

The **Workshop on Mackerel, Horse Mackerel and Hake Eggs Identification and Staging (WKMACHIS)** chaired by Matthias Kloppmann*, Germany, will meet online, 11-15 October 2021 to:

- a) Carry out internationally comparative plankton sorting trials on typical MEGS survey samples to evaluate and standardize the effectiveness of plankton sampling procedures. This should follow the pattern of trial – analysis– identification of problem areas – re-trial; **ICES Science plan [3.1](#)**
- b) Carry out comparative egg identification and staging trials for mackerel, horse mackerel and hake eggs following the methodology used in the previous egg staging workshops in order to quality assure the egg production estimates for the target species; **ICES Science plan [3.1](#)**
- c) Discuss sources of misidentification and -staging of fish eggs and prepare an uncertainty matrix of mackerel, horse mackerel and hake egg identification and staging; **ICES Science plan [3.1](#)**
- d) Review available documentation on species identification and staging of fish eggs, define **standard protocols and updated relevant descriptions and pictures in the survey manual**; **ICES Science plan [3.1](#)**

WKMACHIS will report by 19 November 2021 for the attention of EOSG, WGMEGS and WGBIOP

Supporting Information

Priority	High priority to ensure the quality of data provided to WGWIDE for the production of advice.
Scientific justification	<p>Sorting fish eggs from plankton samples, their staging and identification to species remains one of the key proficiencies in the execution of the mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys. As this is carried out by a number of different operators in many different countries, and then the data combined, it is vital that the process be standardized. WGMEGS strongly feels that this is best done through the mechanism of a regular workshop to compare results between survey participants. In the context of the triennial egg surveys, it proved appropriate to hold a workshop prior to every survey to standardize approaches and methodologies in the run-up to the surveys. This will have the advantage of training new operators as well as harmonizing the approach of experienced operators. Egg staging workshops were held since 2000, and were very successful in achieving these aims. It is recommended that experiences gathered during these be used for setting up the procedures for the proposed workshop in 2022. The workshop will use the proven method of carrying out a set of sorting trials, analysing the results and identifying problems, and then repeating the trials on the basis of the new understanding.</p> <p>The workshop will also be tasked to update the descriptions and photographs given in the MEGS manual to assist in the plankton sample handling procedure.</p>
Resource requirements	None
Participants	Mainly scientists and technicians (approximately 20) involved in the surveys.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.

Linkages to advisory committees	SCICOM, ACOM
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Linkages to other committees or groups	WGMEGS, WGBIOP, WGALES and WGWIDE
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Linkages to other organizations	None.
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