

# ICES WGCHAIRS REPORT 2019

ICES CM 2019/ACOM/SCICOM:01

REF. ACOM, SCICOM

## Report from the Annual Meeting of Expert Group Chairs (WGCHAIRS)

21–25 January 2019

ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea

Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

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Recommended format for purposes of citation:

ICES. 2019. WGCHAIRS, 23-25 January 2018, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2018/ACOM/SCICOM:01. 45 pp.  
<http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4901>

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## 1 Opening

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The first day of WGCHAIRS 2019 was opened by ACOM Chair, Mark Dickey-Collas, who introduced the participants to the agenda of the first two meeting days of WGCHAIRS. The two first days would focus on items relevant to expert groups with a predominance of advisory ToRs. 19 Expert groups were represented in first two days of the meeting.

The participants introduced themselves and an apology for absence for the first two days was given for SCICOM Chair, Simon Jennings.

## 2 Review of expert groups

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Chairs were asked to put one or two items on the table based on experiences from expert groups in 2018. The following items were raised:

- Participation, contribution and engagement is an issue. It is difficult to involve people in the meeting, the participants are working not listening. It would be good if that habit and working environment could be changed.
- Preparation in advance of meetings is sometimes lacking.
- Difficult to find new Chairs. Training for new Chairs might make it easier for experts to step forward. The lack of involvement in the EG can make the Chair position a lonely position.
- Difficult to tackle data issues related to fisheries independent and dependent data.
- Lack of expertise is an issue, participation is not an issue but expertise to analyse data and synthesise knowledge is lacking.
- Problem that the results of a benchmark is not clear. Everything has to be solved within the benchmark, otherwise the following process gets very painful.
- Workload is a big issue and in this context it was felt by some assessment EGs that stock assessment graphs take up too many resources in the meeting and that something should be made to improve this.
- For some groups it is difficult to attract new scientists as the area is not supported by the national institutes.
- Spreading the workload between members is an issue and there might be a tendency to ignore participants with less language capabilities.
- Monthly skype chats had worked for one group to keep the ball rolling intersessional.
- Producing advice take up a lot of energy and it is hard to find time to make changes.
- Problem when the EG has not concluded and discussions are carried into the ADG.
- The linking between science groups and assessment groups had been difficult to facilitate.

### 3 Let's talk about ACOM guidelines

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Representatives of ACOM and the secretariat presented information on the technical guidelines and then facilitated a discussion.

Chairs generally considered having guidelines to be useful as something to fall back on and reference. Fisheries science is an applied field with an (outside) perspective that the work can be done with an 'engineering' approach (i.e. 100% prescriptive). While this is not the case, general guidance to ensure consistency in advice products is required.

Not all chairs were aware that most technical guidelines are not mandatory. Some were considered to feel very prescriptive and it was difficult to know when you could deviate from them. Within the guidelines there are some strict 'rules' (particularly in those developed over a series of workshops), and these should be generally adhered to. What is important is that any deviations from guidelines are well explained and reviewers concur with them.

Guidelines need to be 'living' and able to take on new, developing methods etc. (as long as rationale and review is positive for new methods).

It was noted that the generic term 'guidelines' actually included various different types: Technical guidelines (19 of these), Publication guidelines, Meeting guidelines, Advice process guidelines and Resolution guidelines, ASC guidelines, data submission guidelines. It is a little confusing that all of these are called 'Guidelines'. The chairs felt they needed an explanation of how the different types should be used and what it takes to deviate from particular guidelines.

While the EG guidelines were considered useful, it was suggested that there could be an easier way to navigate them. It would be good to have a single site where all the different guidelines could be found. Some sort of search functionality for the guidelines could be useful - sometimes it is unclear which guidance document contains the info you are after). The GAP2 project was raised as an example of a very clever design for dissemination. Another suggestion was a single page document with the important links that can be provided to EG members (email a month before, save some time in meetings explaining this). Though it would be difficult to keep such a document up to date, so it would be likely that ICES would prioritise a site linking to all guidelines. Chairs also felt it was important to put who has the chairs' back in the guidelines documents (e.g. ACOM LS or the Secretariat).

The guidelines for preparing single species advice sheet were noted as being very operational.

Chairs were invited to suggest any improvements to the Secretariat.

