

Working Group on Economics (WGECON)

2017/MA2/HAPISG09 A Working Group on Economics (WGECON), chaired by Hazel Curtis, UK, Rasmus Nielsen, Denmark, and Olivier Thebaud, France, will be established 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 2018	11–15 June	ICES HQ, Copenhagen, Denmark	Interim report by 25 August to HAPISG	
Year 2019	11–14 June	Paris, France		
Year 2020			Final report by Date	

ToR descriptors

TO R	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	SCIENCE PLAN CODES	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	To map the current work and identify future needs for economic science in ICES, giving consideration to useful connections to international marine/ fisheries economics organisations such as IIFET, NAAFE and EAFE.	This is mostly scoping exercise within ICES, but also ensures coordination of activities with other international bodies and links to the wider scoping work in the Strategic Initiative for the Human Dimension (SIHD).	6.3; 6.4; 7.3	Years 1, 2	Annual reporting
b	To identify and report on economic data gaps that point to priorities for longer-term data collection, research, institutional needs, and researcher training in all ICES member countries; and where possible propose systems to collect missing data.	To aid prioritisation of data collection to enable quantitative analyses and estimates of economic issues for ecosystem overviews and future advice requests. The ToR also links to ICES Data Centre.	3.1; 3.2; 4.2	Years 1, 2	Annual reporting
c	To define and report on the information flow needed to provide trade-off analysis of fishing impacts and ecosystem services	To develop a system to support potential future advice requests and development of ecosystem overviews	5.3; 6.1; 7.6	Years 2, 3	Annual reporting
d	To assess and report on the economic significance of commercial fishing for selected coastal regions in the ICES area	To support future potential advice requests and development of ecosystem overviews	6.6; 7.1; 7.2	Years 2, 3	Annual reporting, potentially also scientific manuscript

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Start mapping the current work and identify future needs for economic science in ICES (ToR a) and identifying economic data gaps (ToR b). Briefly brainstorm and discuss ideas on how to address and organise work under the remaining ToRs in year 2. Ensure establishing close connections with other relevant groups within and outside ICES. Producing Interim Report.
Year 2	Progress work towards completion of ToR a) and ToR b). Start work on defining the information flow needed to provide trade-off analysis (ToRc) and assessing the economic significance of commercial fishing (ToR d). Producing Interim Report.
Year 3	Finalise ToR c and ToR d, incl. the manuscript. Discuss and plan strategies and concrete steps for future work. Produce Final Report.

Supporting information

Priority	<p>Nations are concerned about fish stocks and marine ecosystems not least because they can contribute to human wellbeing; therefore, these natural resources have an economic value. The economic dimension should be an integral part of marine science and scientific advice regarding the use and conservation of marine resources.</p> <p>Demand for science and advice to address economic considerations is increasing, but ICES does not engage many economists or address economic issues in many member countries in its existing work. The efforts of the <u>Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension</u> (SIHD) with ICES have served to raise the profile of economics in the last few years, but, with a few exceptions, SIHD efforts are not comprehensively supported and informed by the work of the ICES EG. Further, none of the existing EG that address economic issues are focusing on the development of economic metrics and core economic analyses that are demanded in parts of the ICES network (e.g. further development of ecosystem overviews) and, in some cases, by clients for ICES advice.</p> <p>The need to expand the engagement of ICES in economics was also reflected in the outcomes of many recent meetings, especially the “<u>Understanding marine socio-ecological systems</u>” (MSEAS) Conference which ICES co-sponsored in Brest in 2016. Others drivers include high level aspirations for Blue Growth in <u>European countries</u> and <u>globally</u>, the interest in managing fisheries for Maximum Economic Yield and a desire to understand economic consequences of human-induced changes in the sea (<u>WGHIST</u>). There is also recognition in ICES, and from our clients, that it would be desirable to add economic metrics to ICES <u>ecosystem overviews</u> and better recognise people and their livelihoods as part of the ecosystem. Further, in the longer term, ICES growing engagement in <u>aquaculture science</u> will likely lead to overviews of aquaculture activity that will also require economic inputs.</p>
Resource requirements	The group will rely on ongoing international and national research projects with active involvement of WGECON members.
Participants	This is a new Group, expected to be attended by some 20–25 participants.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are currently no linkages with ACOM, but the EG will be ready to address advisory requests if these are forthcoming.
Linkages to other committees or groups	The subject area of this EG has close linkage with at least the following ICES groups: WGMIXFISH, WGSEDA, WGIMM, WGRMES, WGNARS, WGHIST and the Strategic Initiative SIHD.

Linkages to other organizations	International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET), North American Association, of Fisheries Economists (NAAFE), European Association of Fisheries Economists (EAFE), EU Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
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