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13–15 March 2017



ICES

CIEM

International Council for
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1 Opening

The SCICOM Chair welcomed the participants and thanked the Secretariat and all contributors of meeting documents.

SCICOM membership

A special welcome was extended to the new Icelandic member (Héðinn Valdimarsson), replacing Olafur Astthorsson, and to Svetlana Kasatkina, who was formally appointed as Russian SCICOM member. The SCICOM Chair also welcomed the three new SSG Chairs: Mette Skern-Mauritzen, Silvana Birchenough and Sven Kupschus.

Apologies had been received from Daniel Duplisea (ICES Training Group Chair), Mats Svensson (Swedish SCICOM member), Ellen Kenchington (new member for Canada who was unable to attend the SCICOM meeting at a short notice), and Brian MacKenzie for the Monday meeting.

Gratitude was expressed to Ingeborg de Boois as this was her last meeting as DIG Chair. Jens Rasmussen will take over from May. The SCICOM Chair thanked Begoña Santos for past work on Awards Committee. The new member of Awards Committee is Rafael González-Quirós, alternate member for Spain.

SCICOM Chair asked for a tour de table to introduce attendees (see Annex 1) and SCICOM was welcomed by the General Secretary.

The Chair ended the opening by highlighting some key challenges for SCICOM in coming years:

- substantially increase the relevance, influence and impact of ICES science;
- build stronger and enduring links between science and advice;
- stimulate closer, more active and more effective communication between SCICOM, the SSGs and the EGs.

2 Adoption of agenda and timetable

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

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

Actions taken to address decisions at the SCICOM September meeting and in the SCICOM Resolutions Forum were summarised under this item or would be addressed directly in other parts of this meeting.

The SCICOM Chair, with reference to the summary of actions on SCICOM forum and resolutions forum in Doc 5, drew attention to the discussion on SCICOM Forum initiated by Laura Uusitalo in October 2016. The question was whether Secretariat and clients could organise the work of the expert groups. The SCICOM Chair stressed that they could contribute to the definition of ToR, but good dialogue with EG Chair and experts throughout the process of developing the ToR is essential. SCICOM should recognise that the best practise would be to involve the EG Chair and perhaps even the whole group, as well as ACOM and SCICOM.

4 Preview of ASC Open Sessions

SCICOM Chair presented Doc 37 and encouraged members to review the listing and scheduling of the proposed ASC Open Sessions in preparation for agenda item 15.7.

SCICOM members were also encouraged to volunteer for the Awards Selection Committee and also to chaperone the ASC keynote speakers. For chaperoning, the role is to welcome and take care of these speakers at the ASC: including welcoming the person on stage and providing a gift after their talk.

For the 2018 ASC to be held in Hamburg, Germany it was noted that the Secretariat will also be seeking volunteers to help with the theme session selection process for the ASC 2018.

5 Information on Council actions and recommendations for SCICOM

SCICOM Chair informed the meeting that, at the February 2017 Bureau meeting, Tammo Bult reviewed the outcome of special session on science priorities held at Council. It was agreed to carry forward an item on ICES role in Agenda Setting for further discussion at June Bureau. The SCICOM Chair expressed hope that SCICOM can have substantial input into this.

SCICOM was also informed that there is a wish to carry forward work to show ICES capacity to develop advice in new areas. This topic will be discussed in the ACOM leadership - SCICOM business group meeting

The Chair indicated that other topics raised by Bureau and Council are being carried forward elsewhere in this agenda.

6 SCICOM Operational Groups

6.1 ICES Publications and Communications Group (PUBCOM)

6.1.1 Introduction

General Secretary, Anne Christine Brusendorff, gave a brief introduction and background. At its September 2016 meeting, SCICOM established a sub-group to continue discussion of a long-term solution, including a review of the PUBCOM ToR, membership and chairmanship. The sub-group participants were Antonina dos Santos (Chair) Pierre Petitgas, Nils Olav Handegard and ICES Secretariat Editor in charge of Publications, Katie Rice Eriksen.

6.1.2 Review of PUBCOM ToR

Antonina dos Santos presented the report of the subgroup with reference to Doc 6.

Two options were presented by the subgroup, either (1) to disband or (2) to revitalize PUBCOM as a new group under newly suggested ToR, overseeing ICES publications with a broader purpose. The subgroup discussed the scope of work under Option 2 and also proposed a new set of ToR.

The subgroup also reported on the organisation of a PUBCOM successor in relation to the relationship with the IJMS. Three options were identified (1) maintain status-quo with IJMS reporting in full to a PUBCOM successor, (2) provide IJMS information but

removing issues of commercial, strategic and editorial sensitivity that could lead to potential CoI and (3) IJMS is removed from the remit of a PUBCOM successor.

SCICOM Chair thanked Antonina, Katie and the subgroup for their work and the report to SCICOM.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about the potential role of any group which replaced PUBCOM and the members it would attract. No clear consensus was reached on ToR for this group. In relation to IJMS it was broadly accepted that there (1) needed to be a mechanism for IJMS to report to SCICOM (2) it would be reasonable to remove commercially sensitive information from this report. Reporting could be direct to SCICOM. SCICOM Chair summarised the discussion on the future of PUBCOM and the links to IJMS and noted that some continuation of an operational group to address at least those publication topics other than IJMS on behalf of SCICOM was supported. The ICES Convention points to the specific task to disseminate and promote science, and ICES need of an operational body to support this.

