WGIPS – Working Group of International Pelagic Surveys

2017/MA2/EOSG23 The **Working Group of International Pelagic Surveys** (WGIPS), chaired by Bram Couperus, The Netherlands, and Michael O´Malley*, Ireland, will meet to work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2019	14–18 January	Santa Cruz, Spain	Interim report by 3 March 2019 to EOSG, SCICOM & ACOM	Incoming chair Michael O´Malley
Year 2020	13–17 January	Bergen, Norway	Interim report by 2 March 2020 to EOSG, SCICOM & ACOM	
Year 2021	18–22 January	Belfast, Northern Ireland	Final report by 8 March 2021 to EOSG, SCICOM & ACOM	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science plan codes	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a (ACOM)	Combine and review annual ecosystem survey data to provide: indices of abundance and spatial distribution for the stocks of herring, sprat, mackerel, boarfish and blue whiting in Northeast Atlantic waters.	a) Advisory Requirements b) Requirements from other EGs	3.2, 5.2	years 1–3	Survey reports containing indices of stock biomass and abundance at age, spatial distributions of stocks and hydrographic conditions. HAWG WGWIDE
b(ACOM)	Coordinate the timing, area and effort allocation and methodologies for individual and multinational acoustic surveys on pelagic resources in the Northeast Atlantic waters covered (Multinational surveys: IBWSS, IESNS, IESSNS, HERAS, and individual surveys: CSHAS, ISAS,	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements c) Requirements from other EGs	3.1	years 1–3	Cruise plans for international and individual surveys. HAWG WGWIDE

	PELTIC, GERAS, WESPAS, industry coordinated surveys, CAPS).				
c (SCICOM)	Adopt standardized analysis methodology and data storage format utilizing the ICES acoustic database repository for all acoustically derived abundance estimates of WGIPS coordinated surveys	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements	3.2	years 1–3	Progress on the adaption of standardized analysis methodology and data storage format utilizing the ICES pelagic acoustic database repository for WGIPS coordinated surveys.
d (ACOM)	Periodically review and update the WGIPS acoustic survey manual to address and maintain monitoring requirements for pelagic ecosystem surveys	a) Science requirements b) Advisory requirements	3.1	years 1–3	Updated WGIPS survey manual.
e (ACOM)	Review the work, and report of workshops organised by WGIPS and develop formal ICES recommendations. This should include SISP updates and adopting changes to survey coordination where deemed appropriate.	a) Science requirements b) Advisory requirements	3.1	years 1–3	
f (ACOM)	Review and evaluate survey designs across all WGIPS coordinated surveys to ensure the integrity of survey deliverables, including acoustic surveys on spawning aggregations.	a) Science requirements b) Advisory Requirements c) Requirements from other EGs	3.1, 3.3	years 1–3	Optimize and harmonise sampling designs and precision estimates for the different surveys to ensure survey quality. HAWG WGWIDE
g(ACOM)	Assess and compare scrutinisation procedures employed for the analysis of raw acoustic data from WGIPS coordinated surveys	a) Science requirements b) Advisory requirements	3.2, 3.3, 4.2	year 1	Documented standardised scrutinisation recommendations; Update of survey manual to address and maintain monitoring requirements for pelagic ecosystem surveys.

h (SCICOM)	Collaborate with groups wishing to utilize available time-series from WGIPS coordinated surveys.	a) Science requirements	3.2	Years 1-3	Facilitate testing and developing forecast models provided by WGS2D and other groups.
i (SCICOM)	Assess developing pelagic ecosystem surveying technology (e.g. optical technology, multibeam and wideband acoustics) to: (i) achieve monitoring of different ecosystem components, and/or (ii) give input to the development of ecosystem indicators from surveys covered by WGIPS, (iii) continue to support the development of tools to improve the accuracy and precision of survey estimates.	a) Science Requirements b) Advisory Requirements c) Requirements from other EGs	3.1, 3.3, 4.1	years 1–3	Update ecosystem metrics that are collected by WGIPS coordinated surveys; and protocols/recommendations for practical implementation of new technologies.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	General meeting, preceded by 3 post-cruise meetings which collate data of multinational surveys. Session to review and evaluate survey designs across all WGIPS coordinated surveys done in Year 1; and coordinate planning and discuss designs for surveys taking place in Year 2. Session to standardize scrutinisation procedures for the International Ecosystem Summer Survey in the Norwegian Sea (IESSNS) covered by the WG (WKSCRUT). Inter-sessional work on the review and updates for the WGIPS acoustic manual, followed by a session during the annual meeting **to review and provide possible updates for the WGIPS acoustic survey manual.** Harmonize changes amongst the different surveys. Develop survey design protocols for acoustic surveys on spawning aggregations for inclusion in the survey manual. Session (mini symposium) to assess auxiliary pelagic ecosystem surveying technology focusing on methods currently used to monitor different ecosystem components across WGIPS coordinated surveys. Session on the future and development of databases (more specifically the ICES acoustic database and the PGNAPES database)
Year 2	General meeting, preceded by 3 post-cruise meetings which collate data of multinational surveys. Session to review and evaluate survey designs across all WGIPS coordinated surveys done in Year 2, and coordinate planning and discuss designs for surveys taking place in Year 3. Inter-sessional work on the review and updates for the WGIPS acoustic manual, followed by a session during the annual meeting to review and provide possible updates for the WGIPS acoustic survey manual. Harmonize changes amongst the different surveys. **Develop survey design protocols for acoustic surveys on spawning aggregations for inclusion in the survey manual.**

	Session to assess progress in the implementation of auxiliary pelagic ecosystem surveying technology and methodology (e.g. optical technology, multi-beam and wideband acoustics) for monitoring components of the wider ecosystem in surveys covered by WGIPS. Session on the future and development of databases (more specifically the ICES acoustic database and the PGNAPES database).
Year 3	General meeting, preceded by 3 post-cruise meetings which collate data of multinational surveys. Session to review and evaluate survey designs across all WGIPS coordinated surveys done in Year 3. Inter-sessional work on the review and updates for the WGIPS acoustic manual, followed by a session during the annual meeting to review and provide possible updates for the WGIPS acoustic survey manual. Harmonize changes amongst the different surveys. **Develop survey design protocols for acoustic surveys on spawning aggregations for inclusion in the survey manual.** Session to assess progress in the implementation of auxiliary pelagic ecosystem surveying technology and methodology (e.g. optical technology, multibeam and wideband acoustics) for monitoring components of the wider ecosystem in surveys covered by WGIPS. Session on the future and development of databases (more specifically the ICES acoustic database and the PGNAPES database).

Supporting information

Priority	The Group has a very high priority as its members have expertise in design and implementation of acoustic-trawl surveys, including sampling of additional ecosystem parameters. It will therefore directly contribute to the implementation of integrated pelagic ecosystem monitoring programmes in the ICES area. The Group's core task is the standardisation, planning, coordination, implementation, and reporting of acoustic surveys for the main pelagic fish species including herring, sprat, blue whiting, mackerel, and boarfish in Northeast Atlantic waters. The work provides essential data in the form of survey indices to WGWIDE and HAWG in the aim to perform integrated ecosystem assessment.
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 Group is normally attended by some 20–25 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	WGWIDE, HAWG
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with other groups in EOSG, especially relevant links to WGACEGG, WGALES, WGBIFS, WGFAST, WGFTFB, WGISDAA, WGISUR, WGMEGS, WGTC, WGINOR, WGINOSE, WGIAB, WKEVAL, WKMSMAC2, WKSCRUT, WKSUREQ
Linkages to other organizations	EU H2020 project 'AtlantOS'