

## WGALES - Working Group on Atlantic Larval and Egg Surveys

**2018/2/EOSG16**      **The Working Group on Atlantic Larval and Egg Surveys (WGALES)** chaired by Patrick Polte, Germany, Richard D.M. Nash, Norway (to be replaced in 2020), and Cristina Nunes, Portugal (from 2020) will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2019		By correspondence		
Year 2020	19–21 October	Online meeting	E-evaluation	Richard D.M. Nash replaced by Cristina Nunes
Year 2021	27-28 October	Online meeting	E-evaluation	
Year 2022	October	TBD	Final report by 15 December	

### ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	<a href="#">Science plan codes</a>	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Review the current ichthyoplankton surveys in light of their original purposes, with respect to design, estimation methods and challenges and identify their potential for other purposes such as ecosystem surveys.	Ichthyoplankton surveys collect abundance data on early life history stages useful for estimating fish standing stock biomass (SSB) and recruitment of several fish stocks.	1.4, 2.2, 3.2	year 2, 4	
b	Survey scientist work together to evaluate and recommend methodologies and research needs for sampling, processing and data analyses for ichthyoplankton surveys, concerning the Early life history stages and the contributions from the adult components. WGALES also offers the possibility for data users to gain insights into the rationale, methodology and potential applications of fish early life stage ecology (and adult fish maturity) research.	Ichthyoplankton surveys need to keep pace with developing data needs and technological developments. The provision of a workshop/conference environment provides a forum for improvement, development of new ideas and innovative insights for these surveys.	1.4, 3.2, 4.4	year 2, 4	
c	Present and report on reproductive dynamics and fish early life strategies relevant for ichthyoplankton surveys	Successful surveys are dependent on understanding the life-history dynamics of the target organisms and understanding how this may change with	1.7, 2.2, 3.2	year 2, 4	

		ecosystem variability and change.			
d	To work together with ichthyoplankton data providers and experts to evaluate and improve surveys. This will include collaboration across members in several ICES groups including IBTSWG, WGACEGG, WGMEGS, WGSINS (WGEGBS2).	Specialist working groups need a forum with experts from other types of ichthyoplankton surveys and personnel working in different areas to seek guidance and advice.	2.3, 3.2, 3.4	year 1, 2, 3, 4	
e	Provide a standardized framework for ichthyoplankton data bases and facilitate implementation of new survey data into the ICES egg and larvae data base in collaboration with the ICES Data Center.	Ichthyoplankton data needs to be of high quality and centrally available for the assessment working groups and the science groups more generally to do their work and demonstrate transparent ways of working.	3.2, 4.2	year 1, 2, 3, 4	Updated dataset on the ICES egg and larval database

### Summary of the Work Plan

<b>Year 1</b>	WGALES will communicate by correspondence to act upon urgent ToR's from ichthyoplankton survey groups (ToR d)
<b>Year 2</b>	WGALES will meet to address ToRs a, b, c, d, e, f
<b>Year 3</b>	WGALES will communicate by correspondence to act upon urgent ToR's from ichthyoplankton survey groups (ToR d)
<b>Year 4</b>	WGALES will meet to address ToRs a, b, c, d, f
	This Working Group meets every two years with a meeting format that covers general matters concerning ichthyoplankton surveys (ranging from new innovations in survey equipment and design through considering current ichthyoplankton surveys and their protocols) and also includes a specialised theme session or two on current and innovative relevant topics. The new topics are chosen at the end of each meeting to allow participants to work on them in the period between meetings. As such, new meeting ToRs can arise every two years to provide a focus for part of the biannual meeting.

### Supporting information

Priority	The activities of WGALES are vital for the delivery of state-of-the-art ichthyoplankton surveys, ensuring high standards and incorporating new techniques and developments for the future. WGALES will lead to the cross fertilization of ideas, methodologies, developments and standardization of ichthyoplankton surveys in the ICES area. Hence providing a platform from which to improve the assessments based on the ichthyoplankton surveys.
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed.
Participants	The Group will be attended by members of ICES groups, WGMEGS, WGEGBS2/WGSINS, IBTSWG, WGACEGG and guests carrying out ichthyoplankton surveys in the non-ICES areas. The Group is normally attended by some 25–30 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are linkages with ACOM through the individual ichthyoplankton surveys groups that are associated with WGALES and their assessment groups that use plankton data.
Linkages to other committee or groups	There is a close working relationship with all the ICES expert groups of ichthyoplankton surveys, WGMEGS, WGEGBS2/WGSINS, IBTSWG, WGACEGG and their assessment groups, WGWISE, HAWG, WGHANSA.
Linkages to other organizations	No formal linkages.