Action: SCICOM requested that the PUBCOM subgroup would continue their work intersessionally and via the SCICOM Forum to present a revised proposal for a new set of ToR that better reflected the views of SCICOM. The final proposal will be reviewed and signed off via the SCICOM Forum.

6.1.3 Strengthening the profile of ICES CRRs

Katie Rice Eriksen, Editor in Charge of Publications, presented Doc 7 and gave SCICOM an update on ongoing activities in the Secretariat to strengthen the profile of ICES CRRs, measuring their popularity and increasing their visibility.

SCICOM was very pleased to see the progress done in this area and in particular to see that the indexing of CRRs has gained momentum. The SCICOM Chair noted that a lot of these activities are also important in the context of the impact of ICES science, and that these activities will help us justify to member countries that value is added by producing CRRs.

6.2 ICES Training Group (ITG)

Anna Davies, Training Coordinator, gave an update from Training Group on behalf of Daniel Duplisea.

The ICES Training Programme has planned eight training courses for 2017. The course on ICES methods for setting proxy MSY reference points was held in mid-February as an online course. The course used WebEx for live instruction, shared screen function and the BlueBRIDGE virtual research environment for storage of course material. Almost 50 people participated and the feedback received from participants was very positive.

Funding for ICES training. SCICOM was informed that Council has approved DKK 100,000 (14,000 EUR) per year for the years 2015–2017, approved from equity for use for further development of the Training Programme. The Training Group had a deficit of DKK 89,000,-, which was caused by, in some cases, low participation in 2016, and made use of the money to cover this deficit. In 2015, courses were cancelled as a consequence of too few participants.

Action: The Training Group will need to find a new member to replace Olafur Astthorsson, who had stepped down.

Recommendations:

The General Secretary suggested that it would be useful for SCICOM to consider how to use the Training Programme to better support the science strategy.

Formats for training courses. Recording a WebEx training course and offering it to the users (as a movie), or setting up courses similar to the concept of MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) were brought up as ideas for the Training Programme to explore.

Thanks were extended to Training Coordinator and the Training Group. Good feedback was received which would be helpful to the Training Group. The SCICOM Chair noted that it would be desirable to align training courses to action areas strategically.

6.3 Data**6.3.1 ICES Data and Information Management Group (DIG)**

Ingeborg de Boois, DIG Chair, reminded SCICOM members of the recent post on the SCICOM Forum '[SCICOM input on DIG workflow](#)', which requested feedback from SCICOM members. DIG would welcome the input from SCICOM members during this meeting.

Ingeborg de Boois presented the idea of an **interactive ASC session** presenting brilliant new ideas or existing tools. This would not be a standard theme session setup. SCICOM members were encouraged to comment and share ideas.

Hackathon. DIG is considering organising a hackathon in order to further promote ICES Data Centre data products to a wider audience and would welcome SCICOM input on that. This would be a new way of training people and making them aware of existing tools.

6.3.2 ICES Data Centre

Neil Holdsworth, Head of Data and Information, gave a progress report on data-related activities with reference to Doc 9b.

SCICOM noted that the Data Centre has developed a tool (as a bi-product of another exercise) that can data mine Expert Group reports for terminology and provide statistics showing which groups have referenced certain terminology. This could be an aid to SCICOM in tracking the uptake of, i.e., strategic initiatives through the expert group system.

The SCICOM Chair asked for an update on the issue of joining biological and catch information together, which needs to be addressed in the near future. Participants commented that this was recently discussed at WGCHAIRS and the Regional Coordination Group (RCG) and the SSGIEOM Chair confirmed that he is working on an action item related to the reorganization of PGDATA from September 2016. It was concluded that interface between survey groups, the governance of the surveys and the commercial catch side needs better configuration. This was discussed further at the joint ACOM/SCICOM leadership meeting (see minutes).

7 SCICOM Funding

Wojciech Wawrzynski, Head of Science Support, presented the two funding allocations: the annual funding and the equity funding.

- Operational costs for SSG Chairs: 500.000 DKK per year for co-ordination of expert groups, support of science development, encouragement of EG Chairs communication.

Action: Individual spending plans to be developed by correspondence for approval by Bureau.

- WG Chairs meeting 50.000 DKK for increased communication with and between EGs.

The Strategic Initiatives have been allocated a maximum of DKK 150.000 for SI activities, symposia development, and link establishment with strategic partners covering the period from 2017–2019. Individual draft resolutions and budgets for SIHD and SICME were approved under agenda item 13.

SCICOM was informed that the request to Council for investment in Aquaculture- has been postponed. The request may be resubmitted following the development of the long-term strategy for ICES Aquaculture work and further specification of the SSG plans.

Action: SCICOM noted that the funding from equity allocated to the ICES Training Programme for the period 2015–2017 was a one-off funding activity. This means the SCICOM and the Training Group needs to prepare a plan for 2018 and on.

8 ICES Action Areas

8.1 Arctic research

Anne Christine Brusendorff, General Secretary, gave an update on Arctic research with reference to Doc 11.

SCICOM was informed about the progress in WGICA, negotiations with the Arctic Council and the agenda setting in the Arctic area: two documents submitted to Council in 2015 and 2016: [‘Roadmap for ICES engagement in the Arctic science arena’](#) and a document on [‘New contracting parties’](#) serve as a starting points for identifying where ICES could lift its scientific impact, where there are complementarities and where ICES could provide some information, products and deliverables.

