

## WKBECOSS – Workshop on Better Coordinated Stomach Sampling

2018/2/EOSG05      The Workshop on Better Coordinated Stomach Sampling (WKBECOSS), chaired by, Izaskun Preciado, Spain, and Stefan Neuenfeldt (Denmark) will meet in Santander, Spain, 3–6 September 2019 to:

- a) Review, update and disseminate existing best practice guidelines for stomach sampling programmes (e.g. spatio-temporal information, sampling sizes, taxonomic resolution of food items, data compatibility with ICES stomach database) ([Science plan codes](#) 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- b) Present and discuss recent findings from fish diet studies, including those using stable isotope analysis, relevant for advancing regional stomach sampling schemes ([Science plan codes](#) 1.9, 4.4)
- c) Summarize specific input data needs of end users of fish diet data and define the end products for the data collection (multi-species models, MSFD indicators, etc.) ([Science plan codes](#) 2.2, 4.3, 5.2, 6.3)
- d) Identify matches and mismatches between end user needs and current EU MAP (DCF) and national collection of diet data, and propose an Action Plan to improve regional stomach sampling schemes (involving species, methods, sampling design, databases etc.) ([Science plan codes](#) 3.1, 3.2)

WKBECOSS will report by 20 September 2019 for the attention of WGBIOP and EOSG.

### Supporting information

Priority	The EU Multi-Annual Programme (EU MAP) on Data Collection requests data on predator-prey relationships and planning for future data collection specific for each marine region, coordinated at marine region level and based on end-user needs. This means that pilot studies involving fish stomach sampling are needed. Currently there is variable sampling intensity on a national basis and the sampling and analyses of stomachs are not coordinated. Therefore, on-going and planned activities may not match the needs of end-users of diet data. To realise the benefits of stomach sampling carried out by different Institutes better coordination is urgently needed. Therefore, these activities are considered to have a high priority.
Scientific justification	<p>The EU MAP provides a unique opportunity for the regular collection of diet data within fisheries research surveys. To ensure a homogeneous data set with suitable spatio-temporal coverage and make effective and efficient use of available resources coordination of stomach sampling studies is essential. Stomach sampling is necessary to ensure that multi-species and ecosystem models remain relevant and support MSFD descriptor 4 regarding the structure and functioning of foodwebs. This work could benefit from new research on genetic identification of food items and link to new research on the presence of marine litter in the food chain.</p> <p>Term of Reference a) and b) Multiple international projects and national studies have been carried out, so it is important to share the advances from this work.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) For sampling to be fit-for-purpose it must relate to the end user needs and this workshop will build links between data collectors and end users.</p> <p>Term of Reference d) Present sampling can be optimised and sampling beyond present survey coverage may be required. Having a longer-term coordinated structure, for example a flexible rolling cycle of sampling, would provide benefits</p>
Resource requirements	None
Participants	A combination of experts on stomach contents analysis, multispecies and foodweb modelling. Marine litter and survey planning for each region will be required. Up to 25 participants are expected.

Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM, SCICOM.
Linkages to other committees or groups	This workshop directly links to WGSAM and survey groups: IBTS, BITS. There are also links to work on microplastics in fish stomachs underway by WG on Marine Litter (WGML)
Linkages to other organizations	Regional Co-ordination Groups, GFCM WKSTCON2