### 4 Operational Advice – advice below $B_{lim}$ .

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The ACOM Vice-Chair Colm Lordan gave a presentation about the application of the ICES advice rule when stocks are considered below  $B_{lim}$ . The UN Fish stocks agreement states that *"Fishery management strategies shall ensure that the risk of exceeding limit reference points is very low. If a stock falls below a limit reference point or is at risk of falling below such a reference point, conservation and management action should be initiated to facilitate stock recovery. Fishery management strategies shall ensure that target reference points are not exceeded on average."*

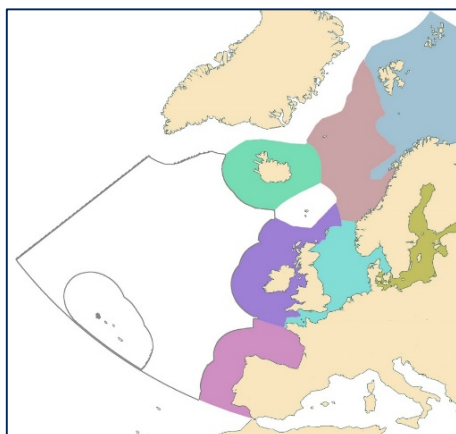
ACOM implementation of this requirement (June 2018) is that if the F following the rule from is insufficient to bring the stock above  $B_{lim}$  in the short term ICES advice will be based on bringing the stock above  $B_{lim}$  in the short term. This may result in advice of zero catch. This shall be the basis for the advice until safe and rapid rebuilding plans have been developed, evaluated and found to be precautionary.

Questions from WGCHAIRS led to a clarification that short term means end of the year. The emphasis is for MSE work when a stock in below  $B_{lim}$ .

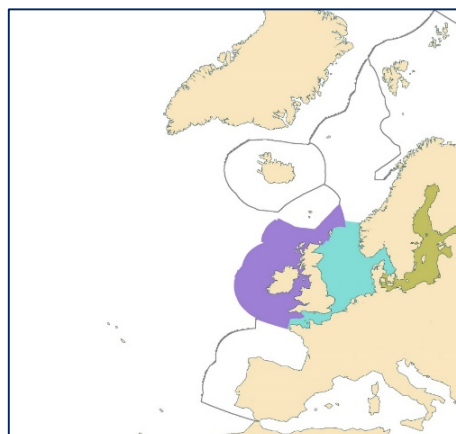
## 5 Fisheries Overviews – why bother?

An ACOM Vice-Chair gave a presentation on the fisheries and ecosystem overviews.

CURRENTLY PUBLISHED ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEWS



CURRENTLY PUBLISHED FISHERIES OVERVIEWS



\*outlines ecoregions are planned to be published in 2019.

This was followed by breakout groups that considered why fisheries overviews were developed and how could they be improved. Questions raised by the breakout groups were:

- Who is the target audience?
- How was the structure determined?
- Is the level of detail suitable?
- Shouldn't the overviews be html pages?
- Is there a feedback mechanism to the working groups?

Issues that could be included:

- Seasonality of fisheries
- More on discarding behaviour
- Spatial distribution of fish and fisheries, as interactive web pages
- Descriptions and implications of closed management areas
- Greater scientific underpinning of bycatch issues
- Recreational fisheries
- Eel, salmon, seabass

- More social and economic metrics

The use of acronyms should be reduced and those used should be explained.

## 6 Experience of dialogue with advice recipients

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Many of the EG chairs shared their experience from meetings and dialogue with stakeholders. The main themes raised and discussed were:

- **Stand behind the advice and be prepared to discuss uncertainties**

Some institutes remind their experts each year that once ICES advice is released this is what they need to stand behind. Whether or not they participated in formulating the advice, they **should not disagree with the advice**. It was pointed out that this “reminder” is needed.

Regarding the issue of **uncertainties in the advice**, it is important to be prepared. Where are the issues? Look at the assessment reports, look at the retrospective plots, and prepare to answer questions about these issues. An open discussion about the advice and the uncertainties is important, and it often needs to happen at the single-stock level.

At the same time, **be careful not to cloud the message**. Even the slightest uncertainty we highlight in a story can be used by some to push that ‘no action is required’ (in the fishery/management). If we cloud the narrative too much, the narrative gets lost.

- **How to prepare for meetings with stakeholders**

A way to make the communication smoother is to make a **general presentation explaining the basics of ICES advice**. Our advice is often very complex but needs to be made simpler. In general, make sure fishermen and stakeholders know and understand the basic principles. It is always important to know and respect your audience.

Using the **same presentation format** when presenting ICES advice each year/at each meeting means the stakeholders know what to expect.

Ask in advance if there are **specific questions/issues for specific stocks** in order to be well-prepared. Another way can be to look at the issues they have been talking about in their recent meetings and assemblies. Discover if there are particular (potentially contentious) issues going on at the moment. Observes attending ADGs will often also reveal what particular issues they are concerned with.