8.2 Sustainable aquaculture

Wojciech Wawrzynski, Head of Science Support, with reference to Document 12, updated SCICOM on recent developments within the ICES aquaculture action area. The Council Strategic Initiative on Aquaculture (CSIAQUA) was established to respond to the new situation after the closure of WGAQUA and was tasked to conduct scoping to guide the future aquaculture work in ICES.

In discussion it was noted that it would also be relevant – following consultation with the groups – to consider moving WGSEDA, WGAGFM and WGPDMO from SSGEPI to the new SG. SCICOM proposed that the new Aquaculture Science Steering Group would have co-affiliation with ACOM.

Decision: SCICOM supported the CSI recommendation to establish a new Aquaculture Science Steering Group, to further develop, underpin and guide ICES work within aquaculture and to establish at least 3 new ICES Aquaculture Expert Groups.

Action: Support for affiliating of the new Aquaculture Science Steering Group with ACOM, in addition to SCICOM, will be sought on the ACOM forum.

ICES cosponsored symposium on aquaculture

CSIAQUA recommended having an ICES-cosponsored symposium on aquaculture to be held in 2019. It was noted that the outputs of the two EU projects, CLIMFISH and CERES, which are doing projections on aquaculture development, may be relevant for this proposed symposium.

8.3 Ecosystem overviews

Inigo Martinez, Advisory Programme Professional Officer, with reference to Doc 13, presented an update on Ecosystem Overviews.

In 2017 ADGECO will finalise draft EOs for the Norwegian Sea and the Iceland Sea, aiming for publication by end March/April.

8.4 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Mark Dickey-Collas, Ecosystem Coordinator, presented an update on the Council Strategic Initiative on the Marine Strategy Framework directive and Ecosystem Approach (CSIMSFD/EA) with reference to Doc 14.

Ecosystem Approach. ICES has produced a document and a flyer on its approach to providing the knowledge base for ecosystem-based management.

MSFD roadmap. DGENV has asked ICES to prepare a roadmap of potential research work for the next 2 years to support the development and implementation of the MSFD. The work should focus on aggregation methods, testing indices and considerations of Good Environmental Status (GES). ICES has been asked to lead on commercial fisheries (D3), foodwebs (D4), seafloor integrity (D6) and assist with data management for underwater noise (D11).

8.5 Transatlantic cooperation

Wojciech Wawrzynski, Head of Science Support, presented Doc 15 on Transatlantic Cooperation.

SCICOM was updated on the work under the H2020 Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance – Coordination / Support Action.

SCICOM was also updated on cooperation development with the Canadian **Ocean Frontier Institute** (OFI). The OFI is developing its work programme within its research modules (e.g. sustainable fisheries and sustainable aquaculture), it also runs an Ocean School - an innovative online educational ocean science program to foster a deeper public awareness of the ocean. There may also be possibilities for cooperation with the ICES Training Programme.

ICES Council Strategic Initiative on Maritime Transatlantic Cooperation (CSIMTC) will meet in May 2017 and will work on research programming and trans-Atlantic research funding and will focus on planning for the 2017 ASC Open session – ‘Trans-Atlantic Science to do Ecosystem-Based Management’.

This important discussion will be continued under item 14 on Strategic Planning/Horizon Scanning where SCICOM will start the process of defining relevant science questions and topics.

9 Science Cooperation

9.1 ICES co-sponsored symposia

Wojciech Wawrzynski, Head of Science Support, presented ICES co-sponsored symposia with reference to Doc 16.

The following request for ICES co-sponsorship was **approved** by SCICOM:

2018

Symposium on the International Year of the Salmon IYS symposium in cooperation with NASCO and NPAFC to be held in the third quarter of 2018.

Decision: ICES supported co-sponsorship of the IYS symposium, including preparation of the Book of Abstracts and travel and subsistence of ICES participants (Head of Science Support and one SCICOM member to request becoming members of the symposium organizational committee and scientific steering committee respectively). An ICES Journal of Marine Science is requested for the proceedings and communication has started with the ICES JMS Editor-in-Chief.

The following requests for ICES co-sponsorship were **approved** by SCICOM *pending Council allocation of funding*:

2019

A **Symposium on “Challenging the scientific legacy of Johan Hjort: Is it time for a new paradigm shift in marine research?”** will be held from 12–14 June 2019 in Bergen, Norway.

Decision: Financial support will be limited to 10,000.00 EUR for early career scientists and conditional on a positive response to a request to the conveners to highlight that the event as an international activity, i.e. by adding a non-Norwegian convener.

The conveners are requesting a special issue of the ICES Journal of Marine Science, and communication has started with the ICES JMS Editor-in-Chief.

SCICOM noted that a draft resolution requested ICES co-sponsorship for an ICES Aquaculture Conference to be held in 2019 is expected in light of the recommendations stemming from CSIAQUA.

2020

Symposium on **“Marine Socio-Ecological Systems - MSEAS 2020: Navigating global change in the marine environment with socio-ecological knowledge”** to be held in 2020, in Yokohama, Japan.

Decision: SCICOM supported the proposal and approved financial support up to 10,000.00 EUR.

World Fisheries Congress

An additional request was tabled by the ICES Ecosystem Coordinator, Mark Dickey-Collas, asking for a mandate to represent SCICOM in talks about ICES engagement in the World Fisheries Congress in 2020 in Adelaide, Australia.

ICES has already been approached by the conveners of the WFC 2020 to engage in the development of the science programme and stakeholder engagement mechanisms.

