

# 2019 ICES workshop announcement

## Unavoidable survey effort reduction



The ICES Working Group on Improving use of Survey Data for Assessment and Advice (WGISDAA) invites survey and stock assessment scientists to investigate challenges and responses to unavoidable reductions of survey effort. Most survey programs are at one time or another asked to make substantial short-term changes to survey operations due to budget reductions, weather, and vessel breakdowns and unavailability. These short-term effort reductions typically compromise the long-term objectives of survey series in terms of accuracy, precision, and consistency of population estimation. Usually these reductions leave little time for planning and quantitative evaluation, so there is a real need to develop methods that provide a better understanding of the risks of different implementation options. Participants at this workshop will examine methods that can minimize the amount of information loss and seek appropriate methods for the survey design and objectives. These tools aim to assist survey scientists to make better decisions when unexpected events force changes, to facilitate better contingency planning, and to convey the likely consequences to assessment scientists and policy makers.

Participants are encouraged to contribute to the following topics:

- The current processes dealing with unavoidable reductions in survey effort and examining the existing coping strategies (e.g. spatial coverage, survey frequency, or sampling density) and their qualitative consequences.
- Develop key quality metrics that can be used to describe “total survey uncertainty” for common survey designs and indices of abundance.
- Define “changes to survey designs” that require inter-survey calibration and what changes can be resolved by a model-based approach to index generation.
- Develop methods that can provide quantitative decision-making tools describing impacts on the quality of survey deliverables and advisory products.

**AFSC**  
**Seattle**  
14–18 January  
2019

The workshop on unavoidable survey effort reduction (WKUSER) will be hosted at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington USA, 14-18 January



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