

WKESIG – Workshop on evaluating survey information Celtic Sea gadoids

2017/2/EOSG08

The **Workshop on evaluating survey information Celtic Sea gadoids (WKESIG)**, chaired by David Stokes, Ireland, will meet in 4-5 February 2019 at the at the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland to:

- a) Review and consider the quality and availability of survey data going into the assessment of cod, haddock and whiting as requested by WGCSE2017 ([Science plan codes 5.1](#));
- b) Evaluate the potential to improve current survey indices by use of additional information such as standardising by swept area or using model based index approaches ([Science plan codes 5.1](#));
- c) Review and standardize methods for evaluating and constructing indices including applying and filling in ALKs, estimating uncertainty and, where desirable, combining or complementing surveys with other data sources ([Science plan codes 5.1](#)).

WKESIG will report by 19 March 2019 for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	The Benchmark process is critical to the review and quality assurance of stock assessments within ICES. A number of points for investigation have been indentified by WGCSE for cod, haddock and whiting which form a key mixed fishery in the Celtic Sea. These stocks are largely if not exclusively tuned using survey data and therefore this work is considered a high priority.
Scientific justification	Term of Reference a) Three of the largest stocks assessed by WGCSE (Cod 7e_k, Haddock 7b_k and Whiting 7b_k) form part of a significant mixed demersal fishery in the Celtic Sea. These assessments rely heavily on survey indices which in all cases use at least one combined survey index between Ireland (IE-IGFS) and France (EVHOE). How these data are standardised and combined is somewhat different across stocks and achieved by R code passed through earlier Benchmarks, but not currently published or documented in detail. The proposed workshop will review the construction and quality of these survey indices including: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) optimal standardization such as swept areab) appropriate fill ins of ALKsc) appropriate estimates of uncertainty which could be passed in to the assessment process.
Resource requirements	The input data for this work is largely available already through DATRAS and Intercatch and therefore time to process the inputs is main resource requirement.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by 6-10 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	The results and conclusions will likely feed into future benchmark processes for these or other species.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a close working relationship with IBTS, WGCSE and WGMIXFISH.
Linkages to other organizations	