Action: Prior to approval, SCICOM requested the Secretariat report on the status of the ICES membership of the World Council Fisheries Society (WCFS).

Early Career Scientist Conference

Action: SCICOM members were encouraged to propose a senior scientist candidate to give a ca. 45 minute keynote plenary talk related to climate, oceans and society at the Early Career Scientist Conference.

Methodology of approving the request

Under the current system, the funding allocations for ICES cosponsored symposia are made on a 'first come, first served' basis. One of the risks of introducing a call for requests would be that people are not aware of the call.

Action: The SCICOM Chair in cooperation with Secretariat, will prepare a paper for SCICOM September, proposing a series of options for changing the process. The paper should also take into account the hidden costs related to requests for Secretariat assistance and travel support.

9.2 PICES Cooperation

Wojciech Wawrzynski, Head of Science Support, presented ICES/PICES cooperation and the decision, which was taken during the PICES meeting in 2016, to cooperate through strategic engagement. Both organizations agreed to plan regular meetings of ICES/PICES strategic planning group. ICES president, Cornelius Hammer, presented the outcome of discussions during the 2017 Symposium "Drivers of dynamics of small pelagic fish resources" in Victoria, Canada (March 2017). It was agreed to have high level meetings at least once a year and that ICES and PICES should consider organizing joint annual gatherings.

9.3 Sustainable Development Goals

Wojciech Wawrzynski presented the status and perspectives of ICES involvement in implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Wojciech Wawrzynski responded to Rafael González-Quirós' question on the relation between relevant actions taken by the AORA and the IOC-UNESCO. Liaison between the two organizations was raised by the General Secretary of IOC-UNESCO during the AORA operational group meeting in March 2017. AORA is expected to provide input to the priority areas that would be picked under the proposed IOC 'decade of ocean science' 2021-2030. Rafael González-Quirós' pointed that IOC is driven mostly by physical oceanographers so ICES view could be complementary.

Wojciech Wawrzynski also responded to Nils Olav Handegard's question on possible ICES EG involvement in the process. It was noted that it is difficult for IGOs to get their voices recognized in the UN as the UN2030 SDGs are member state driven. ICES involvement in the LME-LEARN project and through its WGLMEBP could provide effective channels of communication with the UN community. The best way would be for ICES Delegates to liaise with their national delegations to the UN in order to promote the ICES science and advisory products.

9.4 Update on external projects

Karolina Reducha, Project Officer, gave an update on external projects with reference to Doc 20.

The Project Officer presented a table listing the current external projects with ICES participation as partner, including the main tasks and funding. Projects in the pipeline were also presented. It was noted that ICES involvement in all the applications is in accordance with the ICES project policy.

Action: The Secretariat will report on the legacy benefits of ICES project participation when reporting on external projects to SCICOM at the ASC.

9.5 Mapping of science cooperation

On behalf of Mats Svensson, the SCICOM Chair reported the outcome of the latest online meeting on Science Cooperation mapping. The subgroup proposes to lead four processes between this SCICOM March meeting and the subsequent SCICOM meeting at the 2017 ASC, and to provide a report to the SCICOM meeting on outcomes on ToR.

Action: Mapping subgroup to review evolving recommendations for science priorities and to map these onto national and regional funding priorities and funding programmes as identified in ToR for the mapping subgroup.

10 SCICOM Steering Groups including draft resolutions

10.1 Introduction and welcome to new Steering Group Chairs

The SCICOM Chair asked the incoming SSG Chairs to introduce themselves. The draft resolutions would be dealt with group by group. For the joint (SSGIEOM) draft resolutions ACOM would be asked for approval via the ICES Resolutions Forum.

10.2 SSGEPD

Silvana Birchenough, incoming Chair of SSGEPD, presented herself and gave an update on SSGEPD with reference to Doc 22.

ICES has received a request from Prof. Brooks Kaiser, University of Southern Denmark, for ICES to host a workshop from the 7-13 December 2017. Entitled “Global ecological and economic connections in Arctic and sub-Arctic crab fisheries”?

Approval of Draft Resolutions

The **Working Group on the Biology and Life History of Crabs (WGCRA B)** WGCRA B and WGCEPH should be made aware of possible requests to get engaged in drafting national lists in connection with MSFD assessment. SSGEPD Chair will follow up with the Chair of this group to provide support, ensuring this request is taken up by WGCRA B.

Concern was raised that a WGCRA B paper had recently been published but nowhere in the acknowledgement have they mentioned ICES WGCRA B. SCICOM Chair noted that this was an important point and that tracing back results and outputs to EGs should be a high priority. It was suggested that ICES could draft a standard paragraph of acknowledgement to use in publications arising from ICES EG’s.

Decision: SCICOM approved the draft resolution for WGCRA B.

Action: SCICOM will work with the Editor in Charge of Publications to formulate a standard acknowledgement to ICES to serve as guidance when acknowledging EGs as a forum for facilitating and enabling work, and to be included in the 'Guidelines for ICES Expert Groups' (and see also Item 19).

10.3 SSGIEOM

Sven Kupschus, Chair of SSGIEOM, presented himself to SCICOM members and gave a progress update from SSGIEOM with reference to Doc 23.

Data to IEAs. Moving towards a more formalised assessment/IEA approach, it will be important to stress to survey groups that feeding data into IEA takes place through ICES data management mechanisms. Transparency and quality assurance issues need to be given priority.

