

SCICOM SEPTEMBER 2016

ICES SCIENCE COMMITTEE

ICES CM 2016/SCICOM:03

REF. COUNCIL

Minutes from the Meeting of the ICES Science Committee (SCICOM)

18 and 24 September 2016



ICES

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Recommended format for purposes of citation:

ICES. 2016. Minutes from the Meeting of the ICES Science Committee (SCICOM), 18 and 24 September 2016. ICES CM 2016/SCICOM:03. 38 pp.

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1 Opening

The SCICOM Chair welcomed participants and asked for a tour de table to introduce attendees, which included guests and country alternates (see **Annex 1**).

Apologies for Sunday, 18 September, had been received from the Head of Science Programme (HoS), Steven Degraer Belgium, Begoña Santos, Spain, and Graham Pierce, SSGEPD Chair.

A special welcome was extended to Tom Therriault, PICES Science Board Chair, and Laura Richards, PICES Chairman.

2 Adoption of agenda and timetable

The agenda was accepted and no new items were brought up for inclusion.

3 Follow-up on decisions taken at the meetings of SCICOM (March 2016 and SCICOM Forum)

All action items identified at the previous meeting had been addressed and there were no outstanding issues.

4 General arrangements for Annual Science Conference 2016

4.1 Preview of Open Sessions at ASC 2016

SCICOM was informed about the ASC Open Sessions planned for the coming week:

Monday 19 September

Without data - no science, no advice, no ICES. The Chairs of ICES Science and Advisory Committees, and Head of Data and Information will discuss how to make links between data users and data collectors, how to ensure data quality, and how to make data available to science and advice.

What are the implications for marine ecosystems of interactions between multiple stressors? Henn Ojaveer (SSGEPI Chair, Estonia) and Graham Pierce (SSGEPD Chair, UK) will lead this session with the aim of presenting and synthesizing some of the recent work carried out by ICES expert groups and discuss whether there is a need to establish a new group dealing with interactive effects of different drivers.

ICES coordinated surveys: overviews, reporting survey design, and e-infrastructure. Nils Olav Handegard, SSGIEOM Chair, will lead this session. The aim is to discuss different aspects of the ICES coordinated surveys, including survey overviews, how to report from surveys, survey design, and e-infrastructure to support the surveys.

Tuesday 20 September

What do we mean by ICES science? Vice-Presidents Tammo Bult (the Netherlands) and Pierre Petitgas (France) will lead this session and present the results of a survey of the ICES community and external partners aimed at getting feedback on the perceptions of the role of ICES science.

Wednesday 21 September

How is your science being used in assessments and advice? The session will be chaired by Eskild Kirkegaard (ACOM Chair, Denmark) and Jörn Schmidt (Benchmark Steering Group Co-Chair, Germany). This open session will discuss how science is used in assessments and advice.

Microplastics in the oceans. The joint JPI Oceans-ICES open session on 'Microplastics in the Ocean' chaired by Gunnar Gerdt from AWI (Germany), will give a background and current status for 3 of the 4 JPI Oceans projects currently funded under the microplastics pilot action.

How to get your message through, making your science matter – science communication tips to boost your impact. This session will explore methods to present your research in a way that will get your work read and message heard. Theory and practice will be mixed, using examples of successful popular science communication.

4.2 ASC Award Selection Committee Process

In March 2016 SCICOM appointed an Award Selection Group for the 2016 ASC:

Dariusz Fey, Poland (Chair), Brian MacKenzie, Denmark, Antanas Kontautas, Lithuania, Antonina dos Santos, Portugal, Begoña Santos, Spain, Francisco Velasco, Spain, Rafael González-Quirós, Spain, John Pinnegar, UK, were appointed for the 2015 ASC Award Selection Group.

The group is tasked to select the winners of the 2016 ASC Merit Awards (Best Presentation, Best Poster, and three Early Career Scientist Awards). The Secretariat has provided an online nomination tool for conveners to nominate their award candidates.

5 Preview of Theme Session proposals for ASC 2017 and suggestions for plenary speakers

In March 2016 SCICOM appointed a subgroup to propose the Theme Session Programme for ASC 2017, based on the ratings provided by SCICOM members. The group consisted of:

Kevin Friedland (Chair), Henn Ojaveer, Daniel Duplisea, Jörn Schmidt, Mark Dickey-Collas, Olafur Astthorsson, Pierre Petitgas and Larry Alade (ACOM). 30 proposals were received and extra proposals emanating from the ASC before Wednesday, 21 September noon would also be considered. See Section 13.

Keynote speakers for ASC 2017

Traditionally, one keynote speaker is invited from the host country, and SCICOM noted that the host for the ASC 2017 (US) had nominated Dr. Kenneth Rose to give the 2017 ASC open lecture. A call was opened for the two remaining slots, and the final decision on plenary speakers will be made by SCICOM in October.

5.1 Final decision on new ASC format

The ASC Theme Session group, suggested having five concurring sessions, to increase participation. SCICOM approved a format for ASC 2017 with five parallel theme sessions and a maximum of 20 theme sessions.

6 Science Implementation

6.1 Draft Resolutions and recommendations addressed to SCICOM

The Secretariat informed SSG Chairs and SCICOM members of the process and deadlines for finalization of the draft resolutions. The Secretariat presented the recommendations addressed to SCICOM by Expert Groups. SCICOM was requested to take note or appropriate action/decision.

ID	EG	Recommendation	Recipients
77	IBTSWG	5. Advice on improving the standardization of the collection of marine litter and provision of a photographic field guide for the identification of marine litter categories.	SCICOM;
83	WGFAST	3. Propose training course on Introduction to abundance estimation from fisheries acoustic surveys.	SCICOM; Training;

As a follow-up to Recommendation 77/2016 the SSGIEOM Chair pointed out that a common guide across the survey groups would be beneficial and that there is work on this topic under EGs in SSGEPI that can be taken into account. Finally, technical guidelines exist for marine litter data collection developed by JRC for the MSFD umbrella.

In response to Recommendation 83/2016 SCICOM noted that this training course on Introduction to abundance estimation from fisheries acoustic surveys had already been communicated to Training Group.

6.2 Evaluation of multi-annual groups

The Chair reminded SCICOM that the review of self-evaluations would be dealt with in connection with approval of the draft resolutions.

The following multi-annual groups had completed their first three-year term and submitted self-evaluations to SCICOM:

SSG	ACRONYM	NAME	COMMENTS
SSGEPD	WGIMT	Working Group on Integrated Morphological and Molecular Taxonomy	
SSGEPD	WGCEPH	Working Group on Cephalopod Biology and Life History	
SSGEPD	WGRFE	Working Group on Recruitment Forecasting in a Variable Environment	Extension of the current MA resolution approved by HoS/SSGEPD Chair by one year.
SSGEPD	WGCRAb	Working Group on the Biology and Life History of Crabs	
SSGIEA	WGNARS	Working Group on the Northwest Atlantic Regional Sea	

SSG	ACRONYM	NAME	COMMENTS
SSGIEA	WGEAWESS	Working Group on Ecosystem Assessment of Western European Shelf Seas	
SSGIEA	WGIBAR	Working Group on the Integrated Assessments of the Barents Sea	
SSGIEA	WGINOSE	Working Group on Integrated Assessments of the North Sea	
SSGIEA	WGCOMEDA	Working Group on Comparative Analyses between European Atlantic and Mediterranean marine ecosystems to move towards an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries	
SSGIEA	WGLMEBP	Working Group on Large Marine Ecosystem Programme Best Practices (group has not met yet)	No meeting planned in 2016 so far. Pending
SSGEPI	WGMRE	Working Group on Marine Renewable Energy	
SSGEPI	WGMPCZM	Working Group for Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management	
SSGEPI	WGEXT	Working Group on the Effects of Extraction of Marine Sediments on the Marine Ecosystem	
SSGEPI	SIMWG	Stock Identification Methods Working Group	
SSGIEOM	WGFAST	Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics, Science and Technology	
SSGIEOM	WGFTFB	ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB)	
SSGIEOM	WGBEAM	Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys (2015 report not received yet)	Getting feedback has been difficult.
SSGIEOM	WGISUR	Working Group on Integrating Surveys for the Ecosystem Approach	The report says there is a need for closer collaboration with IEA groups: to be done beyond SSGIEOM.
SSGIEOM	WGIDEEPS	Working Group on International Deep Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys	
SSGIEOM	WGTC	Working Group on target classification	Extension by one year granted to finalise CRR (HoS/SSGIEOM)

The following comments were made during a brief discussion on self-evaluations:

- Groups do the self-evaluations quite differently. It would be good to send some examples of good practice e.g. WGFAST.

