

WGNEPS – Working Group on Nephrops Surveys

2018/MA2/EOSG10 A Working Group on Nephrops Surveys (WGNEPS), chaired by Jennifer Doyle, Ireland 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	12-14 November	Split, Croatia	1st Interrim report by 6 January to EOSG	Election of new chair(s)
Year 2020	17-19 November	By Correspondence/Webex	2 nd Interrim report by 17 December 2020 to EOSG	Change of chairs: <u>Outgoing:</u> Kai Wieland and Adrian Weetman <u>Incoming:</u> Jennifer Doyle
Year 2021	16-18 November	Cadiz, Spain	Final report by 16 December 2021 to EOSG	

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	To review any changes to design, coverage and equipment for the various <i>Nephrops</i> UWTW and full-scale trawl surveys since 2018 and to update the Series of ICES Survey Protocols (SISP) as required	To ensure surveys used by WGCSE, WGBIE and WGNSSK are fit for purpose.	3.1, 3.2	Recurrent annual update	Survey summary including and description of alterations to the plan, to relevant assessment-WGs (WGCSE, WGNSSK, WGBIE) and SCICOM. Planning of the upcoming surveys for the survey coordinators and cruise leaders, and update the SISP accordingly if necessary.
b	Develop an international database for <i>Nephrops</i> UWTW survey data which will hold burrow counts, ground shape files and associated data.	There is a need to centralize UWTW data in a single international database. Ensure data is available externally.	3.5	Year 1-3	ICES database
c	Update R scripts for <i>Nephrops</i> UWTW survey data processing including functions to quality control, analyze and visualize data, and interface the tools with the international database for <i>Nephrops</i> UWTW survey data	Improving standardisation of data QC and data processing. Support new developing surveys on data analysis.	3.1	Recurrent annual update	Document and R packages for UWTW survey data on github site.

d	To review video enhancement, video mosaicking, automatic burrow detection and other new technological developments applied in <i>Nephrops</i> UWTV surveys and to update the Series of ICES Survey Protocols (SISP) as required .	WGNEPS should periodically review emerging technologies that might improve survey methodologies.	4.1	Recurrent annual update	To update the SISP based on conclusions if necessary. Other publications when appropriate.
e	Review and report on the utility of UWTV and trawl <i>Nephrops</i> surveys as platforms for collecting data for purposes other than <i>Nephrops</i> assessment (e.g. the collection of data for OSPAR and MFSD indicators).	<i>Nephrops</i> UWTV surveys have a role in relation to benthic habitat monitoring and the collection of other environmental and ecosystem variables.	1.5	Year 2	Joint workshop/meeting report with users
f	Analyse existing data from UWTV and trawl <i>Nephrops</i> surveys to evaluate possible factors affecting burrow emergence of <i>Nephrops</i> (e.g. currents and light)	Recent behaviour aspects have been investigated in the laboratory. Important to investigate correlation with field data.	1.3	Year 3	Review paper
g	Review differences of new HD and previous used SD camera systems and its effect on burrow detection, edge effects and bias correction factors, and explore the possibility of HD system tools for providing estimates of burrow size distributions.	Recent changes from SD to HD technology for many survey areas. Important to investigate edge effects and correction factors with field data on burrow system size.	3.2	Year 2&3	To update the SISP based on conclusions if necessary. Other publications when appropriate.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	ALL ToRs WILL BE ADRESSED IN THIS YEAR BUT THE MAIN TASK IN YEAR 1 WILL BE TO ESTABLISH THE UWTV DATABASE AND TO PROVIDE UPDATED SHAPE FILES OF NEPHROPS FUS AND SURVEY DOMAINS (ToR b)
Year 2	All ToRs will be addressed in this year. In addition to this focus will be on ToR e in year 2
Year 3	All ToRs will be addressed in this year. Focus in year 3 will be on new technologies and, if appropriate, an update of the SISP (ToR b) as well on the review of field data on factors affecting burrow emergence and occupancy (ToR f)

Supporting information

Priority	<i>Nephrops</i> are a valuable species whose stocks are potentially susceptible to local depletion. UWTV/Trawl surveys are an integral part of the stock assessment and management advice provided by ICES. WGNEPS is the international co-ordination group for <i>Nephrops</i> surveys focusing on planning, collaboration, quality control and survey development issues. This work is considered high priority.
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 15–20 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	ICES Data Centre
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	This group will feed into the assessment working groups and subsequently on to ACOM as well as to SCICOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with relevant to stock assessment experts groups that used the survey results i.e. WGCSE, WGBIE and WGNSSK.
Linkages to other organizations	FAO , OSPAR