**Prepare to accept that you may not know everything**. Be prepared for straight talk and disagreement. Be honest and say “I will get back to you, I need to go back to the experts with this question”. Usually, they understand that you do not know every detail about the 58 stocks you are presenting the advice for. Do not try and bluff your way through presenting the advice and answering questions, but be honest and let them know you will consult the experts and get back to them. **You are there to explain not defend** the advice. You are all ambassadors to ICES. You are not expected to know everything.

If you know you have **unpopular advice** to present, allow the stakeholder to be heard and consider their point of view. Then you can provide the information (in an open way, not in a defensive way). Otherwise, a fruitful dialogue will not happen.

When you are bombarded with questions, write them down and **go through all questions systematically** so you do not forget to address someone’s important issue.



- **Good collaboration is key and respectful relationships are very valuable**

The stakeholder interactions are very much about **building relationships**, knowing what each of us is doing. To make sure there is an understanding and agreement about the science.

**Listen.** Take in and do not disregard the information that industry provides you with. **Every piece of information is useful.** It is how you use it.

When good relationships are built, the fishermen/stakeholders understand much better what we say, what we know, what we do not know and where our uncertainties are. It is worth the effort building these relationships. A personal relationship where you respect and trust each other makes it much easier to communicate and **to solve problems together.** It does take time to build this trust, but it is rewarding and useful.

It is also important to **narrow the gap between managers, stakeholders and researchers.** If you are able to go with someone who already have these relationships and can train you, then do it! It is very beneficial because it can be very intimidating to present to stakeholders.

Chairs were urged to contact the ACOM leadership and see if this kind of training would be possible.

Question raised: Should this training in relating to industry come already at the stock assessor level and not only once, you become chair?

- **Openness about the knowledge and where it comes from**

Fishermen often challenge the ICES advice and our conception of the stocks. They see fish where we do not, and they do not see fish where we do. Bringing logbook and survey data to these meetings helps **exploring myths and detecting errors.** It fosters understanding.

Be prepared, look what is on their mind and on their agenda before you start asking them what you want from them. Remember that the upside for you is that you can actually get your hands on data you did not have access to before.

#### **Improvements?**

It was mentioned that ICES needs to improve with regards to consistency in format and presentations of the advice. There is a need to make the summary sheet presentable in a power point.

It is a skill in itself to communicate with stakeholders. Is there room in the system to identify people who are good at this kind of communication, so it does not necessarily have to be the chair?

It was mentioned that examples of presentations of the advice are available from ADGs, as well as presentations to stakeholders – just ask, and the Secretariat can provide these.

## **7 Look forward to 2019**

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The Chair of ACOM, Mark Dickey-Collas, gave a presentation and answered questions on important matters for 2019. These were special scoping workshops with stakeholders & managers on mackerel and mixed fisheries, the Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF), prioritisation of benchmarks, upcoming special requests, and the new

ICES code of conduct. A discussion followed on the code of conduct aimed at clarifying the code.

## **8 Quality assurance and consistency**

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ACOM Vice-Chairs gave presentations on developments and plans to improve quality assurance and consistency of ICES advice and the underlying data and processes. The challenges for 2019 are making sure that the advisory framework is fit for purpose (with guidelines covering all elements and efficient systems), quality assured input data, the availability of experts with the required skills and ensuring advice products are full reproducible and transparent. ACOM is exploring approaches to improve consistency of advice.

There was a discussion about the partnership of DIG and PGDATA helping to resolve the quality assurance issue.

## **9 Breakout groups on the future of advice in ICES**

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Breakout groups were formed to address one of these issues about the future strategic needs of ICES advice:

1. Changing how ICES shares and communicates advice
2. Improving quality control and transparency of the advice process
3. Ensuring that the advice process stays relevant by assimilating innovation in science
4. Giving advice when differing policy objectives need to be reconciled (e.g. EU CFP and MSFD)

Each breakout group then reported back to plenary.

### **9.1 Changing how ICES shares and communicates advice**

ICES should use modern approaches and technologies with automatic data updates straight from the appropriate databases. Interactive maps should be developed, especially as an entry point to the advice. Fora and sign up lists should be more widely used.

### **9.2 Improving quality control and transparency of the advice process**

Sorting out the benchmarks, their role, and quality assurance is key. Expert groups need space for the review and prioritisation. There is a trade-off between complex and simple models, ICES should not be attracted to the most complicated solutions. Ensemble approaches should be explored. There is a need for knowledge transfer between groups. There should be a schedule of iterative steps to improve quality assurance and expert group planning. The lack of full data access and also the submission of already aggregated data is stifling progress.