- Changes to ToRs should be flagged to SCICOM by SSG Chairs. In some cases it might be relevant to merge groups.
- Via the self-evaluation groups are challenged to justify why they should be allowed to continue.
- Low attendance is not necessarily an efficiency indicator.
- With the transition to multi-annual groups, SCICOM emphasized that groups should focus their resources on outputs, publications, etc., rather than heavy EG reports. Interim reports should highlight if the group is facing difficulties, and these structural issues should be discussed by SCICOM.

SCICOM Chair thanked for the comments and noted that overall the self-evaluations are useful and provide good and valuable feedback from working groups.

Joint ACOM/SCICOM Meeting

Presentation of SSGEPD, SSGIEA and SSGIEOM candidates

The candidates gave their presentations to SCICOM and ACOM. An electronic voting was held and the outcome was announced by the end of the same day.

Decision:

Silvana Birchenough (Cefas, UK) was elected new Chair of SSGEPD for the period 2017–2019 (with the possibility of a one-year extension).

Mette Skern-Mauritzen (IMR, Norway) was elected new Chair of SSGIEA for the period 2017–2019 (with the possibility of a one-year extension).

Sven Kupschus (Cefas, UK) was elected new Chair of SSGIEOM for the period 2017–2019 (with the possibility of a one-year extension).

Thanks were extended to the outgoing Chairs, Graham Pierce (SSGEPD, UK), Nils Olav Handegard (SSGIEOM, Norway), and Dave Reid (SSGIEA, Ireland).

SCICOM/ACOM Strategic Initiative on Stock Assessment Methods (SISAM)

The first stage of SISAM culminated in a simulation-based workshop to evaluate performance of stock assessment methods and the World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods (WCSAM, 17-19 July 2013, USA). The second stage of SISAM involves continued coordination with RFMOs and national agencies, the development of “good practice” guidelines, further evaluation of model performance, and transition to a Global Assessment Methods Expert group (GAME).

SISAM leadership organized three linked sessions for the 2016 World Fisheries Congress (Korea). The sessions investigated the current state of the art for stock assessment, the development for new methods (including data poor, and spatial stock assessments) and the use of environmental information in fisheries management. Although no formal discussions on GAME took place, many WFC participants expressed an interest in joining GAME once it was inaugurated.

ASC 2017: SISAM leadership submitted a proposal for an open session to summarize progress toward SISAM objectives and present a plan for transition to GAME. In an effort to attract global stock assessment experts, SISAM leadership also proposed a theme session.

SISAM leadership is involved with the Center for the Advancement of Population Assessment Methodology (CAPAM) and related Good Practices Guides on selectivity, growth modelling, and data weighting. A CAPAM workshop on “Data conflict and weighting, likelihood functions, and process error” (October 2015, USA) provided advice and guidance on practices for using data in fishery assessments. The next CAPAM workshop will be on “Recruitment: theory, estimation, and application in fishery stock assessment and management” (30 Oct-3 Nov 2017, Miami USA).

SCICOM noted that the Methods Working Group will be re-established as a joint ICES/ICCAT working group. The draft resolution is ready pending a nomination for new Co-Chair from ICCAT.

SCICOM Strategic Initiative on Climate Change (SICCME)

Activities since last ASC include a SICCME meeting in China, SICCME contribution to PICES Topic Session: Eastern-western approaches to fisheries: resource utilization and ecosystem impacts, and “Past, present, and future climate in the North Pacific Ocean: Updates of our understanding since IPCC AR5”.

In August 2016 SICCME was represented at CLIVAR / PICES workshop on ENSO predictability. The SICCME and CLIVAR initiatives are complementary.

Funding has been procured by two parallel projects, CERES and CLIMEFISH, which both started in April and will be running for four years each. NOAA has funded a new comprehensive Bering Sea climate change project: the Alaska CLimate Integrated Modelling, ACLIM, which will be running for three years (2015-2017).

The 2016 ICES/PICES Workshop on Economic Modelling of the Effects of Climate Change on Fish and Fisheries (WKSICCME_Econ) was attended by 35 scientists from >9 countries. Alternative, future scenarios have been produced.

An ICES/PICES workshop will be convened directly after the 2016 ASC: Modelling Effects of Climate Change on Fish and Fisheries (WKSICCME-I), chaired by Anne Hollowed (USA), John Pinnegar (UK), Myron Peck (DE), and Mark Payne (DK). A second, sister workshop will be convened by the SICCME in association with the Annual Science Conferences of PICES (to be held late 2016).

SICCME is cosponsoring ASC 2016 Theme Session on Seasonal-to-decadal prediction of marine ecosystems: opportunities, approaches, and applications.

At PICES ASC in November a workshop to review regional models and preliminary results: Modelling Effects of Climate Change on Fish and Fisheries.

The “Fourth International Symposium on the Effects of climate change on the world’s oceans” will be held in spring 2018 [date tbd], in the USA. The Symposium coordinators are the IOC Head of Ocean Science, the PICES Executive Secretary and the ICES Head of Science Support, as well as a NOAA representative. A Scientific Steering Committee has been established (including SICCME co-chairs) with members nominated by the main sponsors in order to assist Conveners in planning the Symposium.

ASC 2017: a theme session proposal has been submitted on “Projected impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, wild captured and cultured fisheries, and fishery dependent communities”

ACOM Chair mentioned that climate change is not really addressed in the ecosystem overviews, and there is a demand for having this incorporated. Climate change vulnerability assessments are made for all stocks in the US, and thus ICES may be able to

draw on NOAA's experience in this area. It was noted that vulnerability assessments will be one of the main topics for the SICCOME theme session to look into next year.

Action: ICES Ecosystem Coordinator to explore the development of species vulnerability assessments to climate change for ICES area.

Strategic Initiative on Human Dimensions (SIHD)

An online survey on human dimensions was carried out by SIHD and was distributed to all ICES groups. The aim of the survey was to support the inclusion of human and social sciences in ICES IEA work. The following recommendations were drafted to follow up on the survey:

To the ICES leadership:

- Further promote the engagement of human and social sciences in all structural layers of ICES.
- Establish and strengthen working relationships with communities, organizations and societies in the realm of social sciences and humanities.

To the ICES secretariat:

- Develop support for increased transparency between groups, to be available for all group members, e.g., a web-page built on a database where the work of all groups can be searched and an expert database.

SCICOM and ACOM took note of the SI progress reports.

7 SCICOM Operational Groups

7.1 Data and Information Group (DIG)

Decision: SCICOM approved that Ingeborg de Boois will stay as DIG Chair until May and approved the proposal for new Chair, Jens Rasmussen, starting from May 2017. Thanks were extended to Ingeborg de Boois for good chairmanship of WGDIM/DIG from 2011.

SCICOM was asked to approve a redefinition of one of its ToRs, by changing it from 'Review offspring groups' into 'Propose ad-hoc groups (governance, workshops, training, etc.) related to specific topics, and/or datasets, to facilitate improvements related to data issues to SCICOM, ACOM, SCICOM SSGs and/or EGs, and review the outcome of those ad-hoc groups'. The ad-hoc groups fall under DIG, and all have a limited lifetime –till the task is fulfilled. In this way, DIG will have the possibility to organise follow-up on specific problems, and define the appropriate group composition for the specific issue.

Decision: SCICOM supported the change and noted that this will bring in other people, i.e. PGDATA.

Action: Furthermore, to increase the visibility of DIG, the group should actively be invited/represented at the annual ICES WGCHAIRS meeting. Secretariat to follow.

Data Policy. SCICOM was informed that DIG has updated the ICES Data Policy. This is done every 4 years, and will be approved by Council in October.

Digital data citation. SCICOM was informed that ICES is now capable to mint persistent identifiers as DOI's (Digital Object Identifiers) for publications and datasets. The implementation in ICES is currently in a testing phase and will be available in late 2016.

ICES Data type guidelines. SCICOM was informed that DIG has agreed on a procedure for updating the guidelines. They are a valuable asset for the wider oceanography community and were last reviewed in 2006.

Positioning of DIG in ICES. In the light of the current SCICOM Leadership discussion, DIG discussed its position within ICES. The current report structure and ToRs were largely inherited from the EG structure, and do not always effectively reflect the more strategic approach by DIG to provide an element of Data and Information Governance for the ICES community.

Action: SCICOM to provide input to the DIG Chair on DIG positioning in ICES and the new way of operating, before DIG meeting in May.

7.2 ICES Training Group (ITG)

For 2016, so far five courses were held and one course had to be cancelled (list below). Some courses were held outside the Secretariat and one course in December 2016 "Principles and Methods of Broadband/Wideband Technologies: Application to fisheries acoustics" will take place onboard a vessel.

SCICOM noted the balances for training courses held in 2014 and 2015 and was also informed that profits are carried over to the following year.

