

## WKARP2 – Workshop 2 on age reading of North Sea plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)

2020/WK/DSTSG11 The **Workshop 2 on age reading of North Sea plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)** (WKARP2), chaired by Ulrika Beier\*, Netherlands, and Julie Coad Davies\*, Denmark, will be established and meet online 6–10 December 2021 to:

- a) Review results and outcomes of the 2020 North Sea Plaice exchange (SmartDots ID 281); ([Science Plan codes](#): 5.1, 5.2);
- b) Review and compare existing methods for age reading of North Sea plaice ([Science Plan codes](#): 5.1, 5.2);
- c) Review information on age estimations, otolith exchanges, workshops, and validation work done so far; ([Science Plan codes](#): 5.1, 5.2);
- d) Review existing guidelines and ageing criteria and compile an updated age reading manual with reference image sets; ([Science Plan codes](#): 5.1, 5.2);
- e) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration; ([Science Plan codes](#): 5.1, 5.2).

WKARP2 will report by [TBD] for the attention of DSTSG, WGBIOP, and WGSMAART.

### Supporting information

Priority	Age determination is essential in fish stock assessment where estimates of growth and mortality rates are utilised in the models. Reliable age estimates are thus required to support suitable management and advice procedures. Age data are provided by national laboratories using internationally agreed ageing criteria and it is necessary to ensure that guidelines and criteria are agreed upon and followed. Therefore, otolith exchanges should be carried out on a regular basis and if reoccurring problems exist then an age reading workshop should be organised to address and solve these issues.
Scientific justification	<p>The general aim of the workshop is to standardise the age determination criteria followed in national age reading laboratories and to identify and address existing and potential problems in the age determination of <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>. Examination of levels of accuracy and precision across readers and laboratories is required to improve the quality of the age data as input into stock assessment models.</p> <p>Analysis of the variability in the growth patterns observed in the otoliths can support the age determination process and provide biological parameter-related information relevant to the stock assessment. Validation studies based on these patterns can result in a true age determination and a review of validation studies to date will be made.</p> <p>The results of the 2020 North Sea plaice age reading exchange will be presented and discussed and will form the basis of an analysis of the most suitable method for age reading of North Sea plaice.</p>
Resource requirements	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for participants to prepare for and partake in the meeting.
Participants	Given its relevance to the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) and the ICES quality assurance process, the workshop is expected to attract interest from ICES Member States. The workshop aims to bring together international experts on plaice age reading and scientists involved in assessment in order to assess the accuracy and precision of the age data used as input into stock assessment.
Secretariat facilities	Report formatting and online meeting coordination.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory and science committees	ACOM.
Linkages to other groups	WGBIOP, WGSMAART.
Linkages to other organizations	There is a direct link with the EU DCF.