

Contents

Aquaculture Steering Group (ASG) 2

Data Science and Technology Steering Group (DSTSG) 4

Ecosystem Observation Steering Group (EOSG) 6

Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics Steering Group (EPDSG)..... 8

Fisheries Resources Steering Group (FRSG) 10

Human Activities, Pressures and Impacts Steering Group (HAPISG)..... 12

Ecosystem Approaches and Methods Steering Group (EAMSG)..... 14

Human Dimension Steering Group (HUDISG)..... 16

Aquaculture Steering Group (ASG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM01 The **Aquaculture Steering Group on (ASG)**, chaired by Ann-Lisbeth Agnalt, Norway, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Maintain the awareness of the impacts of climate change on the aquaculture industry, with particular focus on increasing the knowledge base.

Timetable

ASG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES. ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed. ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared. ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs. ToR e recognizes the EG's need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network.

	Specific ToR ToR f reflects the importance of increased awareness of climate change and how various drivers like temperature, salinity (due to increased rainfall), ocean acidification, oxygen (occurrence and extent) as well as increased events of extreme weather conditions will impact the aquaculture industry. This entails increased knowledge as to e.g., how growth and survival are affected by the different climate drivers for various species and operational methods.
Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under ASG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organisations	FAO, EAS, EU DG Env.

Data Science and Technology Steering Group (DSTSG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM02 The Data Science and Technology Steering Group (DSTSG), chaired by Laura Uusitalo, Finland, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Represent and provide leadership of data science and technology in ICES;
- g) Ensure that ICES community is sighted on and responsive to data science and technology developments with potential to advance the tasks identified in ICES Science and Advisory Plans;
- h) Expand emerging data science and technology areas in ICES (e.g., unmanned systems, artificial intelligence and omics) and guide related and transformative advancements in ICES science, products and services;
- i) Support continued improvements in fisheries, environment and ecosystem monitoring through innovative technologies and optimization of sampling designs;
- j) Foster the complementarity and interoperability of different technologies and data streams to achieve a digital ocean representation;
- k) Contribute to the development of a world-leading data collection-to-advice quality assurance framework;
- l) Advise on new data management and data science methods and infrastructure, and support ICES Data Centre in strengthening data governance, quality assurance and systems design.

Timetable

DSTSG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES.

ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed.

ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared.

ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs.

Specific ToR

ToR f-i elaborate on the specific tasks involved in delivering ToRs a-d within the DSTSG, with special attention to making data and technology developments accessible to the wider network and working with the Data and Information Group and the Data Centre on data related issues.

Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under DSTSG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organisations	IODE (International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange); OBPS (Ocean Best Practises) – although technically part of IODE above; OBIS (Ocean Biodiversity Information system) – also technically part of IODE; Seadatanet; EMODNet (European Marine Observation and Data Network); OSPAR; HELCOM; NOAA; MEDIN (UK Marine Environmental Data and Information Network).

Ecosystem Observation Steering Group (EOSG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM03 The Ecosystem Observation Steering Group (EOSG), chaired by Pia Schuchert, United Kingdom, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EGs' work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Develop and coordinate integrated, quality assured, and cost-effective monitoring programmes to improve our understanding of the distribution and function of marine life and habitats;
- g) Evaluate and optimize survey design and advance and implement innovative technologies to collect, process and analyse data, with a focus on supporting fisheries assessment, integrated ecosystem assessment and ecosystem-based management.

Timetable

EOSG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES. ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed. ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared.

ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs.

ToR e recognizes the EGs' need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

ToR f reflects the need to provide the coordination for the data collection for the work of Expert Groups, specifically the work related to the production of advice products

ToR g reflects the need for innovation to ensure efficient use of resources and to fulfil the ICES science objectives and advisory needs.

Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under EOSG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organisations	NEAFC, NAFO, NASCO, OSPAR, HELCOM, PICES, CIESM.

Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics Steering Group (EPDSG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM04 The Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics Steering Group (EPDSG), chaired by Henn Ojaveer, Estonia, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) The EPDSG Chair (or an appropriate alternate, mutually agreed by the SG and BGO chairs) serves as a standing member of the Benchmark Oversight Group (BOG)

Timetable

EPDSG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES. ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed. ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared. ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs. ToR e recognizes the EG's need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network.

Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under EPDSG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organisations	PICES, CIESM, HELCOM and OSPAR

Fisheries Resources Steering Group (FRSG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM05 The **Fisheries Resources Steering Group (FRSG)**, chaired by Jonathan White (Ireland), will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Develop recommendations on strategic directions, initiatives, and activities specific to improving stock assessment science and the role of stock assessments in the advisory process;
- g) Evaluate EG annual activities and workload to determine if there is too much strain on the ICES community and identify any recommendations that may improve efficiency while continuing to effectively support the advisory process;
- h) The FRSG Chair (or an appropriate alternate, mutually agreed by the SG and BOG chairs) serves as a standing member of the Benchmark Oversight Group (BOG) and the Working Group on TAF Governance (WGTAFGOV).

Timetable

FRSG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES. ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed. ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared.

ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs.

ToR e recognizes the EG's need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

ToR f describes a specific activity that the SG will take up in 2021-2022 to address the General ToR, providing a recommended pathway for advancing the science that serves as a basis for advice.

ToR g reflects the need to identify and address issues related to capacity and strain on scientists participating in EGs while understanding the need to maintain quality science as a basis for advice.

ToR h describes the standing commitments for the FRSG Chair, who serves in an ex officio capacity on the BOG and WGTAFGOV.

Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under FRSG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organizations	PICES, CIESM, NOAA Fisheries

Human Activities, Pressures and Impacts Steering Group (HAPISG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM06 The **Human Activities, Pressures and Impacts Steering Group (HAPISG)** chaired by Andrew Kenny, UK, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Consider mechanisms to evaluate EGs and their ToRs against the ICES Science Plan and its advisory work (e.g. through a mapping exercise), to ensure ICES science and advice is informed by knowledge of current and emerging science with potential to effectively contribute to the ICES EBM framework, and advice on ecosystem services and effects, including Ecosystem Overviews and Viewpoints;
- g) Promote within EGs the development of standards and guidelines for good practice and Quality Assurance in the collation and use of data and development of web-based applications to increase the visibility, availability, interoperability and reproducibility of EG data, information and outputs;
- h) Promote within and across EGs the development and implementation of methods and development of products that assess individual human activity pressures and impacts, and their cumulative effects on the marine environment for operational use within the wider ICES community;
- i) The HAPISG Chair (or an appropriate alternate, mutually agreed by the SG and BOG chairs) serves as a standing member of the Benchmark Oversight Group (BOG).

Timetable

HAPISG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES.

ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed.

ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared.

ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs.

ToR e recognizes the EG's need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

ToR f reflects the need to identify and incorporate the outputs of HAPISG EG within ICES science and advisory products, where relevant (e.g. seabed disturbance, food-web interactions, bycatch, ecosystem goods and services, biodiversity, social and economic trade-offs).

ToR g reflects the increasing development and use of web-based applications (e.g. R Shiny, R Markdown, Leaflet, Sway Dashboards, etc.) by EGs and the need for consultation with ICES data centre and the DSTSG to ensure consistent application of TAF (transparent assessment framework) and FAIR (ICES 2009¹) principles

ToR h reflects the opportunity to integrate expertise across HAPISG EGs to further the development of impact assessment methods that incorporate a full range of pressures across habitats and species applicable to ICES ecoregions, especially considering assessments related to seabed disturbance on vulnerable marine ecosystems, marine spatial planning and habitat restoration.

Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under HAPISG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organisations	PICES, CIESM, IMO, IOC

¹ <https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/User%20Handbooks/uh-best-practice-data-management.pdf>

Ecosystem Approaches and Methods Steering Group (EAMSG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM07 The **Ecosystem Approaches and Methods Steering Group (EAMSG)**, chaired by Jacob Bentley, UK, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - i. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - ii. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Promote and oversee the development of the regional Ecosystem Overviews for the dissemination and implementation of ecosystem-informed science and advice;
- g) Support the development of methods for ecosystem-informed science and advice through cross-steering group collaboration, interdisciplinary approaches, integrated ecosystem assessments, ecosystem modelling, and analyses of trade-offs between management, policy, and societal objectives;
- h) Work to operationalise methods (i.e., those developed under ToR g) for the implementation of EISA to support EBM and EBFM. To facilitate this aim, the EAMSG Chair (or an appropriate alternate mutually agreed by the SG and BOG chairs) will serve as a standing member of the Benchmark Oversight Group (BOG);
- i) EAMSG will support efforts to share knowledge and methods, particularly through workshops and training proposals, and engaging with stakeholders where possible.

