

Workshop on Scallop Aging 2 (WKSA2)

2020/WK/EPDSG06 The **Workshop on Scallop Aging 2 (WKSA2)**: on age reading of the king scallop (*Pecten maximus*), chaired by Karen Vanstaen, UK; and Charlotte Reeves, UK, will hold an online meeting on 20 October 2021, and will meet in Lowestoft, UK, spring/ summer 2022 (tbc) to:

- a) Create, collate and consensus age a reference collection of scallop shells for the participating institutes across geographical fishery locations ([Science Plan code: 3.1](#))
- b) Carry out microscope aging QC consensus training ([Science Plan code: 3.1](#))
- c) Further progress the use of SmartDots technology for virtual aging king scallops ([Science Plan code: 4.1](#))
- d) Agree quality assurance parameters for scallop aging ([Science Plan code: 3.1](#))
- e) Review new and evolving methodologies in scallop age techniques ([Science Plan code: 3.1](#))
- f) Maintain a regular platform to progress information flow and develop consistent shell aging ([Science Plan code: 3.1](#))
- g) Discuss the potential of applying similar age determination techniques to other scallop species in particular *Aequipecten opercularis* ([Science Plan code: 4.1](#))

WKSA2 will report by 1 September 2022 for the attention of WGScallop, WGBIOP and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	<p>The fundamental progress made in the inaugural scallop aging workshop recommended the completion of consensus aging of reference sets and further training exchanges for aging activities.</p> <p>Issues around aging consensus are considered with very high priority due to their requirement to contribute to accurate fishery and stock assessment processes.</p> <p>Further scallop exchanges depend on the completion of reference sets and consensus aging, therefore the key aim for the meeting.</p>
Scientific justification	<p>The aim of the workshop is to build on progress made and complete a consensus aging of reference sets for each institute.</p> <p>To also maintain and develop connectivity in aging techniques and understanding between institutes, exploring new techniques and adding to previously defined standard principles of agreed attribute that provide a more robust aging procedure.</p>
Resource requirements	<p>It will be expected that each institute would bring reference sets from important geographical locations to the meeting for aging purposes. Otherwise, no further specific resource requirement beyond the need for members to prepare and participate in the meeting.</p>
Participants	<p>In view of its relevance to the data collection process and ICES Scallop WG, the workshop will join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress growth and connectivity in the field.</p> <p>The workshop is normally attended by some 20–25 members from United Kingdom, France, Norway, Ireland, Iceland, United States and Canada.</p>
Secretariat facilities	<p>None.</p>
Financial	<p>No financial implications.</p>
Linkages to advisory committees	<p>There are no obvious direct linkages with the advisory committees.</p>

Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a close working relationship with all the groups of the WGScallop and WGBIOP
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Linkages to other organizations	There is a direct link with the EU DCF.
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