Course name	Instructors	Date	Venue	Notes
Training Course in the R Environment	Einar Hjorleifsson and Bjarki Thor Elvarsson	March 2016	Atlantic room, Copenhagen	24 participants
Social Science Methods for Natural Scientists	Marloes Kraan, Marc Dubois and Maiken Bjorkan.	June 2016	Brest, France, in conjunction with MSEAS	18 participants
Design and analysis of catch sampling programmes	Jon Helge Volstad and Mary Christman	September 2016		11 participants
Data Limited Stock Assessment	Anne Cooper, Jim Berkson, Jason Cope	September 2016	IMR Reykjavik	25 participants
Stock assessment advanced	Jan Jaap Poos and Richard Hillary	December 2016	Atlantic room, Copenhagen	15 applicants
Principles and Methods of Broadband/Wideband Technologies: Application to fisheries acoustics	Dezchang Chu et al	December 2016	IMR Norway	40+ applicants

One proposal for a new course came in: "Abundance estimation from fisheries acoustic surveys: an introduction". SCICOM members were encouraged to inform the Training Group of other proposals. The following suggestions were noted:

- A re-run of the training course on trawl surveys.
- A training course on the Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF) targeted at Stock Assessment Expert Groups.
- A course on Basian network analysis.

SCICOM was informed of ICES involvement in the BlueBRIDGE H2020 project. A BlueBRIDGE workshop is scheduled to take place during ASC: BlueBRIDGE workshop on data management services, to support stock assessment.

8 Update from Council Steering Groups

8.1 Council-SCICOM Working Group on ICES Science (CSWGIS)

The work of CSWGIS is nearing completion and includes:

- 1) Job description for a full time SCICOM chair. Done
- 2) Tasks for a full time Head of Science support. Done
- 3) Recruitment process and timeline for the Chair of SCICOM. In progress.
- 4) SCICOM leadership and proposal to Finance Committee. Done
- 5) Review of the leadership of ACOM and SCICOM. Lead by Ireland, Iceland and Germany.

One year before the end of the three-year term a Bureau-SCICOM panel [2 Bureau and 2 SCICOM members] will evaluate whether to extend the SCICOM Chair for a further three years; Bureau to decide on the renewal.

8.2 Review of ICES Science

The review of Science consisted of a perceptions questionnaire and an ASC Open Session presenting the results of the survey. The next step will be to discuss this during the Council and develop actions based on the results.

8.3 Funding of SCICOM activities

The Science Fund is set out to:

- Evaluate the 2014 and 2015 Science Fund. Done
- Recommend new strategic priorities (e.g., linking science, advice, data, ...) and budget needed. Done
- Consider external sources of funding.

Based on a SCICOM proposal and Finance Committee recommendations, Bureau decided in June to use:

- Use 500,000 DKK (core funding/annually) for supporting the work of SSG Chairs. Funds are to be used according to a work plan and framework administrative guidelines to be developed by the incoming SCICOM Chair and reviewed by Bureau and Council.

- Use 50,000 DKK (core funding/annually) for a Science Working Group Chairs meeting: up to incoming SCICOM Chair and SSG Chairs to discuss how this funding will be used to engage the EG Chairs.
- Discontinue the Science Fund;
- Postpone decision on funds for Early Career Scientists Conference in 2022; It was noted that the budget for the 2017 ECS conference is secured.
- Fund Strategic Initiatives, action areas, and cooperation with scientific partners with 350,000 DKK (from equity) for three years, 2017, 2018, and 2019;
- Allocate 1,300,000 DKK from equity, (300,000 DKK redirected from the Demonstration Advice) to support further development of training, data & information, and aquaculture overviews. Most efficient use of these resources will be suggested by the Coordination Group. It was clarified that this is on the table of the coordination group and on the ACOM/SCICOM leadership agenda.

Discussion

- Role of Coordination Group: a discussion was held on the mandate of the group, SCICOM needs to decide internally how to influence the process via the Coordination Group.
- Aquaculture overviews: SCICOM was informed that the Bureau had agreed to terminate the process of demonstration advice. Based on the evaluation by SCICOM, Bureau concluded that the proposals were premature. The aim is now to condense the aquaculture scientific information within ICES, and to develop ACOM-approved Aquaculture Overviews, similar to the Fisheries Overviews. The way forward will be elaborated further during the ASC week and in particular at the ACOM/SCICOM leadership meeting. SCICOM will be asked for input into this process. It was suggested to involve WGAQUA and WGSEDA, as well as SIHD, but the exercise should not necessarily be led by one or two EGs, experts to be engaged in this exercise need to be sought.

8.4 Council Strategic Initiative on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Ecosystem Approach (CSIMSFDEA)

SCICOM took note of the ongoing work of the CSIMSFDEA led by Eugene Nixon. This group is an outreach group synthesizing information for stakeholders on ICES work in this area. The focus is also to offer oversight, and leadership on identified operational challenges, across science, data, and advice.

In addition to the membership of the SCICOM Chair, SCICOM members are encouraged to reinvigorate participation and contribute to the work of the group.

8.5 Council Strategic Initiative on Maritime Transatlantic Cooperation (CSIMTC)

SCICOM took note of the update from CSIMTC led by Fritz Köster and Alain Vezina. The Group has initiated a mapping exercise and has a strategic focus looking into what could be the input into joint research programmes in the North Atlantic. It also aims at provision of guidance to relevant international collaboration agreements, such as the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, on strategic level. The next meeting is scheduled for spring 2017.

9 ICES Science Fund

The SCICOM met via WebEx to evaluate the proposals. The review addressed the following items:

- Did the project meet the objectives?
- Did the methodology fit the objectives?
- How well is the report presented?
- How does the project contribute to the ICES Strategic Plan/Science Plan?
- How can the results be used in the ICES community, create new initiatives?
- How was the results disseminated to ICES and elsewhere?
- Did the project bring in academia to ICES community?

SCICOM was informed that the evaluations had been uploaded to the SharePoint site. The recommendations of the subgroup were presented to SCICOM, see **Annex 2**. SCICOM noted that some reports did not meet the criteria and revisions would be needed.

Decision/Action: SCICOM approved all Science Fund project reports pending incorporation of revisions requested by the reviewers. The reviewers will communicate with the Science Fund coordinators with a view to finalising the reports. Once finalised, the Secretariat will contact the Science Fund coordinators, and the last 40% of the funds will be paid out. Reports will be made available on the ICES website.

The SCICOM Chair thanked the Science Fund subgroup for reviewing the reports.

10 Action areas

10.1 Arctic

The HoS updated SCICOM on cooperation in the Arctic arena. ICES EGs are becoming more and more engaged, and the joint ICES/PAME Working Group on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) for the Central Arctic Ocean (WGICA) will be the main vehicle and communication platform for future work. It was noted that Hein Rune Skjoldal has played a very prominent role.

There's an ongoing debate on whether a new body for governance issues in relation to the central Arctic Ocean is to be established (in light of the continued decrease in the seasonal pack-ice cover). ICES might have a role in this.

SCICOM noted there is an ASC 2016 Theme Session cosponsored by AMAP and EU Polarnet on 'Arctic Ecosystem Services: Challenges and Opportunities', followed by a workshop organized by the EU-PolarNet.

The Arctic Ocean Acidification (OA) workshop: 'Pathways to Adaptation: OA in the Arctic' will be held in October in Helsinki, Finland. Silvana Birchenough will represent ICES.

ICES Secretariat took part in the AMAP/CAFF international conference on implementing the ecosystem approach in the Arctic (2016, Alaska). ICES was represented by the Ecosystem Coordinator. The Arctic Council has a definition of ecosystem approach, and there was agreement on what is meant by ecosystem approach in the Arctic. ICES was welcomed to contribute to the AC work.

10.2 Aquaculture

The Head of Science Support (HoSS) updated SCICOM on Aquaculture. SCICOM was informed that:

- ICES provided advice to NASCO on the possible effects of salmonid aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon populations - focused on the effects of sea lice, genetic interactions, and there was a special theme session on this topic during the NASCO annual meeting in June 2016.
- FP7 COFASP is now concluding after 4½ years. A brochure with results of the aquaculture case study workshops is now available.
- The CLIMEFISH project under H2020 'Co-creating a decision support framework to ensure sustainable fish production in Europe under climate change' kicked-off earlier this year.

Comment: It is worth mentioning sister project CERES. Secretariat is active in one, and community in both.

- The H2020 Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (AORA-CSA) – ICES contributed to an inventory of aquaculture collaborations and projects for Europe and North America. The aquaculture group is working on an action roadmap.

Aquaculture overviews

Following the 2015 Aquaculture Dialogue Meeting the idea is to develop SCICOM-owned, and ACOM approved, Aquaculture Overviews, similar to the Fisheries Overviews. Even though this will be a similar process, it will start at a lower level of progress and the idea is to start with a limited geographical area. The process will be steered by the Coordination Group with input from the ICES Data Centre and ACOM. A scoping workshop will be planned for the beginning of next year with input from experts and stakeholders.

