

Working Group on the Biology and Life History of Crabs (WGCRAb)

The **Working Group on the Biology and Life History of Crabs (WGCRAb)**, chaired by Carlos Mesquita, Scotland, UK, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2020	10–12 November	online meeting/ by corresp.		
Year 2021	9–11 November	online meeting		
Year 2022			Final report by DATE to SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Compile data on landings, discards, effort and catch per unit effort (CPUE) to provide standardised CPUE, size frequency and research survey data for the important crab and lobster (<i>Homarus</i>) fisheries in the ICES area, Atlantic Canada and Greenland. Maps will be produced to synthesise the data. Part of this data will be submitted to the ICES Data Centre.	Crab and lobster fisheries are economically important for many coastal populations in Europe and Canada and more specifically where the demise of fin fish occurred.	5.4; 4.1; 3.2	3 years	Landings, discards, effort and catch data on listed species from each country. WG report.
b	The EG will collate stock-assessment data for areas where the information is available. The working group will review methodologies to develop suitable standardized reference points for the management of the different stocks. Explore and apply common assessment methods for crab and lobster stocks using available data including length distributions and abundance indices.	The data available for each fishery vary greatly. In some, the main management rules are quotas, licences and limitation of fishing gears to control the effort. The status of many stocks remains uncertain. Thus, developing robust evaluation methods for many fisheries is necessary.	5.1; 5.3	3 years	Report on evaluation of assessment methods.
c	Review the impact of environmental drivers (temperature, ocean acidification, climate change), diseases and pollution on important crab	Crabs and lobsters, as many other species are impacted by environmental parameters. In the actual situation of climate change, WGCRAb	5.2; 2.1	3 years	Highlight important issues to be basis for research on effect of climate changes on important crab stocks. WG report chapter.

	and lobster stocks within the ICES, Atlantic Canada and West Greenland; studying the effects on reproduction, recruitment, growth and distribution.	must investigate the main importance on the recruitment and biomass trends.			
d	Review research and generate new knowledge on vital crab and lobster population biology parameters and food safety.	Biological parameters are important for stock assessments and improved data will lead to more reliable outputs.	1.7; 1.8	3 years	Updated any new knowledge on crucial stock parameters for any crab and lobster stocks. Any updates or new knowledge will be outputted into summary tables.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Annual standard outputs for a) and b). Continue analysis for c) and d).
Year 2	Annual standard outputs for a) and b). Continue analysis for c) and d).
Year 3	Annual standard outputs for a) and b). Complete report on analysis, research and report including all work for ToRs c) and d).

Supporting information

Priority	High. In Canada as in Europe, fishermen activities are highly dependent of crab and lobster stocks. Moreover, available data vary depending on the country, which is why work on the assessment methods need to be continued, particularly on those countries where fishing data exist allowing the development of new approaches. The aim is to ensure statistically sound assessments of the main crab and lobster stocks in order to provide suitable conditions to develop good management practices and stability of all dependent fleets. The activity of the Group is therefore considered to be of high priority in particular if its activity can move towards resource assessment without losing biological inputs.
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are underway, and resources are already committed. The additional resources required to undertake activities in the framework of this group is not expected to be significant.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Standard support to WG
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	Potential linkages to some EGs under ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	
Linkages to other organization	