Survey data and availability. The ACOM Chair brought up the issue that although most of the data used in the advisory process are hosted on ICES databases data from some surveys are not included. This makes it very difficult for ICES to quality assure data from these surveys. Ideally all data used in advice should be available in ICES databases at a level allowing for quality checks and estimation of uncertainties. He suggested that ICES should also be providing feedback to advice recipients on data needs. There is a need to do this in a systematic way for the fishery dependant data. The challenge is that data collection is the responsibility of the countries, and ICES has no direct influence on what and how to collect. However ICES has a clear task to provide feedback on the data needs and this should be high on the agenda.

SSGIEOM Chair agreed that this should be high on the priority list and noted the former SSGIEOM Chair has done a lot of work on describing how the QA process should be conducted.

The Head of Data and Information pointed out that there is a clear connection between what DIG wants to do and what SSGIEOM is aiming towards in relation to data quality assurance and management.

SSGIEOM Chair was requested to involve the Data Centre in communications with the survey groups.

Action: The need for a communication forum for DIG, Data Centre, ACOM and SSGs was identified and this would be addressed intersessionally.

Approval of Draft Resolutions

Decision: SCICOM **approved** the EG Draft Resolutions for the Working Group on Integrating Surveys for the Ecosystem Approach (WGISUR), Working Group on Commercial Catches (WGCATCH) and Working Group on Electrical Trawling (WGELECTRA).

Approval of the draft resolution for the Working Group on Acoustic and Egg Surveys for Sardine and Anchovy in ICES Areas VII, VIII and IX (WGACEGG) was postponed for the ICES Resolutions Forum.

10.4 SSGIEA

Mette Skern-Mauritzen, Chair of SSGIEA, introduced herself and gave a short update on SSGIEA with reference to Doc 24.

The SSGIEA Chair stressed that there will not be a 'one size fits all' for IEAs. There are different types of ecosystems, different drivers and different impacts and data availability, so there will be different approaches. Harmonisation would be attempted to the extent possible given these constraints. Even though they use different approaches, a joint set of goals could be useful for the IEA groups.

No expert group resolutions had been submitted for approval under SSGIEA.

10.5 SSGEPI

Henn Ojaveer, Chair of SSGEPI, gave an update from SSGEPI with reference to Doc 25.

SCICOM was informed that Henn Ojaveer has agreed to continue as Chair of Ecosystem Pressures and Impacts SSG for another year beyond his three-year term.

Approval of draft resolutions

Methods Working Group (MGWG): SCICOM was informed that ICCAT has withdrawn from co-chairing the working group; the group will be chaired by Arni Magnusson, ICES Secretariat. SCICOM recognises the importance of having a forum where scientists can innovate and be working 10-15 years ahead.

Decision: SCICOM approved the proposal for MGWG.

Workshop on microplastics in the marine environment (WKMP) is under development. SCICOM noted that this workshop was an activity that had grown from JPI Oceans cooperation.

Decision: SCICOM supported the draft resolution for WKMP pending definition of a workshop date and venue.

10.6 Approval of SSG draft resolutions

It was noted that all SSG draft resolutions had been streamlined to provide consistency across all SSG and that SSG ToR would be reviewed on an annual basis.

Decision: SCICOM approved the SSG specific draft resolutions for SSGEPD, SSGEPI, SSGIEOM, and SSGIEA.

10.7 BSG

Eskild Kirkegaard, ACOM Chair, gave an update on the benchmark process with reference to Doc 26. Based on the negative feedback at the ASC open session and from ICES clients and observers, the ACOM and SCICOM chairs suggested to discontinue the Benchmark Steering Group and instead give the tasks identified in Annex 1 to the ACOM/SCICOM leadership.

BSG was acknowledged for doing a great job in developing the proposal for a revised benchmark system. The chairs invested a lot of time and effort into coordinating and steering the current benchmark system and especially the move towards ecosystem based benchmarks instead of single stock benchmarks. However, the engagement from ICES community has been very limited and there has been little progress in enhancing the benchmark system.

Decision: SCICOM agreed to discontinue the BSG and to give the tasks to the ACOM/SCICOM leadership

10.8 Draft resolutions for publications

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

Report on the set-up of integrated ecosystem monitoring programmes (proposed by WGISUR)

CRR on Integrated Trend Analyses (ITA) (proposed by WKIDEA)

10.9 Secretariat/SSG/EG Chair engagement and interaction

Simon Jennings, SCICOM Chair, presented this item. He asked for SCICOM views on how to better engage the EG Chairs and make them feel welcome at the ASC. The SCICOM Chair suggested hosting a special reception for EG chairs attending ASC and it was also suggested to introduce coloured badges for EG Chairs. SCICOM welcomed the proposal to make the ASC event more attractive for the EG chairs and there was also agreement that improving the communication to EG Chairs giving them a better understanding of how they feed into the system, should be high on the priority list. Coloured badges were not supported.

The proposal was made, and was well supported, to extend the WGCHAIRS meeting to better engage SCICOM EG Chairs, with both separate ACOM and SCICOM components as well as some joint activity.

WGCHAIRS meeting

Action: SCICOM supported the proposal for establishing a joint SCICOM/ACOM WGCHAIRS meeting with shared and separate components.

11 Science Highlights and Science Promotion

11.1 Science highlights from the network (SSG Chairs and SI leads)

Simon Jennings, SCICOM Chair, introduced the item. Some of the good science in ICES is not well recognised, and thus a clear process and criteria for how to identify and harvest these highlights is needed.