The Coordination Group needs to identify experts under this action area, the Secretariat will ask SCICOM to appoint aquaculture focal points in countries.

Action: The Secretariat will send a formal request for SCICOM members to appoint national contact points as focal point for aquaculture.

WGAQUA –To be discussed under SSGEPI.

11 Symposia 2016–2018

11.1 Draft Resolutions for Symposia

2017

“Tenth International flatfish symposium”. The conveners are requesting 4000 Euros, which should go to ECS. Proceedings will be published in a special issue of JMS.

“Science delivery for sustainable use of the Baltic Sea living resources” symposium to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 17–19 October 2017. The symposium is organized jointly with BONUS and will be tied to the Estonian presidency in EU. A special issue in the ICES JMS has been pre-booked. There is no request for financial support.

2018

4th International Symposium Climate change on the World's Oceans to be held in spring 2018 in Washington DC, US. Co-sponsorship requested, including financial support up to 10,000 euros dedicated to support ECS and the IJMS. The conveners have been in contact with the Editor in Chief, who has indicated that he is in favour of giving the journal to this symposium. The symposium is cosponsored by NOAA, ICES, PICES and IOC, and FAO is also likely to come in. ICES has cooperated with SICCME to find good names for the Steering Committee from the ICES side.

“Management tools and standards in support of sustainable development goal 14”

The UN is undertaking initiatives for sustainable development goals. SCICOM noted that co-sponsorship is a good opportunity for ICES to enter into the arena of developing standards for SDGs. 10,000 EUR has been requested to support ECS.

Decision: All four proposed symposia were all approved by SCICOM.

General Secretary reiterated that ICES will continue to support symposia financially, but the support will be directed towards participation of early career scientists in the symposium. It was also noted that additional funding is often provided by ICES in terms of secretariat support and attendance in the symposium.

Early Career Scientist Symposium

The third ICES/PICES Early Career Scientist Conference will be held in Pusan, Korea, from 30 May– 2 June 2017. SCICOM members were encouraged to reemphasize to their countries that this symposium is coming up. Tom Therriault (PICES) informed SCICOM that there is a desire to bring senior scientists to give a couple of keynotes at the Early Career Scientist Symposium.

12 ICES Publication Group (PUBCOM)

Conflict of Interest in PUBCOM

SCICOM discussed the recent Conflict of Interest in PUBCOM and an interim solution was outlined, to be communicated to PUBCOM and discussed in Bureau. Furthermore, a sub-group was set up to explore possible long-term solutions. SCICOM would like to express its gratitude to Audrey Geffen for her work and leadership of PUBCOM.

Suggested interim solution:

Recognizing that much of the work of PUBCOM is not directly related to the IJMS, SCICOM suggested to remove all IJMS-related business and strategic matters from PUBCOM, taking advice from OUP and the Editor in Chief as to what constitutes sensitive information. This would remove the source of the recent and future CoIs within PUBCOM. Pending decisions in Bureau, an interim chair may be appointed.

Long-term solution:

Decision/Action: SCICOM established a sub-group to continue discussion of a long-term solution, including a review of the ToRs of PUBCOM, membership and chair. The sub-group has the following membership: Chair: Antonina dos Santos, Members: Graham Pierce, Nils Olav Handegard, Olafur S. Astthorsson, Pierre Petitgas, Wojciech Wawrzynski, and ICES Secretariat Editor in charge of Publications/Alison Hill/Katie Rice Eriksen. The sub-group should report to SCICOM by 1 February 2017.

The ToRs for the sub-group need to be explicitly defined. They could include:

- a) Review of the ToRs of PUBCOM, membership and chair
- b) Suggest how to redefine the working relationship between IJMS and PUBCOM
- c) List strategic ways by which ICES can publish and disseminate its work and set guidelines to the future work of PUBCOM

PUBCOM membership

SCICOM noted Doc 18 b outlining what kind of expertise would be needed and welcome within PUBCOM. It was recommended that the subgroup take this document into consideration. Several of the group's ongoing activities need more attention from members who would have appropriate background.

Guidelines for Editor Contracts

This year the contract of the ICES Editor-in-Chief (E-i-C) was up for renewal. A procedure was established to review the work of E-i-C which lead to a renewal of the contract for another five years. Bureau is now asking SCICOM for feedback on the best process for renewal and appointment of future E-i-C.

Action: SCICOM members were asked to provide written comments on Doc 17, Editor Contracts with a deadline of Friday, 7 October.

12.1 Draft resolutions for publications

It was reiterated that resolutions are not needed for SISP manuals to be published as CRRs, both CRRs and SISP manuals are available online. SISP manuals are dealt with internally in SSGIEOM and do not require SCICOM approval.

The following draft resolutions proposed for the Cooperative Research series were reviewed by SCICOM:

2016/1/SSGEPD01 The ICES Plankton Status Report 2015, created and edited by members of WGZE and WGPME, reviewed and approved by the Chair of the SSGEPD, will be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series.

Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM.

2016/1/SSGEPI02 The report covering the output and documenting the outcomes from the ICES workshop "Conflicts and Coexistence in MSP" (WKCCMSP), edited by the WKCCMSP Chairs (Kira Gee, Germany, and Andreas Kannen, Germany), as reviewed and approved by the Chair of the SSGEPI, will be published as an ICES Cooperative Research Report. The estimated number of pages is 80.

Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM.

2016/1/SSGEPI03 A Status Report on Harmful Algal Events in the ICES area will be prepared by members of WGHABD using data in the IOC-ICES-PICES Harmful Algal Event Database (HAE-DAT) as well as national reports presented at ICES-IOC WGHABD over the years. This report will describe the harmful algal events in the ICES area as well as any spatial and temporal changes that have been observed.

This CRR will comprise 150–200 pages and will represent the ICES contribution to the IOC-Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IP-HAB) Global Harmful Algal Bloom Status Report (GHSR).

Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM with the comment that the authors should be asked to condense the report into a synthesis and review to shorten considerably

2016/1/SSGIEOM04 The Using UWTV surveys to assess and advise on Nephrops stocks Report, created and edited by members of WGNEPS, will be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series. This report will provide an overview on how UWTV surveys developed and became a well-established method to assess and advice on Nephrops stocks around Europe. It will include a historical outline on pioneering surveys and ICES developments, a description of the survey methodology, design, survey based assessments and uncertainty. Special attention will be given to the analytical aspect on the survey based advice by having a description of the models and assumptions used in this method. Multispecies interactions will also be discussed.

Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM with the comment the middle part will be developed as SISP and that the multi-species interaction needs to be clarified. SSGIEOM Chair explained that this proposal is broader than a survey protocol; this is about methodology; not about implementation and use of it. This survey has potential as an ecosystem survey, it gives us better data on the sea floor than any other surveys.

12.2 Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

Authorship of EG reports:

Acknowledging academics and inclusiveness were seen as very important. It was suggested to have an “opt in” field for each group. This could be one way of acknowledging academics contributing to ICES reports.

Many views were expressed in favour of giving ICES as author. Sometimes the list of co-authors is extensive and in some situations authors might have CoI with their institutes. Administratively it is also difficult to list all authors. Also, SCICOM wants to encourage EGs to publish as much as possible in peer-reviewed publications.

Decision: SCICOM agreed to the PUBCOM recommendation of giving ICES as author.

Executive summaries:

SCICOM noted the PUBCOM recommendation to stop extracting executive summaries as separate documents. They would need a separate DOI, which would cause confusion. An alternate approach would be to copy/paste the summary into the release announcement email. Executive summaries are very helpful; establishing a maximum length (one page) of executive summaries was also recommended.

Action: SCICOM asked PUBCOM / DIG to elaborate on how DOIs in relation to data could be handled.

12.3 Strengthening the profile of CRRs

SCICOM was informed of PUBCOM discussions on strengthening the profile of CRRs - that ICES CRR publications do not meet the criteria/qualify to be added to the big databases (Web of Science, scopus), and SCICOM requested a more comprehensive description on why this is not feasible and what can be done to meet these criteria

SCICOM noted that the Secretariat should assist in increasing the visibility of CRRs on the website and also explore ways to engage EGs/authors in promoting the CRR series.

There was a suggestion to promote and inform the ICES community about the CRR series at the ASC and Early Career Scientist conference.

PUBCOM **recommended** that SCICOM consider if there is a need for a process for identifying EG reports/symposia in relation to productions of CRRs that contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan and how to proceed with the synthesis of this information. *No comments were noted in response to this recommendation.*

PUBCOM **recommended** a new, more dynamic title be considered for the ICES CRR series and that dedicated dissemination/advertising be implemented when new CRRs are published. *No SCICOM comments were noted in response to this recommendation.*

Action: SCICOM reiterated the request for the popularity of CRRs to be measured in terms of downloads (or any other way to review popularity).

