

WGIAZOR - Working Group on Integrated Assessment of the Azores

2019/FT/IEASG08 Working Group on Integrated Assessment of the Azores (WGIAZOR) chaired by Mario Pinho*, Portugal, and Maria de Fatima Borges*, Portugal, 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	25-29 May	Online meeting	E-evaluation	
Year 2021	24-28 May	Online meeting	E-evaluation	
Year 2022	TBC	TBC	ICES Scientific Report in June	

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Providing input for the Fisheries Overviews in 2020 (see Summary of the Work Plan)	Linked to ICES advice.	5.3, 5.4, 6.6	2020	Fisheries Overviews draft and underlying data
b	Explore and describe further regional knowledge and products (e.g. MSFD indicators, model outputs), to contribute to a future review and update of the Ecosystem Overview of the Azores (EO)	Linked to ICES advice, to WKEO3 and MSFD. Maximising efficiency across relevant groups for EO development, eliminating redundancy.	4.1, 6.1, 6.5, 6.6	Ongoing	Ecosystem overviews (EO) and collaborative network (IEA groups) with improved workflow.
c	Compare and contrast among sub-ecoregion level Integrated temporal assessments (ITA) to identify and report on commonalities and divergences among sub-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 WGEAWESS, WGIEAGS and the commitment to provide advice in the context of EAM.	1.4, 1.9, 6.5	3 years	Inform IEAs/EO. Results in the final report or/and as a collaborative paper.
d	Investigate and report on the sub-regional spatio-temporal entities constituting the ecoregion, and the multiple pressures relevant at these scales	Linked to WKEWIEA, WKIRISH, ToR C and previous group ToRs. Investigation of scaling issues related to summarising information from	1.3, 2.4, 6.5	3 years	Inform IEAs/EO. Results in the final report or/and as a collaborative paper.

	in support of ecosystem-based management.	locally relevant scales/models.			
e	Apply high resolution Ecospace models for selected case studies within WGIAZOR core regions to identify opportunities to support marine spatial planning.	Working together with ToR D 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

For the aim of providing input for the Fisheries Overviews, consider:

- i) descriptions of ecosystem impacts of fisheries
- Year 1**
 - ii) descriptions of developments and recent changes to the fisheries
 - iii) mixed fisheries considerations, and
 - iv) emerging issues of relevance for the management of the fisheries;

Year 2 The main tasks will be related to drafting the outline for the papers/process for ToRs C&D, and identifying which group members can apply the agreed upon methodology (within their limited resources). Start the process for reviewing the Azorean Ecosystem Overviews.

The group will continue to identify data and outputs that may be potentially valuable to IEAs, EAFM, and particularly the Ecosystem overviews (Tors B & E). The group will work to improve communication with other relevant groups as WGIEAGS, WGEAWESS, etc.

Year 3 Continue with Year 2 activities while liaising with relevant ICES WG and external groups (e.g. OSPAR) as relevant. Progress agreed upon methodologies for ToRs C&D, write papers. Advance ToR E, developing regional models (scope of model development/ number of case studies will be dependent funding). Finalise papers.

Supporting information

Priority Pressure on 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.

The WGIAZOR will focus on the Azorean seas

Resource requirements	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.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 8 members plus guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	Direct link to IEA steering group, ICES advice.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with all the groups of IEASG. It is also very relevant with stock assessment groups such as WGDEEP, WGWIDE, WGEF, WGCSE, WGMME.
Linkages to other organizations	DC- MAP- DG MARE, MSFD DG ENV, OSPAR.