

WGSINS - Working Group on Surveys on Ichthyoplankton in the North Sea and adjacent Seas

2018/MA2/EOSG09 The Working Group 2 on North Sea Cod and Plaice Egg Surveys in the North Sea (WEGGS2) will reconvene as the Working Group on Surveys on Ichthyoplankton in the North Sea and adjacent Seas (WGSINS), chaired by Norbert Rohlf, Germany, and will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2019	22 – 25 October	Bremerhaven, Germany	Interim report by 15 December 2019	
Year 2020	01 – 04 December	By Correspondence/Webex	Interim report by 15 January 2021	
Year 2021	TBD October	TBD	Final report by 15 December	

ToR descriptors

TO R	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Planning and execution of North Sea and adjacent seas ichthyoplankton surveys used for assessment and management purposes	Ichthyoplankton surveys in the North Sea and adjacent Seas deliver abundance data of early life history stages for fish SSB and/or recruitment for assessment of several fish stocks.	3.1, 3.2, 5.2	year 1, 2, 3	Survey Plan
b	Provide quality assurance of the survey indices time series to assessment working groups	Consistency in generation of data is a crucial prerequisite for the use of a time series in the assessment.	3.1, 3.2, 5.2	year 1, 2, 3	
c	Prepare a manual for ichthyoplankton surveys in the North Sea and adjacent seas	A manual that describes the standard procedures of ichthyoplankton surveys and their necessary adaptations to the survey specific objectives needs to be in place and reviewed regularly.	3.1, 3.2	year 3	SISP manual on standards in ichthyoplankton surveys
d	Provide quality assurance of ichthyoplankton identification, including molecular methods	The accurate identification of ichthyoplankton and the developmental stages is crucial for species specific abundance estimates.	3.1, 3.2	year 1, 2, 3	
e	Standardization of sampling and sample processing procedures	Standards of sampling and sample processing procedures need to be optimized w.r.t. efficiency	3.1	year 1, 2, 3	

f	Prepare data for archiving in the ICES eggs and larvae database	WGSINS data need to be prepared and uploaded to the ICES eggs and larvae database by each institute	3.2	year 1, 2, 3	Updated dataset on the ICES egg and larval database
g	Assess possibilities for the different ichthyoplankton surveys to supply data for the implementation of ecosystem approach to fisheries management	Ichthyoplankton surveys are able to provide additional data than needed for the original survey objectives. The acquisition of additional data has to be assessed w.r.t. feasibility of new survey objectives.	3.1, 3.3	year 1, year 2, year 3	Review any additional objectives that are proposed for the different ichthyoplankton surveys in the North Sea and adjacent seas.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	PLAN AND EXECUTE THE INTERNATIONAL HERRING LARVAE SURVEY (IHLS), THE RÜGEN HERRING LARVAE SURVEY (RHLS), THE BALTIC ICHTHYOPLANKTON SURVEY (BIS), MIK SURVEYS IN THE NORTH SEA (MIK), THE NORTHERN IRELAND METHOD ISAACS KIDD SURVEY (NIMIK), AND THE IRISH SEA HERRING LARVAE SURVEY (ISHLS)
Year 2	Plan and execute the IHLS, the RHLS, the BIS, the MIK, the NIMIK, ISHLS
Year 3	Plan and execute the IHLS, the RHLS, the BIS, the MIK, the NIMIK, ISHLS

Supporting information

Priority	This working group is important for the fisheries advisory process. The different ichthyoplankton surveys in the North Sea and adjacent seas provide important fishery-independent stock and/or recruitment data used in the assessment for herring stocks in the North and Baltic Seas as well as for cod in the Baltic and the Irish Sea, as well as for haddock in the Irish Sea and informs management of whiting in the Irish Sea.
Resource requirements	None.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 8 – 15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	HAWG, WGCSE, WGBFAS
Linkages to other committee or groups	EOSG, WGBIOP, IBTSWG, WGALES, WGML, WGZE
Linkages to other organizations	None