13 ASC Theme Sessions 2016 (final decisions)

Kevin Friedland presented the ASC Theme Session Group's proposal for the ASC 2017 theme session package. Basing their work on the votes and rankings provided by SCICOM members, the ASC group had condensed theme session proposals into a package of 19 theme sessions, two strategic open sessions and two lunchbreak workshops.

Conveners of four theme session mergers will be asked to merge their proposals.

Decision: The final list of Theme Sessions approved by SCICOM is given in **Annex 3**.

14 Reporting of SCICOM/ACOM Steering Groups

Full reports from the SCICOM Steering Groups are available in the SCICOM Progress Report 2016.

14.1 Steering Group on Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics (SSGEPD; Pierce)

Graham Pierce, SSGEPD Chair, reported from SSGEPD:

Three EGs are completing their three-year term:

- WGCEPH;
- WGIMT;
- WGRFE has requested a one-year extension of its current 3-year term and has submitted a self-evaluation and new ToRs in support of this.

Action: Secretariat/Ecosystem Coordinator will contact the chairs to find out what the situation is.

Science Plan Mapping: EPD groups contributed to gut feeling exercise.

The outgoing SSGEPD Chair repeated the need to improve communication across groups.

The Chair thanked the outgoing SSGEPD Chair for his hard work over the past years.

14.2 Steering Group on Ecosystem Pressures and Impacts (SSGEPI)

Henn Ojaveer, SSGEPI Chair, reported from SSGEPI.

WGAQUA

SCICOM had a strategic discussion on the scientific content and future products from ICES Action Area on Aquaculture. The SSGEPI Chair was asked to take the lead in a scoping process on needs for scientific content addressing ICES Aquaculture, including overlooking the EGs addressing Aquaculture and linking to future production of Aquaculture Overviews.

Following the mediation process that has been ongoing with WGAQUA Chairs since the WGAQUA 2015 meeting, SCICOM decided on a short term solution:

- to close WGAQUA in its current form and begin reconstructing ICES strategy on Aquaculture;
- SCICOM and the Secretariat to create a sub-group to work on a long-term strategy. The sub-group will consist of: SSGEPI Chair (leading the process), SCICOM Chair, GenSec, HoSS, volunteering SCICOM members (Dave Reid, Jörn Schmidt) and will include a representative from ACOM.

Actions:

- The Secretariat will ask SCICOM Delegates to appoint persons for the Secretariat to contact with regards to aquaculture action area;
- A message with the decision to close WGAQUA will be sent to the WGAQUA Chairs (drafted by SSGEPI, sent by SCICOM Chair) and will mention the initiated process of reframing ICES work in this field;
- The above mentioned SCICOM sub-group will meet ASAP, the Chair of WGSEDA will also be invited. ToRs for ICES aquaculture work will be written down and a long-term strategy for Aquaculture in ICES will be decided upon;
- SSGEPI Chair will report to SCICOM at the mid-term meeting in March.

The concept of Aquaculture Overviews was also discussed during the ACOM/SCICOM Leadership meeting. It was recommended that the process is, in its first stage focused on one eco-region, and is integrated into an overall ICES Strategy consideration in the aquaculture action area, and that it includes both ACOM and the ICES Data Centre representatives.

JPI Oceans

SCICOM was informed that several joint JPI – ICES actions have started recently. There has been a meeting with JPI Oceans on the joint action on 'the cumulative effects of anthropogenic disturbances' (Strategic Area 5: Interdisciplinary research for good environmental status). The action is co-led by the Netherlands and Estonia in JPIO, and a working meeting during ASC with JPIO secretariat representative (Wendy Bonne), Management Board representative (Henn Ojaveer) and action leads (Rob Gerits, the Netherlands and Georg Martin, Estonia).

There were supportive comments and interest in SCICOM for ICES to remain engaged in the joint work on cumulative effects. The JPIO cumulative effects group will meet likely early 2017, and they are expecting a representative from ICES.

The ASC Open Session on micro-plastics went very well and there may well be an umbrella role for ICES.

ASC Open Session on Synergistic impacts of multiple drivers

Action: The SSGEPI Chair will follow up with discussions to identify interests between different EGs and as a next step EG's will be asked to add a ToR on driver interactions.

The following four EG's will finish in 2016: Stock Identification Methods Working Group (SIMWG), Working Group on the Effects of Extraction of Marine Sediments on the Marine Ecosystem (WGEXT), Working Group on Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management (WGMPCZM), and Working Group on Marine Renewable Energy (WGMRE). All the four EG's should be positively evaluated for their performance and should be allowed to continue.

SCICOM was informed of two new working groups:

Workshop on understanding the impacts and consequences of ocean acidification for commercial species and end-users (WKACIDUSE), which will meet at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, in early December.

ICES-ICCAT Methods Working Group (MWG). ICCAT Chair nomination is still pending, but the ToRs are ready.

MCWG and WGMS suffer from low attendance and they are considering a merger of the two EGs next year.

14.3 Steering Group on Integrated Assessments (SSGIEA)

Dave Reid, SSGIEA Chair, reported from SSGIEA.

SSGIEA Chair gave an update on integrated assessment groups. All the EGs are performing well. The EG have all developed multi-annual ToRs. WGICA, WKDEICE, and WKINWA are new and had their first meetings in 2015. WGCORED, WGEAWESS, WGIBAR, WGINOR, WGINOSE, and WGNARS have successfully reached the end of their three-year ToRs, and have completed the self-evaluation process, and submitted new three-year ToR.

WGICA had its first meeting in Copenhagen in May 2016. Two assessment teams were established to initiate work on the development of integrated assessments on a sub-regional basis for American Basin/Pacific and Eurasian Basin/Atlantic gateways.

WKIDEA aims to help integrate the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment EGs. The group will meet in Copenhagen in October and the intention is for the groups to learn from each other, this is a 'show and tell' workshop. Groups will be asked for EG highlight/lowlights, what can be done and what can't be done, what could be promulgated through to the rest of the system, and where advice/guidance is needed.

ASC 2016 Theme session F: Integrated ecosystem assessment and decision support to advance ecosystem-based fisheries management. The session was chaired by John Pope (UK), Lena Bergström (Sweden) and Melania Borit (Norway). There was input from a number IEA groups and the MAREFRAME project and there were good discussions, good cross stimulation, models, and good attendance.

The Chair thanked the outgoing SSGIEA Chair for his hard work over the past four years.

14.4 Steering Group on Integrated Ecosystem Monitoring and Observations (SSGIEOM)

Nils Olav Handegard, SSGIEOM Chair, reported from SSGIEOM.

All the EGs that are up for renewal are doing well, with the exception of WGBEAM but the problems have been addressed.

PGDATA and WGISDAA. PGDATA has suggested a reorganization with PGDATA in the center. SSGIEOM Chair supported the proposal, but felt that it would be necessary to look into the layers and suggested establishing subgroups consisting of EG Chairs on a regional level or a subset of EG chairs dealing with a specific methodology. Both groups will renew their ToRs next year and SSGIEOM incoming/outgoing chairs have been tasked to look into this and find a solution. It was clarified that the individual groups are doing well, but the implementation has been lacking.

Action: SCICOM noted the PGDATA proposal and asked SSGIEOM to present an update at the SCICOM midterm meeting.

Stock list database. The overview shows how EGs coordinate several surveys which deliver different data products that go into different databases within the ICES Structure.

SISP. The Series of ICES Survey Protocols (SISP) is an online series launched in 2012. So far 11 survey protocols have been published and some are still in the pipeline.

Benchmark process. SSGIEOM Chair felt that the data and the data groups do not get the attention they need. The process is all about the models; it is not about benchmarking the whole data flow. Changing the surveys without linking this in, will not be useful.

Prioritization of data collection. SSGIEOM Chair reiterated and flagged the importance of giving priority to this issue. ICES is an official observer under DCF and has been asked to give feedback from science. The Secretariat finds this issue very important and expressed a strong willingness to work with SSGIEOM to make this happen.

Action: The incoming ACOM and SCICOM Chairs will work together with SSGIEOM Chair and Head of Head of Data and Information to establish a mechanism for ICES to provide information to DCF on data gaps.

SCICOM briefly discussed the proposed change in the IBTS protocol to change 30 minute hauls to 15minute hauls in relation to data used for non-stock assessments. These include LFI, other biodiversity, epi-benthos and marine litter time series.

Action: It was suggested to have a recurring agenda item on SCICOM agenda on survey products/products in general.

It was emphasized that the vulnerable ecosystem portal is up and running, and will be used as a model for stock assessments in the future.

The popular advice is no longer produced, the work is now linked to advice sheets.

