

## WKNSIMP – Workshop on Impacts of planned changes in the North Sea IBTS

2017/2/EOSG10

The **Workshop on Impacts of planned changes in the North Sea IBTS** (WKNSIMP), chaired by Kai Wieland\*, DK, will meet in Bremerhaven, Germany, 18–21 June 2019 to:

- a) Review expected near future changes in the North Sea IBTS ([Science plan codes 3.1](#));
- b) Evaluate the impacts of the planned changes in the NS-IBTS on data consistency for stock assessments and ecosystem indicators (existing and potential future indicators where expertise are available) and examine options to minimise the impacts (design based and model based approaches) ([Science plan codes 5.1](#));
- c) Advise on the implications of different change-options on future survey deliverables and how to minimise the impact of necessary changes ([Science plan codes 3.2](#)).

WKNSIMP will report by 5 August 2019 for the attention of the ACOM and SCICOM.

### Supporting information

Priority	The NS-IBTS is an important source of fisheries independent information for stock assessments of several North Sea stocks and provides additional information on biodiversity and marine litter. Changes of the survey, however, cannot entirely be avoided (e.g. change of vessels and survey gear in the future due to technical reasons but it is crucial that the consistency of the time series is impaired as less as possible.
Scientific justification	<p>Term of Reference a)</p> <p>Several countries will replace their research vessels in the near future. The current survey gear (GOV) is old fashioned and it becomes more and more difficult to get the material for repairs. Furthermore, ideas have been discussed in the recent years to modify the NS-IBTS towards an ecosystem survey, and there may be other changes the various survey participants may wish to implement e.g. a new stratification, random station position selection and allocation of sampling areas to the different countries.</p> <p>Term of Reference b)</p> <p>All the expected changes will potentially impact the quality and consistency of the time series provided by the NS-IBTS but its magnitude may likely differ depending on the purpose for which the data area used.</p> <p>Term of Reference c)</p> <p>There different ways to implement the unavoidable or wanted changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation in both the 1Q and 3Q NS-IBTS at the same time,</li> <li>- Abrupt implementation of all change in the 3Q IBTS, or</li> <li>- Gradual implementation in the 3Q IBTS over an period of several years, and advice is needed which approach would minimize the impact on the suitability of the data to be used for the various purposes .</li> </ul>
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	Is that the workshop will be attended by 10–20 survey and stock assessment expert group members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	There are no obvious direct linkages with the advisory committees.
Linkages to other committee or groups	There is a very close working relationship with many of the groups of the SSGIEOM Committee. It has relevance to WGNSSK and enduser workshops with the RCGs

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Linkages to other organizations

This work is of interest to the RCGs and the national governments in developing their monitoring programs. The workshop is also of interest for MSFD groups related to OSPAR.. Both these groups will be contacted ahead of the workshop to ensure

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