

2011/3/SSGEF03 **A Symposium on “Effects of fishing on benthic fauna and habitat: Change in ecosystem composition and functioning in response to fishing intensity, gear type and discard”** will be held from 16–19 June 2014, in Tromsø, Norway with Lene Buhl-Mortensen, Carsten Hvingel and Børge Holte (Norway), Francis Neat (Scotland) and Mariano Koen-Alonso (Canada) as Conveners.

A Scientific Steering Group will be established with members nominated by relevant Working Groups or other relevant ICES bodies from among the ICES network of research institutes in order to assist the Conveners in planning the Symposium. In consultation with the Conveners, the ICES Secretariat will solicit appropriate co-sponsorship from other international organizations.

Supporting Information

Priority:	<p>Advancing the capacity to understand and advice on the effects of human activity and natural change on marine ecosystems is a major goal to ICES. Maintaining the value of fish stocks while ensuring their ecologically sustainable management requires the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to resource management and in that respect, fishing impacts to the seafloor is central: How does fishing activity affect benthic fauna, biodiversity habitat function and resilience.</p> <p>By addressing the potential effects of fisheries on benthic ecosystems the symposia will encourage contact between benthic ecologists and promote the integration of their knowledge and expertise to fisheries management..</p>
Scientific justification:	<p>The mission of ICES as stated in the ICES Strategic Plan is: <i>‘To advance the scientific capacity to give advice on human activities affecting, and affected by, marine ecosystems’</i>. To fulfil this, ICES must integrate fishery science within the wider ecosystem context and increase the application of the Principles of Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Furthermore, the ICES Science Plan has identified the need for research on sensitive ecosystems and the impact of fisheries on ecosystem goods and services as strategically important. The symposium is of particular relevance to these research topics and to goal 1 and 2 in the ICES Strategic Plan:</p> <p>Goal 1. <i>Understand the physical, chemical, and biological functioning of marine ecosystems.</i></p> <p>Goal 2. <i>Understand and quantify human impacts on marine ecosystems, including living marine resources</i></p>
Resource requirements:	Budget not finalised
Participants:	Several countries and RFMOs are in the process of integrating ecosystem considerations in fisheries management: interest worldwide, certainly from all ICES member countries. Predicted no of participants: 150-250 scientists.
Secretariat facilities:	Advertising the symposium, publishing, communication.
Financial:	Budget not finalised
Linkages to advisory committees:	The symposium topic is directly related to the remit of the ICES Advisory Committee.
Linkages to other committees or groups:	Specify here if the symposium topic is directly related to the remit of one or several ICES Expert Groups which may support the symposium. BEWG, WGDEC, WGECO, WGMHM, WGDEEP as well as most expert groups dealing with fish stock assessment.
Linkages to other organizations:	Mention here the organizations in question and the contact person(s), if applicable NAFO PICES

Publication of
proceedings

We intend to use the journal Mar. Biol. Res.