The SSG and Strategic Initiative Chairs presented their selected expert group science highlights. The SCICOM Chair asked the SI Chairs to consider if the highlights come out strongly as ICES products, or as a function of the individual scientists? Does ICES get a billing equivalent to some of the individuals involved in the process?

Discussions implied that more could be done to identify and communicate ICES science highlights and to clarify the types of material would qualify as highlights.

Action: SCICOM agreed to establish a subgroup, consisting of the Chairs of SSGs, SIs, and SCICOM Chair, to work on criteria and process for science highlights and report back to the SCICOM September meeting.

Action: SSG and SI Chairs were asked to send their Science highlight documents to Secretariat.

11.2 Website and media outreach to promote ICES science

11.3 Actions to increase profile of ICES science

Terhi Minkkinen, Communications Officer, gave a presentation on ICES communications activities with reference to Doc 39.

It is critically important to show where ICES is adding value to member countries and to demonstrate the importance of our work.

The ICES communications team has organised networking meetings with Communication colleagues from national institutes and SCICOM noted that this network could become a mechanism for gathering highlights at the national level.

Going forward, it will be important to ensure that there is engagement with national labs and encourage them to highlight and retweet ICES news items.

Engagement with IGOs may be a soft way of raising ICES profile with few costs involved.

Action: Communications were asked to report back to the SCICOM September meeting on the result of this process to increase the profile of ICES science and to illustrate how much content has been generated from this first batch of highlights.

12 EG Recommendations addressed to SCICOM

The SCICOM Chair noted that the Secretariat efficiently collates all recommendations coming from EGs and they are an interesting collection that can include real gems as well as demonstrating a lack of familiarity of the ICES System.

Decision: SCICOM agreed that it would be useful for the Secretariat to continue to filter the recommendations and recommend relevant actions or redirect to relevant recipients. As a second step the SSG Chairs and the ACOM/SCICOM chair (if needed) could be consulted.

13 Strategic Initiatives incl. draft resolutions

13.1 SCICOM Strategic Initiative on Climate Change (SICCME)

John Pinnegar, SICCME Co-Chair, gave an update on the status of SICCME and presented their draft resolution, with reference to Doc 31.

Jörn Schmidt noted that the scenario development or representative fisheries pathways would link to an initiative that is looking into extending the scenarios pathways to SDG 14 on the ocean on fisheries. It would be interesting for SICCME and SIHD to link their work in this area.

Decision: The SICCME Draft Resolution was approved by SCICOM.

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

Mark Dickey-Collas, Ecosystem Coordinator, on behalf of the SISAM co-chairs requested a formal decision from SCICOM and ACOM to close down SISAM. They felt that SISAM has fulfilled its role, and that maintaining its existence, with no new objectives would not be productive.

The SCICOM Chair felt that SISAM had been a good example of how SIs operate; it has substantially raised ICES profile in stock assessment science, and had catalysed science and collaborations that will endure.

Decision: SCICOM supported the recommendation to close down SISAM.

13.3 Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension (SIHD)

Jörn Schmidt, SIHD Co-Chair, presented an update from SIHD and presented their draft resolution, with reference to Doc 33.

SCICOM was informed that unfortunately David Goldsborough had to resign as co-chair of SIHD. A new co-chair will be selected soon. The current co-Chairs are Jörn Schmidt and Eva-Lotta Sundblad.

Decision: SCICOM approved the SIHD resolution.

14 Strategic Planning / Horizon scanning

The SCICOM Chair introduced the agenda item and said that one of his main aims is to increase the relevance, influence and impact of ICES science. SCICOM, through national representation, is empowered to speak on behalf of ICES on science priorities and strategies, and on the state of knowledge on topical marine issues.

Reference was made Doc 34 on the open session on “ICES Science – a quest for impact” at the Riga ASC and Doc 35 on Science Futures horizon scanning.

14.1 Introduction

Anne Christine Brusendorff, General Secretary, introduced the agenda item and referred back to the ASC survey and open session on “ICES Science – a quest for impact” at the Riga ASC, which looked into the perceptions of ICES science and ICES as such. Two of the outcomes were that:

- ICES could be more pro-active when it comes to agenda-setting, communication and disseminating products.
- ICES should broaden beyond fisheries, including topics such as socio-economics, ecosystem-approaches and industries including aquaculture and the maritime sectors.

14.2 Reflections on the science, policy and funding landscape

Fritz Köster, First Vice-President, presented the landscape of networks of existing key science executive and funding organizations in the marine/maritime research sector.

Discussion focused on cooperation and alignment of work aimed at research agenda setting and the current and future opportunities for research programming and funding on the European, but also trans-Atlantic scale. This topic is a ToR of the Council Strategic Initiative on Maritime Trans-Atlantic Cooperation, thus discussions will be continued there, reporting to the ICES Bureau and at the ASC 2017.

