Investment in action areas

Council is invited to approve the request for investment in action areas as discussed and agreed by the Finance Committee and Bureau, based on an evaluation by the Coordination Group of areas in need of further progress in the ICES Strategic Plan:

- Training; awaiting the arrangements for an online course on how to conduct a technical meeting, and following feed-back from a number of Expert Working Group Chairs, condensed, digested and more accessible material has been requested. This will be led by the Secretariat Communications department, and will require no additional finances.

- ICES coordinated survey data; - specific tasks have been identified to ensure a more complete availability of data and data products including biodiversity related issues (e.g., Large Fish Indicator) in the DATRAS data portal.

The DATRAS work will require a maximum amount of 660.000 DKK.

- Regional Database (RDB) for Commercial Catches; for ICES use in its strategy to provide quality assured and documented data in the stock assessment work. Further details are provided in document 9.2.

The RDB work will require a maximum amount of 1.000.000 DKK.

- Aquaculture; to provide the support needed to further the development of aquaculture as a priority area within ICES, as described in CM Doc 2012 del-7.1.2, including the support to concrete deliverables (e.g., Aquaculture Overviews).

The work of aquaculture will require approximately 640.000 DKK

Further details of activities within the area of training, DATRAS, and an initial outline of the Aquaculture Overviews are provided in the following sections.

1 Training – A start-up package to Chairs of ICES Expert Working Groups

No funds requested. Communications is now working on updating and revising the format in which all the necessary information is provided to expert group chairs in a more dynamic and easy to follow format.

Objective: There are a number of documents available for Chairs of Expert Working Groups, located in different places and with different accessibility[1]. The objective is to:

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1 Cf. the Guidelines for Expert Groups, specifically sections 2.3.4-2.7.2, inclusive, the WGCHAIRS SharePoint page: https://community.ices.dk/ExpertGroups/WGCHAIRS/SitePages/HomePage.aspx, including specific links under that page: https://community.ices.dk/ExpertGroups/WGCHAIRS/Lists/Links/AllItems.aspx

- Make an easy accessible and digestible introduction package for Expert Group Chairs to orientate themselves, prior to a meeting – with a focus on most pertinent issues, including a video/audio visual presentation.

Outline of issues to be covered:

Stress that Secretariat staff are available to facilitate the work of the Chair, and Expert Working Groups, and to communicate associated decisions by Council /Bureau of relevance to the work of the ICES community. A non-exhaustive list has been initiated below, which needs to be further elaborated with input from assisting secretaries, professionals, and chairs – to be able to cover the most pertinent issues.

- Conflict of Interest, and stressing the need to deal with the issue prior to and at the start of the meeting. Underlining the scientific character of the work carried out and that no one is supposed to represent a specific interest/organization. Emphasising the facilitating role of the Secretariat, in dealing with this.
- Decision-making in Expert Working Groups
- Recommendations from Expert Working Groups
- Communication at meetings and the use of social media
- Use and help offered by the on-line tools; **C**ontent and **A**dministration of **R**eports and **A**dvice, and **R**esource **C**oordination **T**ool, specifically the soon to come "MySite"
- Bundling together the practical issues; hotels, IT helpdesk, template, assistance in editing and formatting the final report, etc

Audio visual material:

- Create instructional videos on how to use ICES tools similar to: "How to search for ICES expert group reports in ICES library".

The opening page of the ICES Expert Working Groups on SharePoint contain practical information, and in addition each EG SharePoint page include specific links of relevance to the group.

2 Data

2.1 Potential DATRAS tasks for outsourcing:

Involvement of the community is important, and a combination of dedicated staff in the secretariat, with involvement/secondment of staff from Member Countries will be sought.

Task	Comment	Effort estimated (person months)
Expert revision and automatization of NS-IBTS ALK (age length key) substitution procedure - revise current approaches in the ALK substitution, - research other approaches and possibilities - develop procedure for implementation of an automated ALK substitution	Secretariat expertise is not sufficient for this task; would be suited to a regional expert working with these data and in combination with database expert	1
Compute the estimations for maturity Ogives and provide the data and method on the DATRAS webpage generic approach	Recommendation from WKDATR2013/A23 IBTSWG and WGBIFS countries, WGNSSK, WGBFAS Request that needs an expert input	1-2
Need for ROCKALL data products and indices in DATRAS.	Scottish institute	1

