

## WGFTFB - ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour

**2019/FT/EOSG08** The ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB), chaired by Daniel Stepputtis, Germany, Antonello Sala, Italy and Pingguo He, USA (on behalf of FAO), will meet to work on the following Terms of References (ToRs) and produce deliverables as listed in the following table for the years 2020 through 2022. WGFTFB will report on the activities and findings by 25 June each year to EOSG.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2020	By correspondence		Interim report by 22 May to EOSG	Incoming Chair Daniel Stepputtis, and Antonello Sala  Pingguo He Chair on behalf of FAO
Year 2021	19-23 April	Bergen, Norway	Interim report by 25 June to EOSG	
Year 2022	To be determined	Potentially Turkey	Final report by 25 June to EOSG	Sponsored by FAO

### ToR descriptors

TO R	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Deliberate, discuss and synthesize recent research on topics related to: i) Designing, planning, and testing of fishing gears used in abundance estimation; ii) Selective fishing gears for the reduction of bycatch, discard and unaccounted mortality, especially as they relate to EU Landing Obligation; iii) Environmentally benign fishing gears and methods, iv) Improving fuel efficiency and reduction of emission from fisheries, and v) Summaries of research activities by nation	Through open sessions and focused, multiyear topic groups, the Working Group provides opportunities for collaboratively developing research proposals, producing reports and manuscripts, and creating technical manuals on current developments and innovations.	3.3, 4.5, 5.4	3 Years	ICES report
b	Organize a FAO-sponsored FAO-ICES mini-symposium with thematic issues. Symposium themes will be determined at Year 2, and included in the updated ToR.	Under mutual agreement between ICES and FAO, FAO develops and leads a mini-symposium of relevant topics, while also continuing ICES commitments.	2.1, 4.5, 5.4	Year 3	FAO report, ICES report
c	Organize a Joint Workshop on Fishing Technology, Acoustics and Behavior (JTFAB) to review research topics of mutual interest to both the Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB) and the Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics, Science and Technology (WGFAST).	Every three years, WGFAST and WGFTFB meet for a one-day Joint workshop on Fishing Technology, Acoustics and Behaviour (JFTAB) to review and share information on topics of mutual interest.	3.2, 4.5, 5.4	Year 1	JFATB report
d	Help organize an international fishing technology and fish behaviour symposium or workshop	The last similar symposium was 13 years ago (2006).	2.1, 4.5, 5.4	Fall 2020	Symposium or workshop with proceedings published in a special issue in ICES JMS
e	Support survey working groups with fishing gear expertise upon request	EOSG has identified gear expertise gaps in survey working groups.	3.2	Year 1,2,3	Report of relevant survey trawl working groups or associated workshop

## Summary of the Work Plan

YEAR 1	Produce the annual report; hold joint session with WGFAST; connect to survey WGs
Year 2	Produce annual report; Continue development of relationships with survey WGs
Year 3	Produce the annual report; organize FAO-ICES mini-symposium

## Supporting information

Priority	The activities of WGFTFB will provide ICES with knowledge and expertise on issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially the evaluation and reduction of the impact of fishing on marine resources and ecosystems and the sustainable use of living marine resources and other topics related to the performance of commercial fishing gears and survey gears.
Resource requirements	The research programmes that provide the main input to this working group already exist, and resources are already committed by individual institutions. FAO has committed to support the WG by sponsoring a WG meeting every third year. There are no additional resource requirements for the EG beyond the secretariat support for group organisation
Participants	The group is normally attended by about 60–100 regular members and chair-invited members. Participation is about 100 - 140 in the year when FAO-ICES mini-symposium is held. The numbers of attendees to the meeting have been growing over the last years.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	Linkages to advisory groups via reports on changes to fleets and fleet effort.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with other groups of EOSG, e.g. WGFAST, and the acoustic survey groups.
Linkages to other organizations	The WG is jointly sponsored with the FAO.