14.3 Breakout to subgroups

The SCICOM chair, had proposed five subgroups and each of the groups were asked to identify a rapporteur and to report back to SCICOM in the morning on the following items:

1. Identify up to five broad topics of highest scientific priority for the subgroup: with an indication whether the priority is (a) regional (with ecoregion named), (b) applies to ICES area/ science in general or (c) applies to ICES area and beyond (e.g. through links to PICES)
2. Provide a paragraph of narrative linked to each topic, justifying basis for your decision in terms of one or more of (a) answering key scientific questions relevant to the ICES mission and marine science, (b) providing essential science to support future advice, (c) links to other emerging science programmes and national/ international priorities.
3. Indicate whether work can be addressed by existing EG network and collaborations or if new ones would need to be developed

The following subgroups were formed (Rapporteurs in bold):

Subgroup	Room	Members
Group 1	Kattegat	Antanas, Dariusz, Georgs, Henn, Laura , Mats
Group 2	Atlantic 1	Hedinn, Kevin , Nils Olav, Svetlana
Group 3	North Sea	Brian, Jan Jaap, John, Jörn , Steven
Group 4	Cadiz	Antonina, Bego, Niall , Pierre, Rafael
Group 5	Atlantic 2	Ingeborg, Mette, Silvana, Sven

14.4 Strategic Planning / Horizon scanning (continued): Reports from subgroups

The five subgroups reported to SCICOM. During discussion of the priorities the importance of assessing their relationships with existing priorities was emphasised.

Action: The subgroup presentations will be compiled into a document which will become a starting point for the strategic planning process, also taking on-board the feedback received. This item will be revisited at the SCICOM September meeting.

15 ASC 2017 – Conference programme

15.1 Update on Programme

Anna Davies, Conference Coordinator, presented the ASC plans for 2017 with reference to Doc 37.

The ASC 2016 participants' survey was provided in the 'Background documents' folder. It included a lot of positive and constructive feedback for ICES to take into consideration for future ASC. The Secretariat currently uses google surveys to collate this information, but is considering a different platform.

SCICOM noted that the ASC 2017 schedule would be busier than usual under the new four-day conference format with 19 theme sessions running in five parallel sessions. The Poster Session would be held on Wednesday evening, with an informal reception, leading into the conference dinner. The conference dinner will be free for all participants, and will be an informal 'standing reception' style, with surprise entertainment from the hosts. SCICOM members might be asked to lead the engagement with the entertainers.

Our ASC hosts are in the process of organizing an excursion (boat trip across the bay) to [Nova Southeastern University](#) with a special emphasis on marine spatial planning of tropical systems. Sven Kupschus suggested that another potential excursion could

go to the [Harbour Branch Oceanographic Institute](#) (ca. 100 miles north of Fort Lauderdale) or the [Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science](#).

Pregnant ASC participants should be made aware that when travelling to South Florida there may be a risk of Zika virus infection. More information can be found <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/intheus/florida-update.html>.

Chaperoning of keynote speakers

SCICOM representatives were appointed as hosts and contact persons to liaise with the keynote speakers and to introduce them to the plenary and hand over a gift from ICES. The SCICOM Chair thanked the volunteers for their willingness to contribute.

Decision: Antonina dos Santos was appointed as host for Kenneth Rose, Steven Degraer for Tundi Agardi, and Silvana Birchenough was appointed as host for Lionel Guidi.

15.2 Appointment of ASC 2017 Award Selection Group

The ASC Award Selection Group is responsible for identifying, in consultation with the theme session conveners, the best poster and best oral presentations and the early career scientist awards.

There will be **five** parallel sessions, and would ideally be two people in each session. The SCICOM Chair thanked the volunteers for their willingness to contribute.

Decision: Rafael González-Quirós (Chair), Steven Degraer, Mats Svensson, Dariusz Fey, Brian MacKenzie (tentative), Jörn Schmidt, Mette Skern-Mauritzen, Sven Kupschus, Silvana Birchenough, and an ACOM member (to be announced), were appointed for the 2017 ASC Award Selection Group.

Action: ACOM Chair will identify an ACOM member to contribute to 2017 Award Selection Group.

15.3 Appointment of ASC 2018 Theme Session Group

The call for Theme Session proposals for the ASC 2017 will open in late April and proposals will be accepted until 1 September. In line with previous years an online rating tool will be set up to assist SCICOM in preselecting their favourite theme sessions. Based on the ranking of theme sessions, the subgroup will make a pre-selection. The sub-group will be chaired by the host nation by convention and the SCICOM Chair thanked the volunteers for their willingness to support this work.

Action: Jörn Schmidt (Chair), Hedinn Valdimarsson, Henn Ojaveer, Olivier Thebaud (French alternate), Niall O Maoiléidigh, John Pinnegar, Ellen Kenchington, Mark Dickey-Collas and a representative from ACOM (to be announced) were appointed for the pre-selection group for the 2018 theme sessions at the ASC 2017 for final decision by SCICOM.

Action: ACOM Chair will identify an ACOM member to contribute to the 2018 Theme Session Group.

16 ASC 2018 Call for Theme Session proposals

16.1 SCICOM and PUBCOM meetings

It was noted that SCICOM would meet for two full days on Sunday, 17 September, and on Friday, 22 September, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, US.

The PUBCOM meeting date will be announced pending the outcome of the SCICOM subgroup on PUBCOM.

16.2 ASC (SCICOM/ACOM) Plenary Session

The SCICOM and ACOM Chairs asked SCICOM members for feedback on the contents of this session. A discussion on the purpose of this session concluded that it should showcase ICES and encourage engagement of new scientists. There were suggestions to:

- Illustrate science highlights and how they link into the broader picture of ICES strategic action areas and strategic;
- Illustrate how to become engaged in ICES and what would you gain from being active in ICES;
- Produce a promotional video (inspired by the video shown at the 2016 Annual Meeting of PICES showing science priorities and the role of PICES in providing a place for newcomers and young scientists);
- Focus on ICES emerging research and engaging early career scientists;
- ICES would benefit from video clip showcasing training courses and data products.