The Chair thanked the outgoing SSGIEOM Chair for his hard work over the past four years

14.5 Benchmark Steering Group (BSG)

Jörn Schmidt, BSG Co-Chair, reported from BSG:

Task 1: Identifying gaps and incremental improvements in the current benchmark processes

- A core activity in 2016 was the work in the joint BSG-ACOM ad-hoc subgroup to improve links between Expert Groups' and Benchmarks' work and to increase efficiency of resource utilization. The work of this group was presented at the ASC Open Session "[How is your science being used in assessment and advice?](#)". There will now be a consultation process with all SSG Chairs to set up the scoping in the most useful way. The outcome will be communicated to ACOM in December.

Task 2: Integration with the data quality assurance groups

- Attendance of PGDATA and ideas of data flow and data guidelines.

Task 3: Integrated assessments and benchmarks

- The main activity was the WKIRISH process. A scoping workshop has been held and the next workshop is scheduled for autumn 2016 and will be chaired by PGDATA co-Chair.

Task 4: Integrating by-catch (marine mammals) advice with fish stocks advice

- The work of WGMME should be taken onboard.

Task 5: Role of WGSAM and reviewing of multispecies/ecosystem models for use in benchmarks

- WGSAM chair has sent guidance for key runs of ecosystem models, and looking forward to response.

Task 6: Improve integration of WGISDAA (Improving the use of survey data for assessment and advice) in benchmark process

- There is increased engagement with assessment groups and step-wise progress is being made.

One new important core activity will to set up an evaluation process to identify what kind of science is actually used.

Future of BSG

SCICOM was informed that the BSG Chairs, Jörn Schmidt and Carmen Fernandez will be stepping down by the end of the year. The cooperation has been very fruitful and constructive, and now there will be a reflective process to ensure the best way forward for the Benchmark Steering Group.

There was agreement that BSG is very strategic for ICES; it is the arrow that goes across the organization from capacity building to delivery of products, and it is important that this group stays. It was noted that the workload of overseeing all elements of benchmarking has been overwhelming for the BSG chairs. To continue in a constructive manner the work should be more focused on for example transferring science into the benchmark process.

Discussion: The current system of separating ACOM and SCICOM groups need to be considered. A constructive scoping process takes a buy-in from science groups and uptake from the advisory side. There are many different ways of involvement, not really important if it is a science or advice group. The process is decided on a case by case basis depending on the timeline and the request.

Action: The outgoing chairs will produce a short reflective document in consultation with SSG Chairs with the aim of highlighting the key tasks and outlining recommendations for how to focus the future work of BSG.

Action: SCICOM Chair thanked the outgoing chairs for their valuable work as BSG Chairs and informed SCICOM that there will be a call for nominations for new BSG Chair candidates before the end of the year.

15 Cooperation with other organisations

15.1 International Year of the Salmon

HoSS presented the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). The IYS focal year will be 2019, with projects and activities starting in 2018 and continuing into 2020. The IYS is an international framework for collaborative outreach and research. It will organize a Global Salmon Symposium (fall 2018) and develop political and public awareness and cooperation legacy. SCICOM noted that ICES has not yet received a formal request for co-sponsorship of the Global Salmon Symposium.

ICES is not on the IYS partner list yet. PICES has received an invitation to participate in Steering Committee, but has not yet responded. ICES can help with defining research priorities, providing science results and possibly outreach activities and its training programme.

Action: There was agreement in SCICOM that ICES should be involved. WGRECORDS was asked to provide a proposal for an action plan/a list of science research priorities. Niall O'Maoileidigh volunteered to be the liaison to generate the initial feedback on where ICES should be involved.

Action: SCICOM recommended that the Secretariat formally accepts the invitation to participate in IYS.

15.2 Report from Mapping Subgroup

The Chairs, Mats Svensson and Pierre Petitgas, asked SCICOM for a mandate to continue this exercise.

Decision: SCICOM approved an extension of the Mapping Subgroup and asked for the final report to be presented to the SCICOM midterm meeting.

Action: As a first step, the Secretariat will complete the information relating to international organisations and as a second step the Secretariat, on behalf of Mapping Subgroup, will send a request to SCICOM national members to complete the Science Mapping table for their country for the four action areas: Arctic Research, IEAs and Human Dimensions, MSFD, and Aquaculture. The Swedish SCICOM member will complete the table on behalf of Sweden first to show the detail level needed.

It was suggested to link this exercise with the RCT skills exercise.

Convention on Biological Diversity

ICES is signing a letter of agreement with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to share experiences, expertise and lessons learned, in undertaking capacity building and training activities and various expert processes on issues related to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity, and on sharing scientific and technical information in addressing the anthropogenic impacts on marine and coastal

biodiversity. The LoA will be announced at the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Seoul, 26-29 September) in which the HoSS, will participate, represent ICES, present work on EBM and LMEs, and discuss cooperation opportunities.

Project list

HoSS presented the project list. SCICOM was informed about the currently evaluated cost action on machine learning as well as the Atlantic Interreg request (an applied Ecosystem Assessment for the Atlantic area) to join a consortium (AtlantEA proposal).

A list of current/future H2020 calls related to marine sciences was presented. SCICOM was requested to keep ICES and its potential value added to projects in mind when deciding on participation in project consortia.

15.3 (P)ICES cooperation

4th International Symposium on the Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans, May 2018, Washington D.C. See Section 11 on Symposia. HoSS added that the Arctic Council working groups as well as IASC asked to link the Washington symposium with the Arctic Science Summit Week (ASSC) in June 2018, (organized by SCAR/IASC Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research and the International Arctic Science Committee).

SCICOM noted that the ICES/PICES Workshop on Understanding the Impacts and Consequences of Ocean Acidification for Commercial Species and End-users (WKACIDUSE) will report by February 2017. PICES will support this workshop with a maximum of three people WKACIDUSE will report via SSGEPI for the attention of SCICOM.

Action: SCICOM is asked to revisit ICES WGCCBOCS (ICES/PICES Working Group on Climate Change and Biologically-driven Ocean Carbon Sequestration) WGCC-BOCS ToRs and the list of ICES members and inform the Secretariat if additional competence is found needed.

PICES 25th annual meeting in November 2016

SCICOM noted that there will be two ICES/PICES theme sessions:

- ICES/PICES session 'Resilience, transitions and adaptation in marine ecosystems under a changing climate' (Ken Drinkwater)
- ICES/PICES session 'New stage of ocean acidification studies: responses on oceanic ecosystem including fisheries resources' (John Pinnegar)

The joint P/ICES Study Group on Strategic Planning. SCICOM was informed that the group would meet at the PICES 25th annual meeting especially to discuss Arctic issues. Tom Therriault (PICES) was pleased that the Strategic Group will be re-established. Seeing that both ICES and PICES will be going through personal changes in the years to come, it will be appreciated to cooperate and communicate closely.

15.4 Current European projects and LME-LEARN

HoSS reported on LME-LEARN:

- Joint LME-LEARN / IW-LEARN4 Steering Committee will meet in December, 2016

- WG on Ocean Governance Mechanisms: SCICOM members were informed that this is a UN project and it can engage up to two ICES-invited experts. Andreas Kannen, Germany, had expressed willingness to represent ICES. An additional expert would be needed.
- SCICOM noted that four LME-LEARN training courses will be hosted by ICES in 2018.

15.5 BONUS

Mats Svensson gave an update on the BONUS running programme. The final evaluation of BONUS will be launched soon. The Terms of Reference have been drafted and experts identified. The first draft is due end of March 2017 and the final evaluation report is expected by the end of June 2017. The outcome of BONUS I is important for BONUS II. ICES contributions will also be welcome. ICES may be welcome to contribute to the future of BONUS.

Action: SCICOM noted that BONUS II would be an excellent opportunity for ICES to be engaged. SCICOM members were asked to start considering key players to be involved. Mats Svensson will be a contact point for SCICOM.

16 Summary of ASC 2016

16.1 Conference coordinator evaluation and recommendations for future ASCs (Davies)

Registrations. By 12 September, 611 participants had registered for the 2016 ASC. (620 at the same date in 2015). On the last day of the conference, the final registration count is 661 registered participants. 50 have registered on-site. 37 countries are represented, 34 no-shows were noted. The early registration fee closed on 1 August to encourage participants to register early. The registration fee was increased to 190 euros, but did not have a big influence on participation.

321 oral presentations and 114 posters were presented in 2016. For comparison, there were 326 oral presentations and 126 posters in 2015.

Travel funding: 24 successful candidates received travel funds from ICES. Most of them were first-time participants. In total funds amounting to 10,000 Euro were distributed this year.

Early career scientists. A number of events were aimed at early career scientists:

- ICES substop, for informal networking and question & answer with ACOM and SCICOM representatives
- BONUS/ICES skills workshop on “how to get published”
- Career chat and lunch

Conference material. The ASC website has been remodeled to be mobile friendly, and for this reason it was decided not to invest in an app this year. Abstracts will be made available online, to the public, with ISBN numbers, in a few weeks.

