

WGBEAM – Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys

2019/FT/EOSG10 A Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys (WGBEAM), chaired by Ingeborg de Boois, the Netherlands, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 1	24-26 March 2020	By correspondence/Skype	The first interim report by 30 April 2020 to SCICOM and ACOM	Incoming Chair: Ingeborg de Boois
Year 2	23-26 March 2021	Hafnarfjörður, Iceland	The second interim report by 30 April 2021 to SCICOM and ACOM	
Year 3	2022	Town, Country	Final report by XX YYYY 20XX to SCICOM and ACOM	

ToR descriptors¹

TO R	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Evaluate the combined offshore and inshore beam trawl surveys data by region data in a reproduceable manner for the species used in fish stock assessment, including elasmobranchs and brown shrimp. Compare internal and external consistency of indices age based indices where provided. Document inconsistencies or correct errors or omissions where identified.	Evaluation by region will ensure that patterns in data (e.g. time-series, cohort strength) are consistent and sampling artefacts including year effects are identified, even when inter survey trends contradict.	3.1, 3.2	annually	(a) Updated, consistent and quality controlled beam trawl survey data are available in DATRAS; (b) R script to evaluate the results by region
b	Evaluate the cross regional offshore beamtrawl data in a reproduceable manner for the overlapping species used in fish stock assessment in multiple regions (e.g. sole, elasmobranch species). Document inconsistencies and correct errors or omissions where relevant.	Evaluation of species that are assessed in multiple regions cross-regionally will provide insight in the commonalities and differences in stock dynamics in different regions.	3.1, 3.2	annually	(a) Updated, consistent and quality controlled beam trawl survey data are available in DATRAS; (b) R script to evaluate the results cross-regionally

¹ Avoid generic terms such as “Discuss” or “Consider”. Aim at drafting specific and clear ToR, the delivery of which can be assessed

c	Evaluate the combined survey results of the offshore and inshore beam trawl surveys by region on consistency, including litter data in a reproduceable manner.	Evaluation of e.g. species composition and litter registrations will ensure that patterns in the data (e.g. time-series non-commercial species, litter, species composition, length frequencies) are based on correct data and not due to artefacts, even when the signals contradict. By doing this in a reproduceable manner (R script), the focus can be shifted or extended over the years without re-inventing the wheel. Moreover, traceability of analyses increases.	3.1, 3.2	annually	(a) Updated, consistent and quality controlled (e.g. species composition, litter coding, consistent species identification in overlapping survey areas) beam trawl survey data are available in DATRAS. (b) R script to evaluate the results by region
d	Coordinate and evaluate the data delivery into the ICES database for offshore and inshore beam trawl surveys of (at least) the last two years and document gaps.	Unaggregated beam trawl survey data are stored in DATRAS up and until the survey of the year previous to the meeting year. Data from the year(s) before that, should be checked for completeness (final data submitted).	3.1	annually	(1) Achievable deadlines for data delivery of the next survey (2) Updated ICES database for inshore and offshore beam trawl surveys.
e	Coordinate and plan inshore and offshore surveys including overlapping tows	Dates, sampling areas and contact details of key persons are shared in order to (a) identify opportunities for tows on the same location, to support the deltaGAM methodology for index calculation in combining different survey gears. (b) coordinate effort in case of unforeseen circumstances hampering one of the surveys, primarily North Sea	3.1	annually	Finalized planning for the inshore and offshore beam trawl surveys, including areas where overlapping tows may occur.
f	Report on the performance and abnormalities in the inshore and offshore surveys in the past year	For interpretation of the results, information on the performance of the sampling has to be provided to end-users	3.1	annually	Survey summary sheet by region.
g	Review and update the manual for offshore beam trawl surveys (SISP 14)	Review and update the survey manual.	3.1, 3.2	Year 3	Updated BTS manual (SISP 14)

h	Review and update the manual for inshore beam trawl surveys (DYFS, SNS)	Finalize the current draft manual in line with SISP 14 and hand in for review.	3.1, 3.2	Year 2	Manual for inshore beam trawl surveys
i	Provide indices for plaice, sole and if necessary other species if not yet derived directly from DATRAS	Indices are needed for the stock assessments. Especially for the Q1SWECOS survey, North Sea inshore surveys and offshore surveys outside the North Sea where indices are not (always) yet derived from DATRAS directly	3.1, 3.2	annually	Indices for plaice and sole if needed

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilaton of survey summary sheets • Provide tabular overview of survey planning, including geographical areas for overlapping tows • Data for all beam trawl surveys (inshore and offshore) including litter uploaded in DATRAS for at least the past two years, as far as DATRAS allows the survey data to be submitted. For datasets where index calculation is done directly from DATRAS, as many years of the time-series should be uploaded as is feasible • R scripts for and results from the data evaluation by region as well as across regions • First draft of inshore beam trawl survey manual following the outlines of SISP 14 • If relevant, updated SISP 14 at sharepoint
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilaton of survey summary sheets • Provide tabular overview of survey planning, including geographical areas for overlapping tows • Data for all beam trawl surveys (inshore and offshore) including litter uploaded in DATRAS for at least the past two years, as far as DATRAS allows the survey data to be submitted. For datasets where index calculation is done directly from DATRAS, as many years of the time-series should be uploaded as is feasible • R scripts for and results from the data evaluation by region as well as across regions • Final version of inshore beam trawl survey manual following the outlines of SISP 14 • If relevant, updated SISP 14 at sharepoint
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilaton of survey summary sheets • Provide tabular overview of survey planning, including geographical areas for overlapping tows • Data for all beam trawl surveys (inshore and offshore) including litter uploaded in DATRAS for at least the past two years, as far as DATRAS allows the survey data to be submitted. For datasets where index calculation is done directly from DATRAS, as many years of the time-series should be uploaded as is feasible • R scripts for and results from the data evaluation by region as well as across regions • If relevant, updated SISP 14 for review and publication

Supporting information

Priority	The scientific surveys coordinated by this Group provide major fishery-independent tuning information for the assessment of several fish stocks in the a number of regions. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a very high priority.
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 about 12 beam trawl survey experts
Secretariat facilities	Report finalization, support ICES Data Centre with respect to DATRAS-related topics
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	The survey data feed into to the assessments of flatfish stocks, brown shrimp and elasmobranch species carried out by various stock assessment EGs. Linked to ACOM through the quality of stock assessments and management advice.
Linkages to other committees or groups	Outcomes of and data supplied by WGBEAM are relevant to WGML and integrated ecosystem assessment groups.
Linkages to other organizations	The offshore beam trawl survey data are used in the large fish indicator (OSPAR).