Action: The ACOM and SCICOM Chairs, taking account of the comments received, will propose a format to showcase ICES. A proposal will be circulated to SCICOM for feedback.

16.3 ASC Open Sessions

The SCICOM Chair presented the preliminary overview of sessions with reference to Doc 37. SCICOM members were invited to comment and consider overlaps between ASC Open Sessions. There was overall agreement that running four sessions in parallel was not optimal, but given the time constraints of the ASC format the committee was not able to propose a better solution for timetabling.

Action: The Open Session on "Improving Engagement to Support the ICES Strategic Planning Process" proposed by Bureau members would need to be coordinated with the Science activities on the Strategic Planning and Horizon Scanning to avoid having two parallel processes with the risk of duplicating efforts.

Decision/Action: SCICOM approved the package of Open Sessions recognising that there would be a degree of overlap between sessions. Proposers of ASC Open Sessions are requested to finalise their proposals with a deadline of 21 April, and the Secretariat would be aiming to post the sessions on the ICES website by 1 May.

16.4 SCICOM/ACOM leadership meetings

The timing of the joint SCICOM/ACOM leadership meeting would be decided at their meeting later the same day.

16.5 ASC 2018

ICES has been formally invited to hold the ASC 2018 in Germany, probably in the city of Hamburg. The ICES Secretariat will work together with Chris Zimmermann towards a successful conference in September 2018.

17 Awards Committee

Carl O'Brien, Chair of the Awards Committee, was invited to present an update from the Awards Committee with reference to the awards announcements given as Doc 38.

Nominations for both the Outstanding Achievement Award and the Prix d'Excellence are open and nominations can be submitted online. The deadline for nominations is 1 May 2017. Both awards will be presented in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the 2017 Annual Science Conference (ASC).

SCICOM was reminded that last year the Awards Committee decided to proactively encourage nominations for mid-career scientists, as well as for senior scientists for the Outstanding Achievement Award. The announcement did not define a mid-career scientist and concern was raised that the lack of clarity would prevent some from putting forward candidates. A set number of years as a practising scientist might be one way of defining this and the Chair of the Awards Committee agreed to discuss this with the Committee. In practice, the Committee indicated that they believed they could make a balanced assessment of the relative merits of scientists at different career stages.

The SCICOM Chair thanked Carl O'Brien for stepping in to present this item at short notice.

Action: SCICOM members are encouraged to solicit nominations for the Outstanding Achievement Award and Prix d'Excellence.

18 Summary reflections on SCICOM priorities

The Chair noted that the science priorities would be provided in the document resulting from the Strategic Planning / Horizon scanning process and revisited at the September meetings of SCICOM. More widely there would be an ongoing need to substantially increase the relevance, influence and impact of ICES science, build stronger and enduring links between science and advice and to stimulate closer, more active and more effective communication between SCICOM, the SSGs and the EGs. Good progress had been made in these areas at this meeting.

19 Any other business

Trawling Web of Science for ICES

Jan Jaap Poos, Dutch SCICOM member, gave a presentation "Trawling Web of Science for ICES" – a literature analysis searching for papers linked to ICES Science.

The SCICOM Chair thanked Jan Jaap for the presentation and commented that this was a really valuable first analysis, and effort should be made to improve the capture of this information. This process could run alongside the developments relating to DOIs for CRRs which will make the tracking of science outputs and impacts easier.

In discussion some guidance on identifying ICES contributions to published work was identified, especially in relation to data use, but EG awareness was potentially low and

guidance on acknowledging EG as a forum for facilitating and enabling work was not standardised.

SCICOM noted a proposal to make a call for an ICES bibliography. This would be very valuable and the former PUBCOM Chair had proposed this previously.

There was agreement that it would be good to encourage the ICES community to use the ICES PowerPoint template for talks on behalf of ICES. By using the template, it does not mean that you are talking on behalf of ICES. There are also ICES icons designed to match the colours of the template, which should also be made available to the ICES community.

Action: Jan Jaap Poos will circulate the underlying analysis.

Action: SSG Chairs would review Jan Jaap's analysis and try to assess the types of material not picked up in this literature search and how these materials could be detected in future.

Action: SCICOM will work with the Editor in Charge of Publications to formulate a standard acknowledgement to ICES to serve as guidance when acknowledging EGs as a forum for facilitating and enabling work, and to be included in the 'Guidelines for ICES Expert Groups' (and see also Item 10.2).

Action: SCICOM Chair will investigate options for developing an ICES bibliography, in conjunction with the Secretariat, and report back at the September SCICOM meeting.

Farewell to Ingeborg de Boois

The SCICOM Chair thanked Ingeborg de Boois (the Netherlands) for her service to first WGDIM as co-Chair (2011–2012) and as Chair of DIG (2013–2017). Thanks were also extended from the Head of Data Centre who noted that Data Centre colleagues have always felt that Ingeborg was part of the team. The SCICOM Chair presented a service award and a small gift to Ingeborg.

20 Closure

The SCICOM Chair thanked all participants for their valuable input to the discussions and to the planning process for identifying e science priorities. Special thanks were extended to the SSG and SI Chairs, and to the Secretariat for their support for this meeting.

SCICOM members were encouraged to make the most of the fact that the Chair position is now full time and were invited to contact the SCICOM Chair and to keep him updated as soon as new topics and issues arise in the network.

Annex 1: List of participants

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