16.2 Input from ACOM/SCICOM joint meeting

Action: SCICOM is tasked to find a way forward and identify a process for identification of research priorities. This is a strategic opportunity to influence the European agenda in marine issues. ICES is invited to look forward into the future and propose research needs. It was agreed that SCICOM should lead this process (in consultation with Data and ACOM).

16.3 Feedback from ASC Open Sessions

SCICOM noted that the open sessions were successful and well attended. The open session reports will be available from the SCICOM Progress Report to Council.

16.4 Feedback from Awards Committee

Awards Committee met during ASC and discussed the rules and criteria for the Outstanding Achievement and Prix d'Excellence awards. The Committee had agreed for the Outstanding Achievement Award that they would like to alternate between a mid-career and senior scientist every second year. The Committee will revise the announcement for the next call accordingly.

Renewal of membership

Awards Committee consists of 2 Council members, 3 SCICOM members and (potentially) one ACOM member.

SCICOM noted Pierre Petitgas would rotate off the Awards Committee. Council will appoint a new Chair of Awards Committee at their meeting in October.

A new member of the Awards Committee would need to be appointed by SCICOM to replace Begoña Santos, who would also be rotating off the Awards Committee by the end of the year. Begoña Santos nominated her new SCICOM alternate, Rafael Gonzalez-Quiros, to be a new SCICOM member on the Awards Committee.

Decision: SCICOM supported the nomination for Rafael Gonzalez-Quiros, Spain, as new member of the Awards Committee

17 SCICOM Annual Report to Council

The SCICOM Chair outlined the structure of the document and reminded the contributors of the 7 October deadline. It was noted that the report would include an overall summary of the mapping exercise.

Next SCICOM meeting

Decision: The next midterm meeting will be held in Copenhagen from Monday 13 March (starting at 13:00) till Wednesday 15 March (ending at 13:00). The Joint ACOM/SCICOM leadership will meet on Wednesday, 15 March from 14:00 till 17:00.

The SCICOM Chair thanked Georgs Kornilovs for hosting the ICES Annual Science Conference in Riga, Latvia. Thanks were extended to the Secretariat and to the HoS for their assistance and good cooperation. Thanks were also extended to the guests from PICES, and the Chair thanked SCICOM for the fruitful cooperation over the past years.

Farewell gifts were presented to the outgoing SCICOM Chair and outgoing HoS from SCICOM members.

18 Any other business

No items were brought up.

Annex 1: List of participants – SCICOM ASC meetings (18 and 24 September), Riga Latvia

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Annex 2: Review of Science Fund 2015 reports

	Project	Communication to authors	Reviewer
1	Exchange of knowledge for Integrated Ecosystem Assessment	Request minor revision, conclusion section	John
2	Implementation of a time-series Monitoring programme on Microbial phylogenetic Composition MOMICO	Request major revision. fuller report, including better methods sections and overall conclusions	John
3	Social transformations of marine social-ecological systems	Accept with minor revisions, add conclusions and importantly how the database can be accessed and how will the result be communicated to related Expert Groups (e.g. IEA groups)	Jan Jaap
4	Can pelagic gastropods be used to assess the impacts of ocean acidification?	Request minor revisions, description how the work will be communicated to related expert groups	Jan Jaap
5	Study of micronecton and macrozooplankton with a broadband echosounder (MESO-BROAD)	Request major revisions -several unclear things, unclear objectives, conclusions missing, text in pictures needs clarification	Mats
6	Developing species specific Heat Shock Protein (HSP) sequences for the invasive round goby to assess their environmental stress in the Baltic Sea	Request minor revisions, some issues with title vs content, unclear objective	Mats
7	POPSIZE - Estimating effective population size in populations of marine fish: an approach using interannual fluctuations of the genetic composition	Request minor revisions, conclusions section and also a clear indication of how far we are from having available genetic tools to measure fishing effects on population size	Graham

Annex 3: Theme Sessions approved by SCICOM for ASC 2017

TITLE	CONVENERS
A Projected impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, wild captured and cultured fisheries, and fishery dependent communities	Jon Hare John Pinnegar Myron Peck
B ICES-PICES-CIESM session: Bioinvasion trajectories and impacts in contrasting marine environments	Henn Ojaveer Cynthia McKenzie Thomas Therriault
C Microbes to mammals: metabarcoding of the marine pelagic assemblage	Ann Bucklin Rowena Stern Katja Metfies
D From iconic to overlooked species: How (electronic) tags improve our understanding of marine ecosystems and their inhabitants	Matthias Schaber Derke Snodgrass
E Poleward shifts and ecological changes of arctic and subarctic zooplankton and fish in response to climate variability and global climate change	Hein Rune Skjoldal Carin Ashijan Louis Forter
F Linkages between spatial ecology and sustainable fisheries	Susan Lowerre-Barbiere Christian Jørgensesn Ignascia Catalan
G Marine food webs from end-to-end and back again, a theme session in honor of John Steele	Jeremy Collie Manuel Barrange Mariano Loen-Alonso
H The practical use of ecosystem indicators for decision-making	Jamie C. Tam Alida Bundy Laura Uusitalo
I Anthropogenic effects on biogeochemical processes, carbon export and sequestration: Impact on ocean ecosystem services	Richard B Rivkin M Robin Anderson Nianzhi Jiao
J Assessing and promoting the survival of released catches and the implications of modified survival rates on aquatic systems	Mike Breen Tom Catchpole
K Introducing man-made structures in marine systems: assessing ecological effects, knowledge gaps and management implications	Silvana Birchenough Jennifer Dannheim Furu Mienis
L Ecosystem monitoring in practice	Sophie Pitois Mark Benfield Christopher Zimmermann
M Modelling social-ecological systems: methods and tools for scenario development and prediction	Oliver Thebaud Jan Jaap Poos Jörn Schmidt
N Population status, Life histories, Ecology, Assessment, and Management of Diadromous Fishes	Karen Wilson Lari Venranta
O Patterns, sources, and consequences of intraspecific variation in responses of marine fauna to environmental stressors	R Christopher Chambers Hanner Baumann Gudrun Marteinsdottir

P	Recruitment dynamics in a changing environment: integrating spatial and temporal variability into stock assessment and management strategies.	Fabian Zimmermann LaTreece Denson Katja Enberg
Q	Integrating economic and social sciences in marine ecosystem services research Assessment and management of marine Ecosystem Services	Merge, awaiting new title and conveners
R	Challenges to marine aquaculture in a rapidly changing environment Considering Culture in Aquaculture for the social license to operate	Merge, awaiting new title and conveners
S	Advancement of Stock Assessment Methods for Sustainable Fisheries Quantifying and communicating uncertainties in stock assessment Designing fishery stock assessments: should they be simple, complex, or include an ensemble of structural assumptions?	Merge, awaiting new title and conveners
T	LUNCH TIME SESSION What is and what should be 'INTEGRATED'? Current practices and new ideas towards a philosophy of evidence-based using IEAs in ICES	Dorothy Dankel Mark Tasker Sarah Kraak
U	LUNCH TIME SESSION Emerging science topics relevant for ICES	Nils Olav Handegard Graham Pierce Inigo Martinez
V	STRATEGIC OPEN SESSION: Trans-Atlantic Science to do Ecosystem-Based Management	Jason Link Mark Dickey-Collas Fritz Köster

Annex 4: SCICOM September 2016 – Actions and Decisions

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ITEM	ACTIONS AND DECISIONS	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
–	SSG Chair elections Joint ACOM / SCICOM meeting	Decision: Silvana Birchenough (Cefas, UK) was elected new Chair of SSGEPD for the period 2017–2019 (with the possibility of a one-year extension). Mette Skern-Mauritzen (IMR, Norway) was elected new Chair of SSGIEA for the period 2017–2019 (with the possibility of a one-year extension). Sven Kupschus (Cefas, UK) was elected new Chair of SSGIEOM for the period 2017–2019 (with the possibility of a one-year extension).	–	–
	SICCME Joint ACOM / SCICOM meeting	Action: ICES Ecosystem Coordinator to explore the development of species vulnerability assessments to climate change for ICES area.	ICES Ecosystem Coordinator	
7.1	DIG	Decision: SCICOM approved that Ingeborg de Boois will stay as DIG Chair until May and approved the proposal for new Chair, Jens Rasmussen, starting from May 2017. Thanks were extended to Ingeborg de Boois for good chairmanship of WGDIM/DIG from 2011. Decision: SCICOM supported the change and noted that this will bring in other people, i.e. PGDATA. Action: Furthermore, to increase the visibility of DIG, the group should actively be invited/represented at the annual ICES WGCHAIRS meeting. Secretariat to follow. Action: SCICOM to provide input to the DIG Chair on DIG positioning in ICES and the new way of operating, before DIG meeting in May.	Secretariat SCICOM Members	
9	ICES Science Fund	Decision/Action: SCICOM approved all Science Fund project reports pending incorporation of revisions requested by the reviewers. The reviewers will communicate with the Science Fund coordinators with a view to finalising the reports. Once finalised, the Secretariat will contact the Science Fund coordinators, and the last 20% of the funds will be paid out. Reports will be made available on the ICES website.	SF Reviewers, Secretariat	
10.2	Aquaculture	Action: The Secretariat will send a formal request for SCICOM members	Secretariat	

