

WKARNSSH – Workshop on Age estimation of Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring (*Clupea harengus*)

2015/2/SSGIEOM13

A **Workshop on Age estimation of Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring (*Clupea harengus*)** (WKARNSSH), chaired by Jane A Godiksen*, Norway and NN*, XX will be established and will meet in Bergen, Norway, XX 2017 to:

- a) Review information on age estimations and validation work done so far;
- b) Analysis of the results of the exchange programme between ageing labs, using a collection of otoliths and scales (images);
- c) Clarify the interpretation of annual rings in particular during summer;
- d) Improve the guidelines on age estimation for both of the applied structures (otolith or scale);
- e) Create a reference collection of agreed aged otoliths and scales;
- f) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration (see 'WGBIOP Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration').

WKARNSSH will report by **date month 2017** for the attention of ACOM, SCICOM and WGBIOP.

Supporting Information

Priority:	Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortality and growth. In order to arrive at appropriate management advice ageing procedures must be reliable. Otolith processing methods and age reading methods might differ considerably between countries and laboratories. Therefore, otolith exchanges should be carried out on a regular basis, and if serious problems exist age reading workshops should be organised to solve these problems.
-----------	---

Scientific justification and relation to action plan:	The aim of the workshop is to review the available information on age determination, and validation for Norwegian Spring Spawning herring, to identify potential problems in age determination for this species, improve the accuracy and precision of age determinations and and and share the methods and procedures used in different ageing laboratories. 150 samples of images of otoliths and scales will be uploaded to WebGR and annotated by the different laboratories to assess the precision of age readers during 2015 (WKNSSAGE). The otoliths and scales will also be exchanged among the readers in 2016. Readers will only read the structure they usually read at their laboratory. At the workshop, in 2017, results from the exchange will be presented and discussed.
---	---

Resource requirements:	150 samples of images of otoliths and scales will be uploaded to WebGR None.
------------------------	--

Participants:	Age readers experts working on Spring Spawning Herring.
---------------	---

Secretariat facilities:	None.
-------------------------	-------

Financial:	
------------	--

Linkages to advisory committees:	ACOM
----------------------------------	------

Linkages to other committees or groups:	WGBIOP, WGWIDE, SCICOM, RCM
---	-----------------------------

Linkages to other None.
organisations:
