WGSOCIAL - Working Group on Social Indicators

2020/FT/IEASG02 The **Working Group on SOCIAL indicators** (WGSOCIAL), chaired by Lisa L. Colburn, United States, Amber Himes-Cornell, FAO, and Marloes Kraan, Netherlands, and 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	30 March	Online meeting	E-evaluation	
	17 May	Online meeting		
	10,11,15,17,18 June	Online meeting		
Year 2022	TBD	USA	E-evaluation	
Year 2023	TBD	Europe	Final ICES Scientific report by (TBD) 2021	

ToR descriptors 2021 – 2023

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan codes	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	To continue building capacity for social science in ICES, giving consideration to research and institutional needs in all ICES member countries, as well as useful connections to international marine/ fisheries social science organizations, such as the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE).	This builds on the initial scoping exercise within ICES to expand social science capacity building efforts, but also ensures coordination of activities with other international bodies and links to the wider scoping work in the Strategic Initiative for the Human Dimension (SIHD).	5.4, 6.6	Years 1 –3	Annual reporting
b	To identify and report on culturally relevant social indicators and community data gaps that point to priorities for data collection, research, institutional needs, and training in all ICES member countries; and where possible propose systems to collect missing data.	To aid prioritization of data collection, management and analysis to enable qualitative and quantitative analyses of social issues for Ecosystem Overviews, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments and future advice requests. The ToR also links to ICES Data Centre.	4.2, 5.4, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2, 7.7	Years 1 –3	Annual reporting, potentially also scientific manuscript
c	To investigate the approaches, methods, tools and information flow needed to provide trade-off analysis of the impacts of alternative management measures on communities and stakeholder groups	To develop a system to support potential future advice requests and development of Ecosystem Overviews and Integrated Ecosystem Assessments.	5.4, 5.8, 6.5, 7.3, 7.5, 7.6	Years 1 –3	Annual reporting

d	To assess and report on the social and cultural significance of commercial fishing and its management for selected coastal regions in the ICES area	To support future potential advice requests and development of Ecosystem Overviews and Integrated Eosystem Assessments.	2.7, 5.8, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2, 7.7	Years 1 –3	Annual reporting, potentially also scientific manuscript(s)
e	To coordinate the provision of culturally relevant social indicators and analysis as part of integrated socio-ecological evaluations in support of Ecosystem-Based Management.	To contibute to the development of a framework for integrated assessment of alternative scenarios for marine fisheries, as part of broader Ecosystem-Based Management approaches.	2.7, 4.3, 6.5, 6.6,, 7.1, 7.2, 7.7	Years 1 –3	Annual reporting

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Continue the current work and identification of ongoing needs for social science in ICES (ToR a). Continue defining culturally relevant social indicators and identifying data gaps for specific contexts and applications (ToR b). Link with the work on social indicators of STECF. Start work on defining the information flow needed to provide trade-off analysis (ToR c). Develop and maintain connections with other relevant groups within and outside ICES (ToRs a and e). Collaborate with WGECON on shared case studies (ToR e). Produce Interim Report.
Year 2	Work toward completion of case studies with WGECON (ToRs b, c and d) and assessing the social and cultural significance of commercial fishing (ToR d). Work with other relevant groups within and outside ICES (ToR e). Produce Interim Report.
Year 3	Aim to complete ToR c, d, and e, including the planned manuscripts. Discuss and plan strategies and concrete steps for future work. Produce Final Report.

Supporting information

Priority	Nations are concerned about the sustainability of fish stocks and marine ecosystems, not least because they can contribute to human well-being and food security; therefore, these natural resources have a societal value. The social dimension is increasingly an integral part of marine science and scientific advice regarding the use and conservation of marine resources. In 2017, ICES realised that the demand for science and advice to address social and societal considerations was increasing, and the Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension (SIHD) has served to raise the profile of social science in ICES in the last few years. With WGSOCIAL, ICES has an EG that addresses social issues and focuses primarily on the development of social metrics and core social analyses that are demanded in parts of the ICES network (e.g., further development of ecosystem overviews). The benefits of expanding the engagement of ICES in social science were highlighted in the MSEAS meeting 2016, resulting in a second MSEAS meeting, planned for 2021. The recent ICES webinar on COVID-19 also demonstrated the value of social science for marine science and ICES commitment to it. Although there has been no official request of social indicators as of 2020, it is clear that interest is growing for interdisciplinary approaches. DGMARE is also exploring what the social dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy is and can be. Within ICES there is recognition that it is desirable to add social metrics to ICES ecosystem overviews and thus to recognize people and their livelihoods as part of the ecosystem.

Resource requirements	The group will rely on ongoing international and national research projects to support involvement of WGSOCIAL members. WGSOCIAL will work with the ICES Data Centre to obtain port data in order to develop a socio-economic product for the ecosystem overviews.
Participants	41 participants, from 15 countries
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	In the longer term the EG will be ready to support ACOM in addressing advisory requests from ICES clients if these are forthcoming.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The subject area of this EG has close linkage with the following ICES groups: WGEAWESS, WGBESEO, WKCONSERVE, WGMARS, WGCOMEDA, WGIMM, WGBIE, WGIAB, WGSEDA, WGECON, WGIMM, WGRMES, WGNARS, WGHIST and the Strategic Initiative SIHD. Frequent interaction with WGECON and SIHD is especially important to ensure the smooth and efficient introduction of further social and economic science into the ICES network.
Linkages to other organizations	Society of Applied Anthropologists (SfAA), NOAA Fisheries Human Dimensions and IEA Program, the Centre for Maritime Research (MARE), the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Organistation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF EWG 20-14), Coast Action, PICES, IMBER Human Dimension group, Future Coasts