

Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography (WGOH)

2020/FT/EPDSG05 The Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography (WGOH), chaired by Caroline Cusack, Ireland; and Tycjan Wodzinowski, Poland, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2021	13–15 April	Online meeting		
Year 2022				
Year 2023			Final report by DATE to SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	SCIENCE PLAN TOPICS ADDRESSED	Duration	Expected Deliverables
A	Examine the hydrographic variability of the North Atlantic and its subpolar seas. Identify events, trends and drivers in the region.	The experts of the WGOH will compile a wide range of observations taken by various national programmes. This exercise helps to monitor developments of the environmental conditions that they sample.	1.1; 1.2; 1.9	3 years	Annual WGOH meeting featuring a series of regional presentations, covering evolution of hydrographic conditions and development of monitoring programmes. The synthesis of these changes are summarised in our annual science report.
B	Standard Sections and Stations summarized into the production of the IROC report and IROC-online web https://ocean.ices.dk/core/iroc	The Working Group recognises the need to disseminate climate information in a timely and appropriate manner. IROC content and structure is revised every year. Improvements are proposed and implemented when possible.	1.1; 1.2; 1.9	Years	i) A summary of data Series are uploaded, as they become available, to IROC online web. ii) IROC Highlights available 1-2 weeks after the WGOH annual meeting, summarizing conditions in the previous year. iii) IROC report published as an ICES CRR document. Target: Release in summer, before the ASC.
C	Explore and continue to increase the international profile and exposure of this EG across national and international events and engagement with the broader ocean observing system community (e.g. GOOS).	Participate in and/or organise national and international events. For example, the WGOH organised the 1991, 2001 and 2011 joint ICES/NAFO 4th symposium and will organise the 2021 decadal event. Benefit	1.2; 1.9; 4.2	3 years	EG members will publish in the proceedings of suitable events (e.g., the ICES/NAFO 4th Joint Symposium on Decadal Variability of the North Atlantic and its Marine Ecosystems). Outcomes of engagement activities with the broader ocean observing system community are documented as part of 3rd year

	<p>both to ICES and international monitoring programmes to enhance information exchange. Need for further connections between hydrographic monitoring programmes involved with WGOH and the GOOS community was highlighted as a critical issue to address. Contact has been established with OceanOPS (formerly JCOMMPS) and should be maintained.</p>		<p>progress, connecting WGOH metadata and data links with OceanOPS is a WGOH target for the term.</p>	
D	<p>Support for ICES processes on hydrographic data and ocean scale marine climate variability. Including Data Centre, other EGs, requests by the parent steering group EPDSG (Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics Steering Group) and advice programme as required.</p>	<p>Oceanic hydrography remains a fundamental component of assessing the state of marine ecosystems. WGOH documents interannual to multidecadal variability and trends in the oceanic hydrography for most ecoregions. WGOH can provide expert advice to ICES in relationship to observing systems (GOOS), CMEMS (Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service) or policy (MSFD, Marine Strategy Framework Directive).</p>	<p>1.1;1.2; 1.9; 6.3 Ongoing</p>	<p>Delivery of timely data and advice, upon ICES request or by WGOH initiative in developments that depend on ocean hydrography (Ecosystem Overviews, ICES Oceanography Review etc). Assessment on ocean hydrography related issued upon request.</p>

Summary of the Work Plan

	<p>a) Symposium on Decadal Variability preparation and celebration. b) IROC 2020 production including early release of highlights of North Atlantic hydrographic conditions. Review the current roadmap for IROC evolution. Implement modifications to IROC format and content as feasible. c) WG Activities progress report including status of WGOH timeseries and update on linkages with the broader community (e.g., oceanographic, policy). d) Review climate monitoring, reanalysis and forecasting programmes relative to ICES work.</p>
Year 1	
Year 2	<p>a) IROC 2021 production including early release of highlights of North Atlantic hydrographic conditions. Implement modifications to IROC format and content as feasible. b) Publication of IJMS Decadal Symposium special issue.</p>

	c) WG Activities progress report.
Year 3	a) IROC 2022 production and review of content and requirement to continue IROC process. b) WG Final report

Supporting information

Priority	Oceanic hydrography remains a fundamental component of assessing the state of marine ecosystems. WGOH documents interannual to multidecadal variability and trends in the oceanic hydrography setting the vital context for prevailing conditions & ecosystem change. The IROC has been cited more than 220 times (http://tinyurl.com/ICES-IROC) demonstrating that it is an important resource for the marine science community within and beyond ICES.
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 about 15–20 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Support required to publish the IROC.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are no obvious direct linkages. The group is open to requests regarding environmental policy.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of EPDSG. The most direct link is to WGOOFE (Working Group on Operational oceanographic products for fisheries and environment) where the activities of the 2 groups are complementary. WGOH focuses on the larger Atlantic space and long-term climate scales. Link to ICES editorial team for the annual production of the IROC.
Linkages to other organizations	IOC, JCOMM, CLIVAR?, GOOS