Timetable

EAMSG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognises that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognises the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES. ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed. ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs, ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared, and to identify challenges to meeting these priorities including skills, knowledge and resource gaps. ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs. ToR e recognizes the EG's need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network. Specific ToR ToR f–h elaborate on the specific tasks involved in delivering ToR a-d within the EAMSG, with special attention to advancing ecosystem-informed science and advice, operationalising EBM within ICES, knowledge sharing and skills training, cross-SG interaction, progressing socio-ecological understanding and delivery of the EOs as advice products.
Resource Requirements	Meeting room, Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under EAMSG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Secretary
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organizations	PICES, CIESM, PAME/Arctic Council, HELCOM, OSPAR

Human Dimension Steering Group (HUDISG)

2025/SG/ACOMSCICOM08 The **Human Dimension Steering Group (HUDISG)**, chaired by Nathalie Steins, the Netherlands, will work by correspondence, online, and face-to-face meetings to:

General ToR

- a) Ensure the work of the EGs support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, as well as address science objectives and advisory needs of ICES by:
 - a. Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between EG and all other parts of ICES;
 - b. Identifying opportunities for internal and external collaboration;
- b) Assure emerging science topics from within the science network are being identified and support the establishment of new groups as needed;
- c) Report on the science implementation and provide feedback on emerging science topics, gaps in expert availability, skills and knowledge to SCICOM;
- d) Work with ACOM Leadership, SCICOM Chair and Secretariat to support groups in addressing advisory ToR and to identify science needs for advisory services;
- e) Enhance the visibility of the EG's work inside and outside the ICES network.

Specific ToR

- f) Represent and provide leadership of social sciences and humanities in ICES;
- g) Expand and consolidate inter- and transdisciplinary approaches in support of the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM).

Timetable

HUDISG will report by March 2026 (March meeting) and October 2026 (Annual Progress Report) for the attention of SCICOM. [and to ACOM as seen relevant]

Supporting Information

Priority	High, the SG has a mandate from SCICOM to steer Expert Groups science to help meet ICES objectives
Practical and Scientific Justification	General ToR ToR a reflects the need to ensure the work of EG meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES and that EG receive adequate support and guidance when developing work plans. It recognizes that active communication between SG Chairs, EG Chairs and other parts of the ICES network is essential to ensure positive experiences for people in the ICES network, successful operation of the EG and a responsive and timely science programme. The ToR also recognizes the importance of SG visibility and engagement to the success of the SG and ICES. ToR b reflects the need to be aware of emerging science, both within the current science priority areas as well as outside, keeping the organisation up to date on science activities and establishing new expert groups in important scientific areas as needed. ToR c reflect the need to develop, track and report on the science conducted in EG, to describe progress in relation to ICES science objectives and advisory needs, to highlight impactful and influential outputs and to ensure science priorities identified and generated in the network are captured and shared. ToR d reflects the importance that all SG and EG should attach to the handling of advisory ToR and special requests as well as developing the science needed to fulfil the future advisory needs.

	ToR e recognizes the EG's need to attract new and/or more participants. A wide promotion campaign of the EG work, the network opportunities and the scientific reward will present new options for reaching out to interested parties, both inside and outside the ICES network. Specific ToR ToR f reflects the importance to lead on social sciences and humanities and represent these in all relevant structures ToR g reflects the need to develop inter- and transdisciplinary approached tailored to the structure and working methods of ICES to support the work of IEA groups as well as activities in support of implementing Ecosystem-Based Management
Resource Requirements	Web conferencing, SharePoint and Secretariat support.
Participants	SCICOM members, Chairs of EGs under HUDISG
Secretariat Facilities	Support Officer
Financial	None specific
Linkages to Advisory Committees	ACOM
Linkages to other Committees or Groups	All other SGs and Strategic Initiatives
Linkages to other Organizations	IIFET, MARE, FAO, EU DG Env, STECF and EAFE