

Workshop on the manual for genetic sampling from fisheries products in the NAFO area (WKGenMan)

2020/WK/ASG04 The **Workshop on the manual for genetic sampling from fisheries products in the NAFO area (WKGenMan)**, in response to the EU-DGMARE request for ICES advice on the International **Manual** of Procedures ([IMP](#)), an EU proposal to the Standing Committee of International Control (STACTIC) of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) to guide the collection of samples from fisheries products for **genetic** analysis, chaired by Jann Martinsohn (JRC, Italy) and Naiara Rodriguez-Ezpeleta (Spain), will work by correspondence until 16 December 2020 to address the request to review the IMP and to specifically:

- a) Review the adequacy of the approach proposed in IMP for collection of genetic material for sampling of fish on board of vessels for species identification;
- b) Evaluate feasibility and recommend a method for sample preservation that will be effective at maintaining sample integrity in the NAFO Regulatory Area fisheries, where at least 7 days are needed from sample collection to delivery at a laboratory facility;
- c) Review the adequacy of procedures for sample material collection, preservation and transfer to laboratory;
- d) Review the adequacy of the genetic technique advocated in the IMP, provided that it should produce unequivocal evidence about species identification/misidentification; and,
- e) Produce a report detailing the review of IMP and conclusions of WKGenMan on the basis of the ToRs a-d; and,

To carry out this work, WKGenMan, a Core Group of members from the ICES Working Group on Application of Genetics in Fisheries and Aquaculture (WGAGFA), including an invited expert from NAFO, will work by correspondence. WKGenMan will report by 16 December for the attention of the ASG, ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	High, in response to a specific request from the EU Commission to ICES to prepare a review and advice on the International Manual of Procedures (IMP). The advice should provide the scientific knowledge basis to assess the IMP based on the ToRs above.
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Scientific justification	<p>The IMP is an EU proposal to the Standing Committee of International Control (STACTIC) of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) with the objective of guiding fishing inspectors in carrying out their assignments, particularly the assignments directly derived from implementation of Article 35 of the NAFO Control and Enforcement Measures (CEM). The NAFO CEM includes provisions for DNA analysis in an effort to develop a solid approach to combat issues related with species misidentification.</p> <p>The IMP is a tool to operationalise the use of genetics in combating fish fraud and IUU fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA), notably by providing the guidance and setting the rules for the collection of samples of fishing products by any fishing Inspectors of NAFO contracting Parties operating in the NRA.</p> <p>The IMP should encompass (1) genetic tools and techniques and (2) techniques and approaches for the collection of genetic material that, at present, provide the most accurate results and represent the best practices on the matter. The IMP should be a tool that is validated and endorsed by the ICES scientific community.</p>
Resource requirements	ICES Secretariat support and Advisory process
Participants	The Core Group is expected to comprise 5-6 members and an expert familiar with sampling in the NAFO regulatory area. Other members of WGAGFA will be consulted.
Secretariat facilities	Secretariat support, web conferences.
Financial	Covered by DG MARE special requests to ICES
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	WGAGFA, SCICOM, ASG
Linkages to other organizations	EU DG MARE, NAFO