Workshop on Emerging Mollusc Pathogens (WKEMOP)

2018/2/ASG04   A **Workshop on Emerging Mollusc Pathogens** (WKEMOP), chaired by Janet Whaley*, USA, and Ryan Carnegie*, USA, will meet at ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-7 June 2019 to:

- a) Identify practical concerns needing to be addressed with regard to maintaining biosecurity and responding to outbreaks by emerging as well as established pathogens ([Science Plan codes](): 2.7, 5.6);
- b) Consider lessons learned from recent experience with OsHV-1 microvariants in Europe, Australia and New Zealand ([Science Plan codes](): 2.7, 5.6);
- c) Develop a framework for coordinated international response to emerging diseases ([Science Plan codes](): 2.7, 5.6).

WKEMOP will report by 1 August 2019 (via Aquaculture SG) for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting Information

Priority	The current activities of the WGPDMO will lead ICES into a consideration of how best to mitigate the impacts of emerging diseases on important fishery and aquaculture industries. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
Scientific justification	OsHV-1 microvariants are the most significant mollusc pathogens within the ICES area because of their present and potential future impacts on globally important Pacific oyster industries. Their rapid spread throughout Europe suggests inadequacies with regard to international aquatic animal health management. At the same time, their continued absence from major production areas in North America underscores the importance of identifying flaws in the framework for managing emerging aquatic diseases, and finding ways to correct them. Our continuing battle with these viral pathogens represents an ideal foundation for discussions concerning the international response to this and other future emerging diseases. While the immediate focus of this workshop relates to mollusc health, the results will largely transcend this phylum and apply to aquatic animal health management more generally.
Resource requirements	The research programmes which provide the main input to this group are already underway, and resources are already committed. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The WKEMOP is anticipated to be attended by 20–25 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	Meeting space at ICES Headquarters is requested for this workshop. Standard secretarial support.
Financial	Based on a voluntary contribution from a Member Country, funds will be used to support participation from ICES member countries where OsHV-1 microvariants presently occur or potentially could invade, as well as from Australia and New Zealand, which have critical perspective to provide on mitigating viral impacts on shellfish industries. Funds are intended to support one participant from each represented country fully if possible, with additional support to be allocated based on availability and attendee need. *Prospective attendees, eligible for travel support, would represent:* ICES countries: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Canada, USA, and any other ICES country where there is evidence to support a high probability of OsHV-1 invasion. Selection of the national representative who will receive travel support is to be determined nationally/ by the national Delegate with input from the Workshop co-chairs. Others: Australia, New Zealand. Selection of the representative who will receive travel support is to be determined by the Workshop co-chairs.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM/SCICOM workshop

Linkages to other committees or groups	Considerations of pathogen detection and characterisation and host resistance breeding would directly relate to interests of the Working Group on Application of Genetics in Fisheries and Aquaculture (WGAGFA).
Linkages to other organizations	The work of this group is closely aligned with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) interests.