

WKBAR - Workshop on ecological valuing of areas of the Barents Sea

2018/2/IEASG11 A Workshop on ecological valuing of areas of the Barents Sea (ICES WKBAR), chaired by Adriaan Rijnsdorp (NL), Markku Viitasalo (FIN) and Mariano Koen-Alonso (CAN) will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, 23-24 May 2019 to:

- a) Agree definitions. Develop a set of criteria that can be used to identify special/valued areas in the Barents Sea.
- b) Propose a candidate framework. Suggest a framework (or frameworks) for identification of special/valued areas in the Barents Sea.
- c) Exemplify the potential for practical use in management. Showcase data products emergent from the framework expected to be readily usable by ocean/fisheries managers in supporting decision making in the Barents Sea in a Marine Spatial Planning context.

Prior to the workshop, the Chairs will prepare a review of the recent work done by the HAV-1 project and the ICES working on the integrated assessment of the Barents Sea (WGIBAR). The review, along with background material will be prepared by chairs and invited experts to address the TORs. Based on interaction with the experts the group of chairs will ensure the completion of the workshop report.

ICES WKBAR will report to the attention of ACOM by 3 June 2019.

Supporting information

Priority	High, in response to a special request from the Joint Norwegian-Russian Commission on Environmental Protection, Norwegian-Russian Working Group on Marine Environment.
Scientific justification	<p>The ongoing implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches in the Barents Sea includes Marine Spatial Planning as one of the tools expected to be used for integrated management. In this context, identification and delineation of ecologically special/valued areas, as well as their regular updating and mapping, constitute key pieces of information for the spatial management of human activities. At the present time there is no agreed definition of what constitutes an ecologically special/valued area nor a common framework to identify, delineate and/or update them. Therefore, this workshop will:</p> <p>TOR a "Agree definitions". Based on the work of the HAV-1 project and the ICES working on the integrated assessment of the Barents Sea (WGIBAR), allow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Development of an ICES review summarizing the criteria and approaches used to define special/valued areas in the Barents Sea.ii. Agreement on a definition of value, and criteria to identify special/valued areas. <p>TOR b "Propose a candidate framework". Suggest a framework (or frameworks) for identification of special/valued areas in the Barents Sea that makes the best use possible of existing data streams, provides an structured operational mechanism for integration of these multiple data sources, and allows for regular updating. The framework should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. identify a methodology(s) for the selection of biological/ecological components, and setting the valuation criteria and rules to score area/habitat value and aggregate scores across components.ii. be based on environmental value of several ecosystem components, including: seabirds, fish, benthic organisms/habitats and marine mammals.iii. establish a common approach to map special/valued areas.

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- iv. be able to accommodate seasonal or monthly frequency “windows”, to consider traits related to “Special importance for life history stages of species” in line with the CBD EBSA criteria.

TOR c “Exemplify the potential for practical use in management”. Showcase data products emergent from the framework expected to be readily usable by ocean/fisheries managers in supporting decision making in the Barents Sea in a Marine Spatial Planning context. This should be demonstrated by:

- i. use of worked examples to identify potential data flows and data management best practices
- ii. guidance to ensure data products can be disseminated as web-based maps for decision-makers in Norway and Russia and others it may concern

Resource requirements	ICES Data Centre and ICES Secretariat.
Participants	Workshop with researchers If requests to attend exceed the meeting space available ICES reserves the right to refuse participants. Choices will be based on the experts' relevant qualifications for the Workshop. Participants join the workshop at national expense.
Secretariat facilities	Data Centre, Secretariat support and meeting room
Financial	None
Linkages to advisory committees	Direct link to ACOM and SCICOM.
Linkages to other committees or groups	Links to WGIBAR
Linkages to other organizations	none
