

Stock Identification Methods Working Group (SIMWG)

2019/FT/HAPISG10 The **Stock Identification Methods Working Group (SIMWG)**, chaired by Christoph Stransky, Germany, 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	By correspondence			
Year 2021	17 June & by correspondence	Online meeting		
Year 2022	tbc		Final report by 1 August to SCICOM	

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Review recent advances in stock identification methods	a) Tracks best practices in stock ID b) Promotes new technologies Relevant to all ICES species	1.4, 5.1, 5.2	3 years (and continued)	EG report
b	Provide technical reviews and expert opinions on matters of stock identification, as requested by specific Working Groups and SCICOM	a) Contributes to understanding of structure and connectivity of fish populations/stocks b) Highly relevant to assessment and management	1.4, 5.1, 5.2	3 years (and continued)	EG report and updated table of species reviews
c	Review and report on advances in mixed stock analysis, and assess their potential role in improving precision of stock assessment	Relevant to resolving mixed stock composition issues in assessment and management.	1.4, 5.2, 5.4	3 years	EG report and contribution to ICES ASC; methodological paper in international journal

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Address terms of reference through work by correspondence in 2020
Year 2	Organise a physical meeting for SIMWG for summer 2021.
Year 3	Address terms of reference through work by correspondence in 2022

Supporting information

Priority	Understanding stock structure is a fundamental requirement before any assessment or modelling on a stock level can be contemplated. SIMWG liaises with ICES expert groups and working groups on stock identification issues and continues to review new methods as they develop
Resource requirements	SharePoint website and clear feedback from expert groups.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Standard support
Financial	None
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	SIMWG has recently worked closely with a range of ICES working groups including WGWIDE, WGBIE, WGHANSA, and NWWG; benchmark workshops including WKPLE and WKHAD, and advice drafting groups such as ADGDEEP, and in previous years SIWMG connected with many more ICES groups to fulfill requests.
Linkages to other organizations	There are no obvious direct linkages, beyond the SIMWG members' affiliation and commitment to their own employers.