### **9.3 Ensuring that the advice process stays relevant by assimilating innovation in science**

ICES advice needs to bring about innovation and assimilate new approaches and methods that have been proved credible. Innovation funnels might be suitable. SCICOM, ACOM and externally funded projects need to work together. The quality and peer

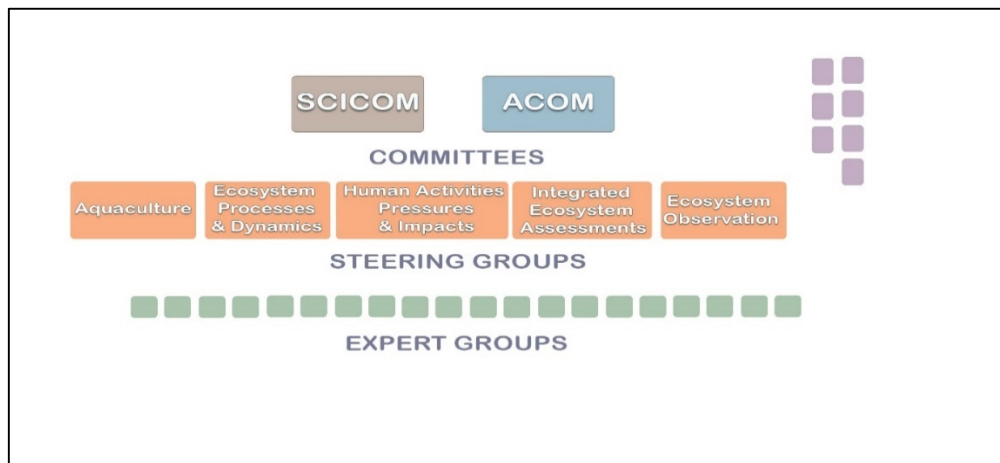
review standards demanded for ICES advice must be communicated to researchers wishing to make impact through ICES advice. ICES needs to enable flexibility in its processes to allow innovation. As highlighted by [the ICES Workshop on translating science into advice](#), initiatives should engage early with ICES and also spend time understand ICES procedures and how and when to engage.

**9.4 Giving advice when differing policy objectives need to be reconciled (e.g. EU CFP and MSFD)**

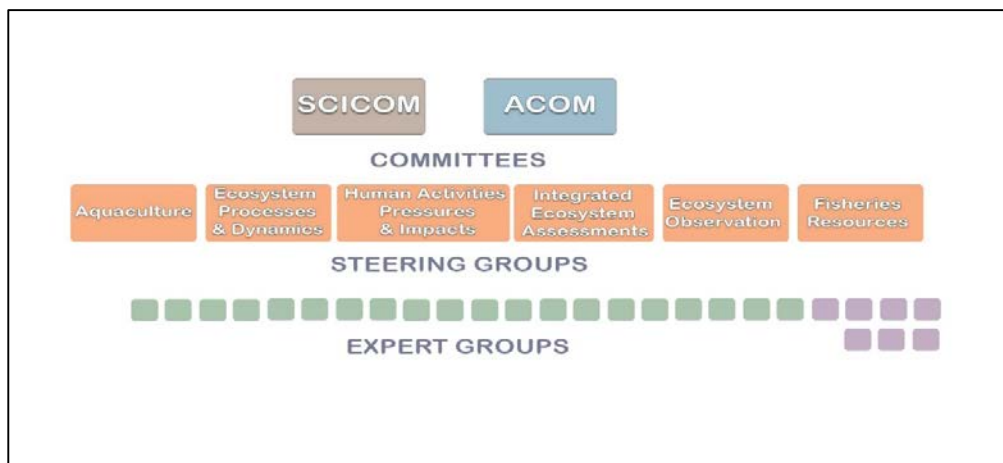
The higher objectives across most policies/directives are broadly aligned. It is at operational objectives that there is a need for reconciliation. ICES needs to recognise the relevance of aggregation, indicators and regionalisation when considering policy objectives. Reconciliation does not mean “to solve” inconsistencies, but to point out potential conflicts or inconsistencies. To show potential trade-off and enable objectives to be prioritised.

**10 Expert groups and steering groups.**

Mark Dickey-Collas described the forthcoming change in the parentage of ACOM associated expert groups. A steering group called Fisheries Resources will be formed which will parent the majority of ACOM expert groups. This was further explained on the following day of WGCHAIRS (agenda 14).



