

## Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping (WGMHM)

2017/MA2/HAPISG02

The **Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping (WGMHM)**,

chaired by James Strong, UK, 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	22-24 May	Hamburg, Germany	Interim report by 1 August	
Year 2019	3-7 June	Palma de Mallorca, Spain	Interim report by 1 August	Meeting in association with WGDEC
Year 2020	4-8 May	by corresp/ webex	Final report by 1 July	physical meeting cancelled - remote work (jointly with WGDEC)

### ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	<a href="#">SCIENCE PLAN CODES</a>	DURATION	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
A	Report on progress in international mapping programmes (including OSPAR and HELCOM Conventions, EMODnet, EC and EEA initiatives, CHARM, Mesh-Atlantic and other projects).	Capturing the presence and work of large international mapping projects is important because (i) the WGMHM report becomes a useful 'state of the art' summary of marine habitat mapping activity, (ii) the presentations from these projects helps spread best-practice, standardisation and collaborative working within the group, and (iii) other presentations highlight relevant mapping work that may benefit the large international programmes.	3.4	3 years	Annual updates and final report
B	Review and synthesise key results from national habitat mapping during the preceding year, as well as new on-going and planned projects focusing on particular issues of relevance to the rest of the meeting. Provide National Status Report updates in geographic format in the ICES webGIS.	The current extent of marine habitat mapping and modelling means that maps are meeting at international boundaries. It is important that maps are joined internationally and in a standardised manner. This requires an understanding of the extent and distribution of habitat mapping within nation states. Equally, WGMHM are often interested in specific habitats and wish to be kept informed of specific mapping exercises on these habitats, e.g. deepwater habitats or cold water corals. The reporting of national mapping is also the primary mechanism for encouraging WG members to submit	3.4	3 years	Annual updates and final report. Submission of of survey metadata to ICES Data Center

		survey metadata files to the various data archiving centres. The National Progress reports also states whether member countries have purchased significant survey items, such as ships, AUVs and sonars. This provides a good opportunity for others to identify useful resources for international collaboration.			
C	Summarise recent advances in marine habitat mapping and modelling techniques, including field work methodology, and data analysis and interpretation.	This ToR provides the main avenue for mappers to communicate new or improved techniques to the other scientists present (and captured in the report). As such, this ToR is essential for spreading best practice and developing new methods.	3.3	3 years	Annual updates and final report. The 2018 intersessional work will be directed towards producing our first marine habitat mapping best practice document (1–2 methodological topics only)
D	Review practise about the use of habitat maps, for example mapping for the MSFD, marine spatial planning, and management of MPAs; and assess the ability to use habitat maps for monitoring of the environment.	To encourage the diversification of the WGMHM, the group also consider how marine habitat maps are used for scientific and management purposes. Members of the group are often the creators of these maps and have important insights into how the maps can be used. Equally, it gives marine managers an opportunity to suggest how maps are best presented to support clarity and value for management purposes.	6.2	3 years	Annual updates and final report. The WGMHM also made a substantial contribution to the ICES Special Request Advice 'EU request for guidance on how pressure maps of fishing intensity contribute to an assessment of the state of seabed habitats' Published 4 July 2016
E	The identification of sources of information (e.g. bathymetry, oceanography, fisheries or socio-economic) that can be used for the production and enrichment of marine habitat maps.	Many of the remotely sensed and modelled outputs that are of value to marine habitat mappers is available online. Although much of this information is centralised in large data archives, other information remains dispersed on the web. This ToR seeks to collate the important data soueces that are of value for marine habitat mapping into one database.	3.2	Year 1	An annually updated database listing important data sources suitable for marine habitat mapping
F	Identify and advance theoretical aspects of	This ToR is to provide an opportunity for EG members to address the theoretical	4.1	Years 1 and 2	Important presentations and

habitat mapping (e.g. landscape ecology, supply-side ecology, implications of scale etc.).	aspects of marine habitat mapping. As a science in its infancy, it is important that underpinning concepts are challenged and re-evaluated.	discusses summarised in annual reports. Scientific publication assessing the influence of classification schemes on marine habitat mapping (to be submitted in mid December 2017 to ICES Journal of Marine Science)
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## Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Draft and finalise the “Recommended Operating Guidelines for Assessing and Communicating Confidence in Marine Habitat Mapping
Year 2	Conduct a joint meeting with the working group on deep-water ecology (WGDEC) and collaborate a significant joint output, e.g., geo-spatial modeling of the distribution of Atlantic Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems”.
Year 3	Annual reporting for remaining ToRs and commissioning of new intersessional papers and database.

## Supporting information

Priority	These ToRs are essential for maintaining the WG as a focused and relevant group for marine habitat mapping. The ToRs also contribute to the dissemination of innovative ideas and best practice. This in turn improves the quality and quantity of marine habitat maps.
Resource requirements	The only resources required will be the occasional use of ICES HQ meeting rooms.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 10 - 15 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	There are no obvious direct linkages.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with Working Groups on Benthic Ecology, Deep-Water Ecology, Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management and Spatial Fisheries Data.
Linkages to other organizations	EMODnet bathymetry and EMODnet seabed habitats.