		to appoint national contact points as focal point for aquaculture.	
11.1	Draft Resolutions for Symposia	<p>Decision: All four proposed symposia were all approved by SCICOM:</p> <p>Tenth International flatfish symposium to be held in St. Malo, France, from 11-16 November 2017. The conveners are requesting 4000 Euros, which should go to ECS. Proceedings will be published in a special issue of JMS.</p> <p>Science delivery for sustainable use of the Baltic Sea living resources symposium to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2017. The symposium is organized jointly with BO-NUS BIO-C3. A special issue in the ICES JMS has been pre-booked. There is no request for financial support.</p> <p>4th International Symposium Climate change on the World's Oceans to be held in spring 2018 in Washington DC, US. Co-sponsorship requested, including financial support up to 10,000 euros dedicated to support ECS and the IJMS.</p> <p>Symposium on Management tools and standards in support of sustainable development goal 14 to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, October 2018. 10,000 EUR has been requested to support ECS.</p>	
12	PUBCOM	<p>Decision/Action: SCICOM established a sub-group to continue discussion of a long-term solution, including a review of the ToRs of PUBCOM, membership and chair. The sub-group has the following membership: Chair: Antonina dos Santos, Members: Graham Pierce, Nils Olav Handegard, Olafur S. Astthorsson, Pierre Petitgas, Wojciech Wawrzynski, and ICES Secretariat Editor in charge of Publications/Alison Hill/Katie Rice Eriksen. The sub-group should report to SCICOM by 1 February 2017.</p>	Antonina dos Santos, Portugal, Secretariat
12	PUBCOM	<p>2016/1/SSGEPD01 The ICES Plankton Status Report 2015, created and edited by members of WGZE and WGPME, reviewed and approved by the Chair of the SSGEPD, will be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series.</p> <p>Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM.</p>	Secretariat SSGIEOM Chair SSGEPD Chair

2016/1/SSGEPI02 The report covering the output and documenting the out-comes from the ICES workshop “Conflicts and Coexistence in MSP” (WKCCMSP), edited by the WKCCMSP Chairs (Kira Gee, Germany, and Andreas Kannen, Germany), as reviewed and approved by the Chair of the SSGEPI, will be published as an ICES Cooperative Research Report. The estimated number of pages is 80. Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM.

2016/1/SSGEPI03 A Status Report on Harmful Algal Events in the ICES area will be prepared by members of WGHABD using data in the IOC-ICES-PICES Harm-ful Algal Event Database (HAE-DAT) as well as national reports presented at ICES-IOC WGHABD over the years. Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM with the comment that the authors should be asked to condense the report into a synthesis and review to shorten considerably

2016/1/SSGIEOM04 The Using UWTV surveys to assess and advise on Nephrops stocks Report, created and edited by members of WGNEPS, will be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series. Decision: the proposed CRR was approved by SCICOM with the comment the middle part will be developed as SISP and that the multi-species interaction needs to be clarified. SSGIEOM Chair explained that this proposal is broader than a survey protocol; this is about methodology; not about implementation and use of it.

12	DOI	Decision: SCICOM agreed to the PUBCOM recommendation of giving ICES as author.	
12	DOI	Action: SCICOM asked PUBCOM / DIG to elaborate on how DOIs in relation to data could be handled.	PUBCOM/DIG
12.3	Strengthening the profile of CRRs	Action: SCICOM reiterated the request for the popularity of CRRs to be measured in terms of downloads (or any other way to review popularity).	PUBCOM/Secretariat
13	ASC Theme Sessions 2016 (final decisions)	Decision: The final list of Theme Sessions approved by SCICOM is given in Annex 3	
14.1	SSGEPD	Action: Secretariat/Ecosystem	Dickey-Collas

		Coordinator will contact the chairs to find out what the situation is.	
14.2	SSGEPI/WGAQUA	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat will ask SCICOM Delegates to appoint persons for the Secretariat to contact with regards to aquaculture action area; • A message with the decision to close WGAQUA will be sent to the WGAQUA Chairs (drafted by SSGEPI, sent by SCICOM Chair) and will mention the initiated process of reframing ICES work in this field; • The above mentioned SCICOM sub-group will meet ASAP, the Chair of WGSEDA will also be invited. ToRs for ICES aquaculture work will be written down and a long-term strategy for Aquaculture in ICES will be decided upon; • SSGEPI Chair will report to SCICOM at the mid-term meeting in March. 	Secretariat, SCICOM Chair, SSGEPI Chair
14.3	SSGIEA	<p>Action: SCICOM noted the PGDATA proposal and asked SSGIEOM to present an up-date at the SCICOM midterm meeting. .</p> <p>Action: The incoming ACOM and SCICOM Chairs will work together with SSGIEOM Chair and Head of Head of Data and Information to establish a mechanism for ICES to provide information to DCF on data gaps.</p> <p>Action: It suggested to have a recurring agenda item on SCICOM agenda on survey products/products in general.</p>	<p>SSGIEOM Chair</p> <p>Incoming ACOM and SCICOM Chairs, SSGIEOM Chair, and Head of Data and Information</p> <p>Secretariat/incoming SCICOM Chair</p>
14.5	Benchmark Steering Group (BSG)	Action: The outgoing chairs will produce a short reflective document in consultation with SSG Chairs with the aim of highlighting the key tasks and outlining recommendations for how to focus the future work of BSG.	BSG Co-Chairs
14.5	Benchmark Steering Group (BSG)	Action: SCICOM Chair thanked the outgoing chairs for their valuable work as BSG Chairs and informed SCICOM that there will be a call for nominations for new BSG Chair candidates before the end of the year.	Secretariat
15.1	International Year of the Salmon	Action: There was agreement in SCICOM that ICES should be involved. WGRECORDS was asked to provide a proposal for an action	Niall O'Maoileidigh

		<p>plan/a list of science research priorities. Niall O'Maoileidigh volunteered to be the liaison to generate the initial feedback on where ICES should be involved.</p> <p>Action: SCICOM recommended that the Secretariat formally accepts the invitation to participate in IYS.</p>	Secretariat
15.2	Report from Mapping Subgroup	<p>Decision: SCICOM approved an extension of the Mapping Subgroup and asked for the final report to be presented to the SCICOM midterm meeting.</p> <p>Action: As a first step, the Secretariat will complete the information relating to inter-national organisations and as a second step the Secretariat, on behalf of Mapping Subgroup, will send a request to SCICOM national members to complete the Science Mapping table for their country for the four action areas: Artic Research, IEAs and Human Dimensions, MSFD, and Aquaculture. The Swedish SCICOM member will complete the table on behalf of Sweden first to show the detail level needed.</p>	Secretariat, Mats Svensson
15.3	P)ICES cooperation	<p>Action: SCICOM is asked to revisit ICES WGCCBOCS (ICES/PICES Working Group on Climate Change and Biologically-driven Ocean Carbon Sequestration) WGCCBOCS ToRs and the list of ICES members and inform the Secretariat if additional competence is found needed</p>	Secretariat/SCICOM
15.5	BONUS	<p>Action: SCICOM noted that BONUS II would be an excellent opportunity for ICES to be engaged. SCICOM members were asked to start considering key players to be involved. Mats Svensson will be a contact point for SCICOM.</p>	Secretariat, Mats Svensson
16.2	Input from ACOM/SCICOM joint meeting	<p>Action: SCICOM is tasked to find a way forward and identify a process for identification of research priorities. This is a strategic opportunity to influence the European agenda in marine issues. ICES is invited to look forward into the future and propose research needs. It was agreed that SCICOM should lead this process (in consultation with Data and ACOM).</p>	SCICOM Chair
16.4	Feedback from Awards Committee	<p>Decision: SCICOM supported the nomination for Rafael Gonzalez-Quiros, Spain, as new member of the Awards Committee</p>	Secretariat

-	Next SCICOM meeting	Decision: The next midterm meeting will be held in Copenhagen from Monday 13 March (starting at 13:00) till Wednesday 15 March (ending at 13:00). The Joint ACOM/SCICOM leadership will meet on Wednesday, 15 March from 14:00 till 17:00.	Secretariat/SCICOM
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