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### **Ad hoc items in benchmark prioritisation and on PGDATA**

Ad hoc presentations for information were given on the likely benchmark prioritisation scheme and the role of PGDATA.

## **11 Opening and welcome (joint day)**

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Mark Dickey-Collas, ACOM Chair, and Simon Jennings, SCICOM Chair, welcomed all participants, including Expert Group Chairs joining via WebEx, in the WGCHAIRS meeting.

They emphasised that expert group chairs are central to the functioning of the ICES system and that the purposes of the WGCHAIRS meeting were to:

- get feedback on ongoing work and to understand how we can best support expert group chairs;
- provide an opportunity to review events and changes during the past year.
- bring the advisory and science sides of ICES together, as part of our commitment to creating much stronger and more dynamic links.
- plan for future science activities and development of future advisory products.

The ICES Vice-President, Bill Karp, welcomed participants on behalf of Council. He emphasized the importance of networking between expert group chairs linked to the advisory and science sides of ICES, and acknowledged the expert group chairs for playing a key role in the ICES system and making ICES function, grow and improve.

The ICES President, Fritz Köster, also welcomed the WGCHAIRS participants and was looking forward to working with them.

A Tour de Table was conducted. The list of participants is available in Annex 1. Apologies had been received from Mike Rust, ASG Chair, and from Mette Skjern-Mauritzen, IEASG Chair.

The agenda and structure of the meeting was introduced (see Annex 2).

## **12 Update on actions from WGCHAIRS 2018**

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SCICOM Chair with reference to Doc 12.1 updated the meeting on the progress on action items generated at last year's WGCHAIRS meeting. The following actions were highlighted:

- WGCHAIRS Forum is up and running. Currently the messages are posted by the Secretariat, but chairs are encouraged to use the Forum and raise any issues of general relevance to other WGCHAIRS.
- Authorship of EG reports. A new report format is being launched from January 2019 where all ICES EG reports become part of a series with an ISSN number.
- Online introductory session for new EG Chairs: A presentation was produced for mentoring of new chairs, and an introductory session was held during the ASC. Another one will be held in early February

### 13 Guidelines for ICES groups

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SCICOM Chair informed the meeting that there will be two iterations of the guidelines per year, one after ASC and one after WGCHAIRS, based on feedback from the working group chairs and new policies.

The new code of conduct is included in the guidelines, and Doc 30.1 provides practical guidance on how expert group chairs can provide guidance on the use of the code of conduct. Other updates and additions provide:

- New foreword stating purpose of guidelines and a summary of the different types of groups in ICES
- Guidance on acknowledging ICES in publications (Annex 8)
- Guidance for expert groups who want to accelerate the uptake of their science into advice (Annex 9)
- Description of roles of ACOM members and leadership

**Request for feedback:** Chairs were encouraged to identify any material they would like to see added to the draft guidelines and provide specific feedback via email.

### 14 Expert groups and steering groups

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ACOM Chair gave an update on the new approach to expert group parentage that affiliates every ICES expert group with a steering group. The Fisheries Resources Steering Group was established and most of the groups under ACOM will be allocated to this Steering Group. A call for nominations for a chair of the new steering group was launched in early January 2019. Members of expert groups previously overseen by ACOM but now allocated to the steering groups will continue to require nomination by the delegates. A list of the expert groups to which this membership rule applies will be added to the “Guidelines for ICES groups” edition 2019-1. **Data best practice**

Jens Rasmussen, Chair of Data and Information Group (DIG), with reference to document 15.1 introduced the proposed structure of a new ICES User Handbook: Best practice for Data Management. Jens Rasmussen explained that the document has been initiated in a collaboration between ICES Data Centre and the Data and Information Group (DIG). It is intended to develop into a handbook that will enable working groups to ensure that data is managed, structured, and developed in a robust way that will allow best possible use of the data.

The Chair of PGDATA, Joël Vigneau, thanked for the presentation. He noted that PGDATA met recently with the ICES Data Centre, and he expressed a strong wish to also connect and coordinate with the Data and Information Group (DIG). Jens Rasmussen, DIG Chair agreed and would be delighted to do this. ACOM Chair welcomed the conversation and recommended also involving the Head of Data Centre, Neil Holdsworth.

SCICOM Chair thanked Jens Rasmussen for the presentation and for taking steps towards providing best practice guidance, which would be valuable for the expert groups.

## 15 ICES Strategic Plan and Science Plan

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Bill Karp, ICES Vice President, introduced the ICES Strategic Plan. SCICOM Chair introduced the Science Plan, highlighting the objectives of the plan and the seven inter-related scientific priorities. Both plans had been published just a few days prior to the meeting, on 15 January 2019.

