

**2014/2/SSGIEOM10 The Workshop on Age reading of Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) (WKARDL)**, chaired by Kélig Mahé\*, France, and Mark Etherton\*, UK, will be held Lowestoft, UK England, 15–19 June 2015 to:

- a) Review information on seabass age estimations, otolith exchanges, workshops and validation work done so far;
- a) Analyse the results of the exchanges 2013 and 201;
- b) Clarify the better calcified piece (otolith or scale) to estimate the age;
- c) Analyse growth increment patterns and compile the guideline for the interpretation of seabass otoliths ;
- d) Create a reference collection of well-defined otoliths;
- e) Address the generic ToRs adopted for workshops on age calibration.

WKARDL will report by 3 July 2015 for the attention of SSGIEOM, WGBIOP, WGCSE, WGBIE, SCICOM and ACOM.

## Supporting information

Priority	Essential. Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Age data is provided by different countries and are estimated using international ageing criteria which have not been validated. The benchmark has been realised in 2013. There is necessary to continue to clarify this guideline of age interpretation especially seabass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> ). Therefore, an appropriate otolith and scale exchange programme was carried out in 2014 for the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs. Results of this otolith exchange will discuss during WKARDL.
Scientific justification	The aim of the workshop is to identify the current ageing problems between readers and standardize the age reading procedures in order to improve the accuracy and precision in the age reading of this species from the otoliths and the scales.
Resource requirements	No specific resource requirement beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
Participants	In view of its relevance to the DCF, and ICES WG, the Workshop try to join international experts on growth, age estimation and scientists involved in assessment in order to progress towards a solution.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM, SSGIEOM, WGBIOP, WGHBIIE and WGCSE
Linkages to other organizations	There is a direct link with the EU DCF.