Task	Comment	Effort estimated (person months)
The data products should be the same as for SWC-IBTS, but calculated for the whole area. Additionally and as recommended, split SWC-IBTS into two surveys: SWC before 2011, and SWC from 2011, adjust data products accordingly	Case-study to help developing the procedure of creating data products for new surveys	
Sex and Maturity reporting quality – due to reoccurring issues with these fields, it could be good to: - analyse presently reported values; - communicate with submitters about practices and needs; - unify practices and develop the solution to implement in DATRAS or for submitters to adjust to.	This would result in an update to reporting guidance and help from the perspective of the data submitter to avoid future issues	1
Estimation of the mean weight at age based on BITS in quarter 1 and 4 All data for estimating the mean weight at age are available in DATRAS. The estimates of mean weight at age are required for the stock assessment.	*This is only possible if WGBIFS provides the description of the calculation procedure and examples; therefore a Baltic survey expert could provide this input* WKDATR2013/A24 and WGBIFS report 2013	1
LFI *Large Fish Indicator for biodiversity indicator in Ecosystem Overviews - data workup, building on the outputs (code and data cleaning methods) developed by the OSPAR lead on the LFI – implement	The documentation and coding is extensive and not yet finalized. The ICES implementation would try to be practical and aim at the checks and fixes that have the most	3

Task	Comment	Effort estimated (person months)
these, as far as possible, in an automated way against DATRAS DB - Stage 2 would be to calculate the indicator based on the DATRAS data	significant impact on the data quality for the LFI. This may be achieved with additional internal resources as it is unlikely the OSPAR/HELCOM experts would be available to make a substantial time contribution other than providing documentation and skype call-ins	
Develop a repository for coding that could be used for all kinds of data quality analysis (effective sampling size ect.) i.e. GITHUB - which could be hosted by ICES (existing ices github production) - This depository could also include the ICES approved code for calculation etc. survey indices on DATRAS format. - This would facilitate an environment where scientist would develop and share software coding that could be beneficial in quality evaluation and optimisation, and avoid a parallel coding between DATRAS approved codes and the Scientists.	Recommendation (draft) From PGDATA 2016 Approach would be to use one of the above tasks to pilot this way of working, therefore might be only a small additional effort needed	<1
		Total 9-10 PM's

Task	Comment	Effort estimated (person months)
		Professional officer, Cost = approximately 666,000 (DKK)

All the tasks should target a real operational solution as an output.

3   Aquaculture Overviews

Background

The aquaculture industry is the fastest growing food production sector in the world and is an important component of world food security. A strong science and knowledge base is needed to inform management practices and guide the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry. To adequately address these challenges, ICES:

- Established a Working Group on Aquaculture and a Working Group on Social/Economic Dimensions in 2013,
- Identified aquaculture as a priority area in the ICES Strategic plan in 2014,
- Initiated an open aquaculture dialogue meeting with stakeholders in 2015 to discuss the future of sustainable aquaculture, and
- Agreed to develop aquaculture overviews similar to the fisheries overviews.

Next step:

- To provide the support needed to further the development of aquaculture as a priority area within ICES, as described in document XXX, including the support to concrete deliverables (e.g., Aquaculture Overviews).

Short term steps: to develop a proposal for the organisational set up of ICES aquaculture work via:

- Internal scoping process: to plan the way ahead for the ICES aquaculture work, a joint meeting of ACOM, SCICOM, and the Secretariat is planned for 21 November (led by the SSGEPI Chair/SCICOM Chair). The aim of the meeting is to develop ToR for this work, to be initiated in the beginning of 2017;
- an external scoping process, involving stakeholders and potential clients (including the EATIP, representing the aquaculture industry), expressing their wishes for ICES deliverables within aquaculture,

This ICES Secretariat will to the extent possible draw on existing resources in the Secretariat, and will bring in additional resources to facilitate the work. As possible, and to ensure the involvement of the community, this could be done through involvement/secondment from member Countries.

Potential content:

A factual description of aquaculture activities in the ecoregions, similar to the fisheries overviews, and thus focussing on:

- who is producing;
- what are they producing;
- status over time;
- environmental impacts;

- management measures to deal with these impacts (nationally, European-wide, and globally);
- potentially also including socio-economic issues.

Expected timeline

- The internal scoping process should be planned for the end of 2016 / beginning of 2017. Dependent on the outcome, and the status of the ToRs, membership, and proposed groups, an external scoping process is expected in the latter part of 2017.
- The process must ensure that aquaculture experts in the ICES Community willing to contribute will be made an integral part of the entire process.