

WGEAWESS - Working Group on Ecosystem Assessment of Western European Shelf Seas

2019/FT/IEASG01 The Working Group on Ecosystem Assessment of Western European Shelf Seas (WGEAWESS) chaired by Marcos Llope, Spain and Debbi Pedreschi, Ireland, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

YEAR	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2020	29 June – 3 July	Meeting online	E-evaluation	
Year 2021	11 February 5 – 9 July	Meeting online	E-evaluation	
Year 2022		Canaries (TBD)	Final ICES Scientific Report by (TBD) to IEASG	

ToR descriptors

TO R	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Review and update the Bay of Biscay/Iberian Coast (BoB-IC) and Celtic Seas (CS) ecoregion Ecosystem Overviews (EO).	Linked to ICES advice and WKEO3.	6.1, 6.5, 6.6	Ongoing	Ecosystem overviews (EO).
b	Compare and contrast among sub-ecoregion level ITAs to identify and report on commonalities and divergences among areas, with a focus on climate variability.	Responding to requests for standardisation of ecosystem advice products and inclusion of climate change information in Ecosystem Overviews. Linked to WKINTRA, WGS2D, WGOOFE and the commitment to provide advice in the context of EAFM.	1.4, 1.9, 6.5	3 years	Inform IEAs/E O. Results in the final report or/and as a collaborative paper.
c	Investigate and report on the sub-regional spatio-temporal entities constituting the Bay of Biscay/Iberian Waters and Celtic Seas ecoregion, and the multiple pressures relevant at these scales in support of ecosystem-based management.	Linked to WKEWIEA, WKIRISH, ToR B and previous group ToRs. Investigation of scaling issues related to summarising information from locally relevant scales/models.	1.3, 2.4, 6.5	3 years	Inform IEAs/EO. Results in the final report or/and as a collaborative paper.
d	Explore and describe the potential for	Strongly linked to ToR A, WGCERP,	4.1, 6.5, 6.6	3 years	Ecosystem overviews.

	incorporating additional products (e.g. MSFD indicators, model outputs, social indicators) from ICES EGs and other processes (e.g., OSPAR, EEA, STECF) into the Ecosystem Overviews	WGSOCIAL, WKEO3 and MSFD. Maximising efficiency across relevant groups for EO development, eliminating redundancy.			Collaborative network with improved workflow.
e	High resolution Ecospace models for selected case studies within WGEAWESS ecoregions to identify opportunities to support marine spatial planning.	Working together with ToR C to explicitly incorporate spatial aspects into regional modelling work, investigating opportunities for trade-off analyses and inclusion of socio-economic considerations	6.1., 6.3., 6.6	3 years	Regional modelling products

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	<p>The main tasks will be related to drafting the outline for the papers/process for ToRs B&C, and identifying which group members can apply the agreed upon methodology (within their limited resources). Start the process for reviewing the BoB-IC Ecosystem Overviews.</p> <p>The group will continue to identify data and outputs that may be potentially valuable to IEAs, EAFM, and particularly the Ecosystem overviews (Tors A, D & E). The group will work to improve communication with other relevant groups (e.g. WGS2D, WGOOFE, WGSOCIAL, WGCOMEDA, WGIAB, WGMARS, WGBIE, WGIPEM).</p>
Year 2	Continue with Year 1 activities while liaising with relevant ICES WG and external groups (e.g. OSPAR) as relevant. Progress agreed upon methodologies for ToRs B&C, write papers. Advance ToR E, developing regional models (scope of model development/ number of case studies will be dependent funding).
Year 3	Continue with Year 2 activities while liaising with relevant ICES WG membership. Finalise papers.

Supporting information

Priority	<p>Heavy pressure on shelf seas (biodiversity loss, climate changes, fisheries), lack in understanding of large marine ecosystem functioning and the context of ecosystem health indicators development for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive require to address those research topics at the relevant scale i.e. the regional approach. Recently questions have arisen in relation to how to identify relevant scales for various processes, and how to summarise ecoregion level information from disparate, non-continuous data (e.g. surveys using different gears, different modelling approaches, and different socio-economic contexts). Furthermore, standardisation of approaches has become a key topic, particularly as ecosystem assessment moves more towards the realms of advice. This presents particular challenges in the face of such diversity.</p> <p>The EAWESS working group will focus on North Atlantic European continental shelf. Regional area of interest includes the Celtic Seas (Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, West of Scotland), Bay of Biscay (French continental shelf, Cantabrian Sea) and Western Iberia (Iberian Upwelling, Gulf of Cadiz), involving five countries (Ireland, UK, France, Spain and Portugal).</p>
Resource requirements	<p>There is no resource implication for ICES. Working group program is based on synthesis of data and results from existing data sources and in line with existing funding/ scientific programs. Scope of activities is dependent on this funding. Assistance from the ICES Secretariat and IEA Steering group Chair will be useful in identifying and making connections with relevant groups.</p>
Participants	<p>The Group is normally attended by some 8 members plus guests.</p>
Secretariat facilities	<p>None.</p>
Financial	<p>No financial implications.</p>
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	<p>Direct link to IEA steering group, ICES advice.</p>
Linkages to other committees or groups	<p>There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of IEASG. It is also very relevant to the Working Group on WGECO, WGCERP, WGSAM, WKIrish, along with stock assessment groups such as WGHANSA, WGBIE, WGCSE, WGMIXFISH. Collaborations for the new ToRs have been instigated with WGSOCIAL, WGS2D, WGCOMEDA and WGMARS. The work and membership of this group is also critical to workshops such as WKEWIEA and WKINTRA which are co-chaired by group members, and feedback to the work of WGEAWESS.</p>
Linkages to other organizations	<p>DC- MAP- DG MARE, MSFD DG ENV, OSPAR.</p>