SCICOM Chair introduced Breakout Group Session C, giving the expert group chairs an opportunity to address questions and identify needs for support related to the implementation of the ICES strategic and science plans

## 16 Breakout groups: session C

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In Session C, five groups consisting of 8 expert group chairs were asked to address the following questions on implementation of the ICES strategic and science plan:

- Where does the work of your expert group fit into the plans?
- What can you do to further develop some of the new areas of science highlighted in the science plan?
- Do you see opportunities for cross-cutting activity and collaboration with other expert groups?
- What support do you need to help you do this work?

Each group was asked to identify a rapporteur and submit a short (one-page) summary.

## 17 Reporting back from breakout groups in Session C, conclusions and actions

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A summary of feedback from breakout groups under Session C and during plenary discussions is provided in Annex 3.

In response to the breakout reports (Annex 3) the SCICOM chair responded to questions raised about the extent to which climate change and biodiversity were addressed in the plan and why they were not science priorities in their own right.

He responded that when the Science Plan was drafted there was agreement that climate change and biodiversity were cross-cutting issues that run horizontally and touch on all seven priority areas in the plan. The strategic initiative SICCME will continue working across all areas to improve the visibility of climate change.

On the subject of biodiversity ACOM Chair commented that the biodiversity done within ICES is not labelled 'biodiversity; it is a branding issue. Olivier Thebaud commented that it is also about ICES presence in some of the intergovernmental groups dealing with biodiversity.

ACOM Chair mentioned that ICES recently got UN observer status to the General Assembly and in this connection is preparing a document on ICES work in areas beyond national jurisdiction and biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction highlighting our role.

## 18 Submitting theme and network sessions for the ASC

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Silvana Birchenough, Chair of Ecosystem, Pressures and Dynamics Steering Group, with reference to Doc 19.1, gave a presentation highlighting the opportunity for ICES expert groups to develop theme and network sessions for the ASC and the properties of successful sessions. The evaluation process was described, including how the final list of sessions is decided by the Science Committee based on the highest scores, science priorities, advisory relevance, multidisciplinary nature, cutting-edge scientific aspects and a balanced programme. There is a great opportunity for the groups to showcase their work and foster integration with other groups through joint proposals for theme and network sessions.

Participants commented that it would be useful to receive more elaborate feedback from SCICOM to better understand when proposals do not meet the bar. It would be nice to know more about the criteria for a successful proposal. In response, it was noted that the “Guidelines for ICES groups” included a section on the properties of good theme and network sessions, but the process for calling for and reviewing proposals would be reviewed by SCICOM at their March 2019 meeting. This year some sessions were missing to fill gaps in the topical coverage and this was solved by SCICOM inviting a session on oceanography.

## 19 ICES viewpoints

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SCICOM chair, with reference to Doc 20.1, gave a presentation on the current status of viewpoints, facilitating uptake of science into advice. Which topics might be developed for future viewpoints? Viewpoints allow ICES to highlight, in a balanced, timely, and impartial way, the potential management and societal implications of maturing science in our network.

Currently there are two viewpoints in the pipeline and one has recently been published.

Participants asked if viewpoints were something that all groups should be asked to consider, noting the new topics being addressed by ICES scientists? SCICOM Chair responded that it would be wonderful if groups that are not receiving a lot of requests for advice would propose viewpoints. However, it was important to note that producing viewpoints is a resource-intensive process given the extent of peer review and engagement of an Advice Drafting Group. For this reason, we are looking for the very best based on maturing science.

Comment was made that it would be useful to include in the guidelines information about how much extra time would be needed to engage in producing a viewpoint. The SCICOM chair suggested to take a look at the biofouling page and the background documents to get an idea of how much time and effort is required. SCICOM Chair also mentioned that there has been a lot of interest in publishing the background documents in peer reviewed papers- providing some wider benefits for the scientists involved.

## 20 Fisheries and ecosystem overviews

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The ACOM Chair, Mark Dickey-Collas, presented the fisheries and ecosystem overviews and thanked all who had contributed to produce these overviews.

## Training in ICES – issues and opportunities

Conference and Training Coordinator, Anna Davies, gave a presentation on the ICES training courses. Attending an ICES training course is a great opportunity to strengthen your career, broaden your knowledge and widen your professional network.

Anna commented that ICES would like to broaden the range of training that ICES offers and asked chairs to propose training courses that are linked to the science plan. This approach would ensure we are educating people to meet the needs that we see into the future.

**Request for feedback:** It is possible to submit a course proposal via the ICES website, or you are always welcome to contact Anna Davies at the ICES Secretariat.

