

WGISUR – Working Group on Integrating Surveys for the Ecosystem Approach

2016/MA2/SSGIEOM1 The **Working Group on Integrating Surveys into ecosystem monitoring programmes** (WGISUR), chaired by Ralf van Hal, The Netherlands, will work on ToRs mentioned below and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2018	29 May-1 June	Saint Andrews, New Brunswick	Interim report by 13 July to ACOM/SCICOM	2 days meeting of core group only, 2 days meeting to evaluate Canada/USA ecosystem survey plans
Year 2019	17-20 June	Bremerhaven, Germany	Interim report by 1 August 2019 to ACOM/SCICOM	2 days meeting of core group only, 2 days working on how to organise integrated monitoring in the North Sea
Year 2020	TBD	TBD	Final report by Date Month to ACOM/SCICOM	2 days meeting of core group only, 2 days working on evaluation of Norwegian Sea ecosystem monitoring in relation to IEA and survey results.

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science plan codes	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Provide guidance on the development of ecosystem monitoring surveys and/or programmes	The work of the group directly relates to goals 1, 2, and 3 of the ICES Strategic Plan (pages 14–15). Specifically, WGISUR work is strongly linked to the last bullet point under goals 1 and 2 (page 14).	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	3 (focus in year 1)	after Year 3 a CRR on evaluation, use and improvement of ecosystem monitoring plans, surveys and/or programmes following up on the 2017 CRR
b	Provide guidance and advice on the shift from surveys to ecosystem monitoring programmes	The work of the group directly relates to goals 1, 2, and 3 of the ICES Strategic Plan (pages 14–15). Specifically, WGISUR work is strongly linked to the last bullet point under goals 1 and 2 (page 14), and stronger links to IEA groups.	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	3 (focus in year 2)	after year 3 a CRR on evaluation, use and improvement of ecosystem monitoring plans, surveys and/or programmes following up on the 2017 CRR
c	Evaluation of ecosystem monitoring surveys and/or programmes	The work of the group directly relates to goals 1, 2, and 3 of the ICES Strategic Plan (pages 14–15). Specifically, WGISUR work is strongly linked to the last bullet point under goals 1 and 2 (page 14).	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	3 (focus in year 3)	after year 3 a CRR on evaluation, use and improvement of ecosystem monitoring plans, surveys and/or programmes following up on the 2017 CRR

d	Provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences on development and evaluation of ecosystem monitoring	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	3 (ongoing)	CRR
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Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Review and provide guidance on the plans for the integrated USA/Canada ecosystem survey
Year 2	How to organize integrated monitoring in the North Sea (e.g. how to make use of the different surveys in the area and how to organize regional collaboration)
Year 3	Evaluation of Norwegian Sea ecosystem monitoring; prepare final output in CRR format

Supporting information

Priority	<p>High. Integrated ecosystem monitoring will lead to better ecosystem understanding. The topics covered by WGISUR are mentioned in the ICES Strategic Plan. The working group will provide guidance to those collecting data as well as to data users on integrated ecosystem monitoring.</p> <p>There is a clear momentum for guidance on evaluation of plans for and results of ecosystem monitoring as there are initiatives to set up ecosystem surveys, and results from existing ecosystem monitoring becomes more and more available.</p> <p>In order to optimise guidance, WGISUR will use regional monitoring from different regions in the next term. From this, a generalised overview will be created.</p>
Resource requirements	The focus for the next period will be on providing guidance on evaluating ecosystem monitoring, and application of the current guidance by evaluating plans for new ecosystem monitoring based on plans under development and by evaluating survey results of current monitoring. Furthermore, for the North Sea it will be investigated how to move from ecosystem surveys towards monitoring.
Participants	<p>The group is normally attended by 10–15 members and guests ('core' group). Participation from all ecoregions is important. The group likes to explicitly state that there is a strong wish to keep the current participation from Norway, Canada, and USA next to EU countries, as this prevents that the group narrows down 'ecosystem monitoring' to 'MSFD monitoring'.</p> <p>The following expertise should be added to the 'core' group: analytical expertise, expertise on (monitoring of) other ecosystem components than fish (e.g. zooplankton, birds, physical/chemical), integrated ecosystem assessments.</p> <p>On top of that, dedicated additional expertise is needed in each year during a part of the meeting, on top of the 'core' members:</p> <p>year 1 (2018): Additional attendance needed from WGNARS USA/Canadian experts on the survey plans.</p> <p>year 2 (2019): Additional attendance needed from all North Sea survey planning groups, WGINOSE and chairs of IEASG, EOSG; and preferred attendance from WGNSSK, HAWG, OSPAR.</p> <p>year 3 (2020): Additional attendance of WGINOR and Norwegian Sea survey experts needed.</p>
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.

Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	In general, good linkage with groups under ACOM including the BSG is necessary as the move towards ecosystem monitoring may have implications on the survey stratification and as a result, on survey time-series used in stock assessment. Good linkage and communication is needed for survey groups moving towards ecosystem monitoring to understand the assessment needs, and for the assessment groups to understand the added value of the improved way of data collection, and to accept changes in time-series. Specific linkage in year 2 to assessment groups in the North Sea.
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM, Survey planning WGs under EOSG, IEA WGs under IEASG, WGECO and other ecology based WGs, DIG.
Linkages to other organizations	Involvement of OSPAR and HELCOM is welcomed in the work of this group.
