
Resource requirements	The research activities which provide the main input to this Workshop are ongoing.
Participants	The Workshop is expected to attract about 20 participants
Secretariat facilities	SharePoint
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	The Workshop will report to ACOM.
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM
Linkages to other organizations	The report of the Workshop will be of interest to IOC Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms

WKBALTEEL

2009/2/ACOM62 A **Workshop on BALtic EEL** [WKBALTEEL] (Chair: Willem Dekker, Sweden) will meet in Stockholm, Sweden 2–4 November 2010 to:

- a) assess the status of the eel stock in the Baltic, to identify available data, to summarise the documentation available in national management plans.
- b) prepare the work of SGIPEE as regards the Baltic by assessing the status of the eel stock in the Baltic region as a whole, following the assessment framework developed by WGEEL / SGIPEE, and to make the required data available to WGEEL / SGIPEE
- c) assess the anthropogenic impacts on the stock in the Baltic, focusing on international interactions between countries/rivers, and to relate that to the targets/limits of the (national) Eel Management Plans and the (international) EU recovery plan
- d) consider data requirements for the assessment of the international interactions, and to identify data and knowledge gaps

WKBALTEEL will report for the attention of WGEEL and PGCCDBS and ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of this workshop is essential if ICES is to be appropriately placed to advise on the post-evaluation of the EU recovery plan for the eel in 2012. An urgent requirement to prepare for EU 2012 reporting.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The European eel stock is currently in a severely depleted state, and ICES has advised the urgent compilation and implementation of a management plan. EU has adopted a recovery plan in 2007, which obliged Member States (MS) to develop a detailed Eel Management Plan (EMP) for their territories in 2009, and to coordinate with neighbouring states. In the pre-ambule of the recovery plan, the need for transboundary coordination in the Baltic is specifically mentioned (11); the EMPs for the Baltic countries all mention the need for coordination, but no specific steps have been taken yet. SGIPEE (and WGEEL) prepare for international post-evaluation with the main focus on the population level; post-evaluation of (national) Eel Management Plans is primarily a task for the individual EU Member State. In the Baltic, however, strong interactions between states occur (additive fishing impacts: the silver eel fisheries; opposing actions: restocking versus exploitation), which were not addressed in the national eel management plans, and will not be addressed by the international post-evaluation of SGIPEE/WGEEL. The aim of this workshop is to fill in this gap between MSs and SGIPEE/WGEEL: identifying the interactions, documenting data coverage & data requirements, assessment of the impact of the interactions with reference to the management targets, identifying gaps in knowledge/data. Forward focus on: integration of data collection and impact assessment in the Baltic, feeding into the international post-evaluation of SGIPEE/WGEEL.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
PARTICIPANTS:	Members of WGEEL, invited experts from the Baltic area
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	No additional software/hardware is anticipated beyond that which is currently available.
FINANCIAL:	Expenses for travel & meeting. Sweden/Helcom? has a small budget for additional costs, which allows inviting some participants from countries that do not regularly participate in ICES eel meetings.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Relevance to SCICOM and ACOM.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGEEL, WGRECORDS, PGCCDBS.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	European Union: Eel Recovery Plan, FAO: EIFAC. HELCOM/Sweden supports the organisation of the workshop

WKFLABA

2009/2/ACOM63 The **ICES/HELCOM Workshop on Flatfish in the Baltic Sea** [WKFLABA], Chaired by Jan Horbowy, Poland, Ann-Britt Florin and Ustups Didzis, Sweden) will meet in Öregrund (Sweden), 8–11 november 2010 to:

- a) Review population structure of flatfish, including but not limited to flounder and turbot, in the Baltic Sea taking into account all current available knowledge
- b) Suggesting possible assessment units from a biological point of view
- c) Evaluation of available age reading data
- d) Summarizing and evaluating the national flatfish management actions
- e) Investigate the methods to be potentially used for stock assessment with the currently available data
- f) Identifying gaps of knowledge relevant to future assessments

Item 5 should, for those stocks where this is deemed possible by the workshop, take the form of a benchmark assessment to be used as a basis for assessments in the WGBFAS 2011. For those stocks where this is not deemed possible item 6 should identify requirements to make benchmark assessments in the future.

Material and data relevant for the meeting, as indicated below, must be prepared prior to the meeting, and made available to the Chairs no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

Data requirement for the workshop

1. Information about population structure of flatfish by country and by SD (old publications, tagging, genetic studies).
2. Methods of age reading (whole, broke and burning, slicing). Length of time series of age data by method.
3. Description of flatfish management actions at national level.
4. Landings, discard and bycatch information from commercial fishery.
5. Availability of fishery independent data series.
6. Wherever such data are available, length data in relation to 4 and 5

WKWATSUP

2009/2/ACOM64 The **Workshop on procedures to establish the appropriate level of the mixed herring TAC (Spring Western Baltic [WBSS] and Autumn Spawning North Sea [NSAS] stocks) in Skagerrak and Kattegat (Division IIIa) [WKWATSUP]**, chaired by Lotte Worsøe Clausen* (Denmark) will meet in ICES HQ, Copenhagen 23–25 November 2010 to:

- a) Collate the available information on the seasonal movements of the WBSS and NSAS stocks;
- b) Comment on the reliability of the methods currently used to estimate the proportions of WBSS and NSAS in the catches and suggest improvements that could be made to the sampling methodology in order to increase the precision of the estimates;
- c) Evaluate, in the context of the agreed long term plan for NSAS and the suggested harvest control rules for WBSS, the compatibility of the options set out below for setting the mixed TAC in the Skagerrak and Kattegat with the precautionary approach and with the objective of reaching FMSY by 2015;
 - i. Adjust the TAC for fleet C in the Skagerrak and Kattegat by the average of the percentage adjustments of the NSAS and the WBSS.
 - ii. Adjust the TAC for fleet C in the Skagerrak and Kattegat by the average of the percentage adjustments of the NSAS and the WBSS, weighted by the proportions of these stocks in the annual catches from the Skagerrak and Kattegat.
 - iii. Set the TAC for fleet C in Skagerrak and Kattegat corresponding to the largest percentage reduction or smallest percentage increase in the TACs of the two stocks.
 - iv. Set the TAC for fleet D in Skagerrak and Kattegat corresponding to the largest percentage reduction, the smallest percentage increase in the TACs of the two stocks or somewhere in between.
 - v. For the purposes of these evaluations, it should be assumed that 50% of the TAC for the WBSS will be allocated to Division IIIa and 50% to SD 22-24.
- d) suggest options (if identified) other than a mixed stock TAC that can either replace or supplement the TAC measure and maintain the targets laid down in the management plans for WBSS and NSAS. These options might include seasonal and spatial limitations on catches in the Skagerrak in order to protect one or other component of the mixture.

The Workshop shall report to ACOM at the 29 November for consideration by the review and advice drafting group designated by ACOM to deal with this request.

Supporting information

Catches of herring in Skagerrak and Kattegat are made up of a mixture of stocks, in particular Western Baltic spring spawners (WBSS) and North Sea autumn spawners (NSAS). A long term management plan for the NSAS has been agreed between the European Union and Norway, and a long term management plan for WBSS is being developed as part of a wider initiative on long term management plans for pelagic stocks in the Baltic. ICES has already advised on possible harvest control rules for this plan.

These plans would be used to fix the overall TACs for the respective stocks, but they do not indicate the appropriate level of the mixed stock TAC in Skagerrak and Kattegat.