## 21 Breakout groups: session D

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In Session D, five groups consisting of 8 expert group chairs were asked to identify topics for viewpoints and potential contributions to fisheries and ecosystem overviews.

Each group was asked to identify a rapporteur and submit a short (one-page) summary.

## 22 Reporting back from breakout groups in Session D, conclusions and actions

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A summary of feedback from breakout groups under Session D and during plenary discussions is provided in Annex 4.

SCICOM Chair proposed compiling the feedback from the breakout groups into a paper for the April Workshop on further development of fisheries and ecosystem overviews. It would be helpful to harvest the feedback generated at this meeting and feed into the workshop.

**Action:** Based on the feedback from breakout groups Henn Ojaveer, ACOM Vice-Chair, to develop an action list for April workshop.

ACOM Chair commented on a suggestion to merge ecosystem and fisheries overviews. He explained this was not being done at present, because when fisheries are included, they tend to dominate the whole picture.

### **Request for feedback:**

In relation to the viewpoints the meeting was reminded that in Doc 20.1 explains what can be submitted for consideration, and chairs were encouraged to send in formal proposals for viewpoints.

Code of conduct. Is everyone happy to say the suggested few words at the start of their expert group meeting? Please let us know if you have comments.

### **Closing of joint day**

SCICOM and ACOM Chairs thanked all the participants for their engagement in the joint science and advice day, and Silvana Birchenough and Jens Rasmussen for the presentations on ASC theme and network sessions and data best practises. It had been valuable to hear feedback and proposals from the breakout groups.



SCICOM and ACOM Chairs commented that reporting back to your members from WGCHAIRS would be fantastic and help them feel more connected to ICES.

Next year's WGCHAIRS meeting has been scheduled for 28 to 30 January 2020 and the format will be one-day advice, one joint day, and one day of science. Suggestions for the agenda and requests for back-to-back meetings can be sent to the SCICOM or ACOM chairs.

### Thursday 24 January

## 23 Opening and welcome for expert group chairs focusing on science ToR

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SCICOM Chair thanked the secretariat for arranging a nice evening reception at ICES Headquarters. SCICOM Chair introduced the agenda for the day, starting with a plenary re-cap for the benefit of the new participants who introduced ICES Science Plan and science implementation plan

SCICOM Chair gave an introduction to the science implementation plan and discussion of roles of expert groups and steering groups in supporting implementation (reference meeting documents 25.1 and 16.2).

The science implementation plan is a living document to make our science relevant; it will define how people and groups within ICES will contribute to implementation. Table 1 is outlining the responsibilities and actions to meet the broad objectives. By following the implementation plan we hope we will be able to meet the objectives of the Science Plan.

Chairs have been requested to map a maximum of three science plan codes to each ToR in the resolutions for their groups.

In relation to the science plan coding Jens Rasmussen, DIG Chair, commented that the document provided for expert group chairs was overly complex and the coding could be simplified by presenting only an x.x. format. The meeting agreed to make the change proposed. Jens also commented how the codes could be used in metadata for reports, data, etc., and could be used to search for expert groups with shared coding without any additional work or effort from the expert groups. This would help foster cross-collaboration, and improve potential analysis of expert group representation in addressing different aspects of the science plan.

**Action:** Simplify the code table following Jens Rasmussen's proposal

**Action:** Chairs to share the implementation plan with expert group members as this will help guide the development of new ToR.

## 24 Breakout groups: session E

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In Session E, three groups consisting of 8 expert group chairs were asked to identify roles of expert groups and steering groups in implementation of the science plan and provide guidance on where support is required. Each group was asked to identify a rapporteur and submit a short (one-page) summary.

## 25 Reporting back from breakout groups: session E, conclusions and actions

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A summary of feedback from breakout groups under Session E is provided in Annex 4.

SCICOM Chair thanked the breakout groups for a fabulous amount of feedback from their discussions. After plenary discussions on a range of topics on implementation of the science plan the following actions were agreed.

**Action:**

Table 1 of science implementation plan should be updated to clarify the tasks for which expert group chairs have primary responsibility.

**Action:** Progress development of the resolutions database in a way that ensures ToR are searchable and the underlying data allow relationships between ToR, the science plan and expert groups can be explored (i.e. background data also accessible to expert groups interested in mapping ICES activities)

**Action:** Provide clarity on the processes surrounding historical archiving of material on SharePoint.

Other points raised in plenary discussions following this breakout were:

**Guidance on writing ToRs.** Groups are encouraged to write standalone ToR, i.e. a sentence interpretable in its own right without cross referencing other information that the reader does not have access to. It was noted that for search purposes it would be helpful if ToR were linked to geographies in the resolutions database.

