

WKHASS - Workshop on Herring Acoustic Spawning Surveys

2018/2/EOSG13 A Workshop on Herring Acoustic Spawning Surveys (WKHASS), chaired by Pablo Carrera, Spain, will meet in Vigo, Spain, 15–17 October 2019 to:

- a) Review survey design and acoustic data collection methods of ongoing surveys not previously reviewed by WGIPS (Irish Sea Spawning Survey and 6a Herring Industry Acoustic Spawning Surveys). The review should address survey design, timing, stock identification, containment, biological sampling and acoustic data collection methods;
- b) Explore the estimation methods of indices, including sensitivity to trawl and biological sampling allocations and echogram scrutinisation. Review and document methods used to produce measures of uncertainty (CV) in abundance and biomass for the survey by strata and the overall survey area.
- c) Fully document methods for inclusion in the Manual for International Pelagic Surveys (SISP 9) to ensure repeatability of the survey as reviewed, allow appropriate data quality checks and provide transparency of methodologies.
- d) Consider the relevance of additional information that is collected or could be collected for ICES advisory or science products, particularly ecosystem over-views and integrated ecosystem assessments.

WKHASS will report by December 13th 2019 for the attention of ACOM, SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	The Irish Sea herring spawning survey has never been thoroughly reviewed by WGIPS, however, results from the survey are presented to the group annually. The survey index is currently used in the stock assessment for Irish Sea herring as an absolute estimate of abundance. There are also herring spawning surveys under development for herring in 6a in recent years that have never been thoroughly reviewed. These surveys are similar in design and objectives to the Irish Sea Spawning Survey. WGIPS requests a workshop to establish and agree on survey design and protocols for coordinating and conducting these surveys
Scientific justification	Surveys need to be designed to appropriately address issues including containment, stock identification, sampling and precision, etc. Design considerations for such surveys in general are objective dependent and may be different to survey designs currently reviewed by WGIPS. It is important that the survey design is fit for purpose and understood by WGIPS in order to review and conduct the QA-checks under the group. Scrutinisation procedures, including biological sampling and allocation of species to echotraces need to be reviewed for herring spawning acoustic surveys; procedures need to be evaluated and documented for a transparent evidence base and to ensure appropriate use in science and advice. The Manual for International Pelagic Surveys should be updated to include these surveys during this workshop. Currently there are no protocols in the manual on how to conduct these surveys.
Resource requirements	No additional resources are required from ICES. The research programmes which provide the main input to this Workshop are already underway, and resources are already committed. The

	additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this Workshop is negligible.
Participants	It is expected that this Workshop will be attended by 7-8 members of WGIPS and HAWG.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	HAWG
Linkages to other committees or groups	WGIPS, PGDATA
Linkages to other organizations	There are no obvious direct linkages to outside organisations.