

**Stakeholder Workshop on the Value of Genetic and Genomic Tools for identifying species in mixed landings, fish products and by-products (WKGenoTools)**

2018/2/ASG05      A Stakeholder Workshop on the Value of Genetic and Genomic Tools for identifying species in mixed landings, fish products and by-products (WKGenoTools), chaired by Claudia Junge\*, Norway, and Jann Martinsohn\*, Italy, will meet in Brussels, Belgium, 5-6 February 2020 to:

- a) Review and consider recent technology developments in genetics and genomics that can support the identification of species in mixed landings, fish products and by-products in the context of fisheries management and policy needs such as mixed-stock fisheries management, stock identification, or the EU Landing Obligation;
- b) Review and consider end-user needs and discuss genetic and genomic approaches in the light of feasibility, added value and cost-efficiency.

WKGenoTools will report by 1 of April 2020 (via Aquaculture SG) for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

**Supporting information**

Priority	The current activities of this Group will lead ICES into issues related to the ecosystem effects of fisheries, especially with regard to the application of the Precautionary Approach. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
Scientific justification	<p>Fisheries management, but also the implementation of rules along the supply chain, rely to a great extent on the identification on fish species and also the geographical origin, including on processed products. Examples include the management of mixed fisheries, the identification of stocks and stock boundaries and the reduction of discards.</p> <p>It is generally acknowledged that discarding is a wasteful practice, impacting the endeavour of moving towards sustainable fisheries. This is why a number of countries and the European Union attempt to tackle the issue of discarding through dedicated fisheries management measures. To this end, the European Union is currently implementing the Landing Obligation. However, the complexity inherent to the present fishing practices confronts both the industry and authorities that are mandated with monitoring and controlling with unprecedented challenges.</p> <p>To support the advancement of mixed fisheries management, the stock identification and the reduction of discards, opportunities offered through the recent progress in genetic and genomic technological and analytical applications should be tapped into.</p> <p>However, it is necessary to ensure a mutual understanding between scientists and end-users to identify end-user needs and the most critical issues to be addressed, and to clarify which issues relevant for the Landing Obligation can be tackled by genetic approaches and also to render limits of such approaches evident.</p> <p>Based on an initial assessment, carried out by the WGAGFA and first documented feedback by stakeholders, this workshop will help to clarify to what extent genetic and genomic approaches can support the aforementioned key components of fisheries management, and which are the necessary steps to enable a successful technology and knowledge transfer.</p>
Resource requirements	Resources supporting this WK will be identified. Additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	This WK will be attended by some 20–25 participants.
Secretariat facilities	None.

---

Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	Support and advice from SCICOM and ACOM would be appreciated.
Linkages to other committees or groups	Not applicable
Linkages to other organizations	ICES WGAGFA members, European Commission DG MARE, The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, Representatives of Regional Advisory Councils (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1575), FAO.

---