

## Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping (WGMHM)

2020/FT/HAPISG11 The Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping (WGMHM), chaired by Julian Burgos, Iceland, 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	24–28 May	Online meeting		
Year 2022	TBC	TBC		
Year 2023	TBC	TBC	Final report by 1 August to SCICOM	

### ToR descriptors

TO R	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	<a href="#">SCIENCE PLAN CODES</a>	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Report on progress in international mapping programmes (including OSPAR and HELCOM Conventions, EMODnet, EC and EEA initiatives, CHARM, Mesh-Atlantic and other projects).	Capturing the presence and work of large international mapping projects is important because (i) the WGMHM report becomes a useful ‘state of the art’ summary of marine habitat mapping activity, (ii) the presentations from these projects helps spread best-practice, standardisation and collaborative working within the group, and (iii) other presentations highlight relevant mapping work that may benefit the large international programmes.	1.3, 1.4, 1.5 3.2, 3.4	Years 1–3	Meeting reports
b	Review and synthesise key results from national habitat mapping during the preceding year, as well as new on-going and planned projects focusing on particular issues of relevance to the rest of the meeting. Provide National Status Report updates in geographic format in the ICES webGIS.	The current extent of marine habitat mapping and modelling means that maps are meeting at international boundaries. It is important that maps are joined internationally and in a standardised manner. This requires an understanding of the extent and distribution of habitat mapping within nation states. Equally, WGMHM are often interested in specific habitats and wish to be kept informed of specific mapping exercises on these habitats, e.g. deepwater habitats or cold water corals. The reporting of national	1.3, 1.4, 1.5 3.2, 3.4	Years 1–3	Meeting reports

		mapping is also the primary mechanism for encouraging WG members to submit survey metadata files to the various data archiving centres. The National Progress reports also states whether member countries have purchased significant survey items, such as ships, AUVs and sonars. This provides a good opportunity for others to identify useful resources for international collaboration.			
c	Review recent advances in marine habitat mapping and modelling techniques, including field work methodology, and data analysis and interpretation	This ToR provides the main avenue for mappers to communicate new or improved techniques to the other scientists present (and captured in the report). As such, this ToR is essential for spreading best practice and developing new methods.	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 3.4	Years 1–3	Meeting reports
d	Review use of habitat maps, for example mapping for the MSFD, marine spatial planning, and management of MPAs; and assess the ability (e.g. through the monitoring of the MSFD indicator 'extent') to use habitat maps for monitoring of the environment.	To encourage the diversification of the WGMHM, the group also consider how marine habitat maps are used for scientific and management purposes. Members of the group are often the creators of these maps and have important insights into how the maps can be used. Equally, it gives marine managers an opportunity to suggest how maps are best presented to support clarity and value for management purposes.	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 3.4	Years 1–3	Meeting reports
e	Identify sources of information (e.g. bathymetry, oceanography, fisheries or socio-economic) that can be used for the production and enrichment of marine habitat maps.	Many of the remotely sensed and modelled outputs that are of value to marine habitat mappers is available online. Although much of this information is centralised in large data archives, other information remains dispersed on the web. This ToR seeks to collate the important data sources that are of value for marine habitat mapping into one database.	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 3.4	Years 1–3	Meeting reports
f	Identify and advance theoretical aspects of	This ToR is to provide an opportunity for EG members to	1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 3.4	Years 1–3	Meeting reports and scientific papers

habitat mapping (e.g. landscape ecology, supplyside ecology, implications of scale etc.).	address the theoretical aspects of marine habitat mapping. As a science in its infancy, it is important that underpinning concepts are challenged and re-evaluated.
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### Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Cover ToRs A-E. Support the 'Benchmark Workshop on the Use of Predictive Habitat Models in ICES Advice (WKPHM)' workshop to be held jointly by Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC) and WGMHM.
Year 2	Focus on a specific ToR for in-depth analysis
Year 3	Focus on a specific ToR for in-depth analysis

### Supporting information

Priority	Supporting the Benchmark Workshop on the Use of Predictive Habitat Models in ICES Advice (WKPHM). The WGMHM may choose to address some of the topics that are highlighted as necessities for further work in 2021 and 2022. Much of the initial work will feed into the work of WGDEC. Further work will also provide support for the species and habitat predictive models that are required for WGDEC advice.
Resource requirements	Other than the support for the Benthmarking Workshop, WGMHM do not need additional resource at this moment.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10–15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Standard support.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and group under ACOM	Linkage to WGDEC (advice legacy group).
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with WGDEC. It is also very relevant to the Benthos Ecology Working Group (BEWG).
Linkages to other organization	