

ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS)

2020/WK/HAPISG09 The ICES/IUCN-CEM FEG Workshop on Testing OECM Practices and Strategies (WKTOPS), chaired by Ellen Kenchington*, Canada, and Jake Rice*, Canada, will hold an online meeting on 15–24 March 2021 to:

- a) Consolidate and test the available elements of the guidance in Garcia et al. (2020) on identification, use, and performance assessment of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) for marine capture fisheries, drawing on case studies using Area-based Fisheries Management Measures (ABFMs), in line with the CBD Decisions and general guidance regarding Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.
- b) Identify factors (e.g., data availability, knowledge gaps) that affect the ability of experts to evaluate areas against the four CBD OECM criteria, particularly Criterion C: Achieves sustained and effective contribution to *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, and Criterion D: Achieves associated ecosystem functions and services and upholds, where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.
- c) Identify types of information of particular value for evaluation of areas against the CBD OECM criteria, in particular Criteria C and D noted above.
- d) Provide expert feedback on the utility of the step-wise approach presented in Garcia *et al.* (2020) as a framework for determining whether ABFMs may qualify as OECMs.

WKTOPS will report by 15 May 2021 for the attention of ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting information

Priority	A successful outcome of this workshop will be the operationalization of OECMs, an area-based management tool with potentially significant biodiversity benefits, taking examples from circum-North Atlantic/Mediterranean countries to a global setting. This workshop is considered a high priority as there is need to develop a systematic approach to the identification of OECMs prior to the next review of the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the UN SDGs in 2025 and 2030 respectively. The workshop fits within the ICES Science Plan – Conservation and Management Science, the goal of which is to develop tools, knowledge, and evidence for conservation and management – to provide more and better options to help managers set and meet objectives.
Scientific justification	There is considerable interest in the scientific community and among fisheries managers and policy-makers in exploring the extent to which ABFMs may contribute significantly enough to biodiversity conservation to be identified as OECMs, and included in States' reporting of their contribution to global biodiversity targets and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Just as for other ABFMs, OECMs would be integrated in fisheries management plans, improving their likelihood to effectively generate the expected biodiversity benefits, reducing the risk of establishing "paper OECMs", and ensuring regular review of their performance. Hence there is a growing demand to operationalize the identification of OECMs. The IUCN-CEM Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) has led the development a guidance document for evaluating areas against the OECM criteria articulated in the CBD (CBD/COP/DEC/14/8/Annex III), to make the evaluation process efficient and scientifically sound, but the guidance has not been applied to actual cases that may be OECM candidates. This workshop will allow that guidance to be tested for clarity and efficacy of structuring the evaluation process and for the usefulness of the products in informing decisions of OECM eligibility of specific area-based fishery management measures.

Preparation for the workshop

A background document for the workshop has been prepared by the IUCN-CEM Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) entitled Systematic Approach to Identification, Use and Performance Assessment, of Other Effective Area-based Measures in Marine Capture Fisheries. Co-chairs from ICES (E. Kenchington) and the IUCN-CEM Fisheries Expert Group (FEG) (J. Rice) have been identified.

A second background document outlining the objectives of the workshop has been drafted and will be used to create the workshop announcement webpage. We anticipate posting the announcement and making a call for nomination of participants by 16th November, including a call for candidate areas to evaluate; invitations will sent at the same time as the meeting announcement is posted. Selection of participants and areas to be evaluated will be completed by 20 December 2020. Participants will be notified of their acceptance and given access to the WKTOPS SharePoint where all background documents will be made available. Consolidation of information from the selected candidate areas by will be put onto the SharePoint 2 weeks before workshop at the latest, in order to be available for review by participants of the meeting.

Expected outputs from the workshop

The outcome of this workshop will be an ICES Scientific Report which will address ToR a-d and elaborate on: (i) the eligibility of each selected area as an OECM; (ii) the properties of the biodiversity, fishery, and/or management procedures that were influential in the evaluation of eligibility (iii) the factors that were influential in each step of the identification, including data and scientific capacity available (iv) the effectiveness of the guidance in the Background document in structuring the evaluation, (v) the usefulness of the stepwise approach in the guidance document in evaluating the area relative to the OECM Criteria and Additional Considerations.

Resource requirements	All the preparatory work will be developed by web conferences.
Participants	Up to 30 participants, including 1-2 invited experts (TBD), 2 co-chairs
Secretariat facilities	None
Financial	No financial implications
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM, HAPISG, EPDSG, IEASG; we anticipate strong interest from WGBIODIV, WGMPCZM, WGDEC, and linkages with WGECO and WGCERP.
Linkages to other organizations	NEAFC, NAFO, GFCM, CBD, FAO, OSPAR, DGMARE
