

WKREO – Workshop on the Realigning of the Ecosystem Observation Steering Group

The **Workshop on the Realigning of the Ecosystem Observation Steering Group** (WKREO), chaired by Sven Kupschus, UK, Matthias Kloppmann, Germany, and Colm Lordan, Denmark will be established and will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, 29-31 October 2019 to:

- a) Review the current tasks of the multi-annual data collection expert groups in the Ecosystem Observation Steering Group (EOSG) and identify essential tasks for the science and advisory processes ([Science Plan codes](#): 3.1, 3.2, 3.3);
- b) Develop options for reorganizing EOSG expert groups that can effectively conduct the essential tasks most efficiently while improving communication between, and incorporation of innovation from, expert groups (EGs) and across ICES steering groups (SGs) ([Science Plan codes](#): 3.1, 3.2, 3.3);
- c) Critically evaluate different reorganisation options for EOSG to identify the potential for issues with crucial delivery and timing for annual advisory needs, risks to communication pathways, and other possible implications for ICES science delivery ([Science Plan codes](#): 3.2).

WKREO will report by **DATE** for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	The communication in the Ecosystem Observation Steering Group (EOSG) and with other steering groups has decreased as the size (the number of expert groups), the complexity of the tasks and the level of specialisation have increased. To improve communication, ACOM sees it as an important task to investigate options to better align the EG activities with the advisory and science processes and considers it essential that this be considered from both a top-down and bottom-up perspective. ACOM and SCICOM retain the responsibility for enacting any potential changes to EOSG based on output from the workshop. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
Scientific justification	<p>Term of Reference a)</p> <p>The data collection EGs under EOSG provide the essential evidence base for many advisory and science processes in ICES and perform an essential QAQC function for the data provision. Due to a historic focus on consistency these groups and their tasks have become increasingly inflexible and with the changing advisory landscape a number of the reporting tasks are potentially outdated. Reviewing the tasks in the context of the new ICES science and advisory could potentially increase efficiency and effectiveness of the data collection groups and thus provide an opportunity to develop more effective ways to support ICES.</p> <p>Term of Reference b)</p> <p>Communication amongst data collectors, data collectors and data users has become hampered by the methodological focus of data collection making it difficult for data users to connect with the wider data collection community spread over many existing EGs. A new steering group structure could more effectively transfer the information to data users and potentially improve the cooperation between data collectors, while providing the opportunity to rejuvenate the scientific interest and develop new skills and expertise in these groups. Such opportunities need to be critically assessed from a data collector's perspective.</p> <p>Term of Reference c)</p> <p>EOSG is a complex network closely intertwined with the advisory network sharing a common heritage in their development. Any degree of major reorganisation is likely to have some impact on these interactions particularly with regards to timing of reporting and report content. A detailed evaluation and identification of solutions for specific issues is necessary.</p>
Resource requirements	No additional ICES resource requirements are needed. However, support at the national level by ACOM and SCICOM is essential to ensure that the workshop has broad participation of EOSG expert groups.

Participants	A broad spectrum of data collectors and good representation of the groups is necessary as well as some representation of data users that rely on the data collection for their advisory and science purposes.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM as parent committee for the steering group as well as FRSG and the assessment EGs as data users.
Linkages to other committees or groups	ACOM, SCICOM as parent committees for the steering group as well as EGs under EOSG potentially affected by any proposed changes.
Linkages to other organizations	RCG-groups, National Institutes.