**Flexibility/prescription or bottom-up/top-down.** The tasks in the science plan and implementation plan must be specific enough to reassure Delegates and the ICES community more widely that our work is clearly relevant to our vision, mission and diverse national needs. At the same time there has to be enough flexibility for chairs to take on new areas and engage in the creative thinking that advances science. If an expert group feels more flexibility is needed to develop an emerging area of science, then the chair is encouraged to discuss with the relevant steering group.

**Balance between new expert groups and new ToR?** It is difficult to generalise when planned work diverges far enough from existing work to justify the formation of a new expert group (as opposed to modifying or adding to ToR of an existing group). In practice this decision would be made case-by-case, from looking at the outputs, nature, skills and motivation of the existing group. Size is not necessarily the main criterion as a small group of only 4-5 highly motivated scientists may do a great work.

**Expert Group websites.** In response to a question about whether it would be possible to add more flexibility to the layout it was noted that the layout was quite restricted and there was not capacity in-house to modify. Given this constraint, the main focus for now should be on improving accessibility and clarity of texts describing each expert group.

**Cross-cutting activity.** SCICOM Chair encouraged the expert group chairs to reach out to chairs of Steering Groups and Strategic Initiatives on issues related to co-ordinating activity with other groups. They are specifically tasked to help with the coordination.

## 26 Breakout groups: session F

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In Session F, three groups consisting of 7–8 expert group chairs met with the steering group chairs present (EPDSG, EOSG, HAPISG). IEASG and ASG also met, but without their Steering Group chairs and addressed issues of relevance to the expert group chairs present.

Each group was asked to identify a rapporteur and submit a short (one-page) summary.

## 27 Reporting back from breakout groups in Session F, conclusions and actions

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A summary of discussions from breakout groups under Session F is provided in Annex 5. These will be further reviewed by steering group chairs and used in their future work planning.

## 28 Reporting by expert groups with multiannual ToR

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SCICOM Chair explained that for the fixed term expert groups we want to provide the option of producing an e-evaluation instead of an interim report. The aim is to best support the diverse working practices of working groups and at the same time to provide adequate evaluation of the progress of their work.

The main purpose of the e-evaluation is to inform steering group chairs and the Secretariat that the group is on track. The new, revised process was presented:

- Publication of interim report becomes optional (but this needs to be indicated in advance)
- Interim reports need to contain significant science content if a working group requests publication
- All working groups complete an interim e-evaluation after each interim meeting, whether they choose to produce a report or not
- End of term evaluations will be removed from the reports and managed as an e-system, more closely harmonised with interim reporting
- All working groups should produce an end of term (final) report with significant science content

In discussion, a survey group noted that the reports are mainly about publishing survey results. The SCICOM Chair pointed out that this work was science as monitoring is seen as a vital part of science and would be fully appropriate in the new series. Indeed, observation is a headline in the science plan.

**Friday 25 January**

## 29 Highlighting and disseminating expert group outputs

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Terhi Minkinen, Communications Officer, gave a presentation on the work of the ICES Communications department to promote the science of Expert Groups via EG community pages and science highlights (i.e. concise summaries of the most novel, important and impactful ICES science).

Expert group chairs were encouraged to send a group photo from their expert group meetings to Communications and to tweet from their meetings.

**Action:** Secretariat to circulate the template for science highlights.

### 30 Highlighting ICES science beyond our network

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SCICOM Chair presented the individual expert group pages on the ICES website and pointed to the importance of the text about each expert group reaching out to a wide audience. He also emphasised that the text should be valid for the duration of the resolution and beyond, rather than focusing on specific subjects or events.

The recommended template should consist of three sections: an opening statement about the purpose of the groups, 2) approaches/methods used by the group, and 3) context and outcome of the types of work that is done.

The following examples were provided for inspiration and the Secretariat would be very pleased to assist chairs in the drafting process:

**Example 1:**

1. Members of the Working Group on Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities assess the effects of fishing on ecosystems and the consequences for fisheries and the environment.
2. They develop models and indicators to understand and report on fishing effects, the state of the environment, and assess the ecosystem consequences of alternate management actions.
3. Their work improves our understanding of fisheries interactions with the environment. It is used to underpin advice on the effects of fishing on the marine environment and the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

**Example 2:**

1. Members of the Working Group on Integrated Morphological and Molecular Taxonomy develop and promote new tools for species-level taxonomic analysis of the pelagic ecosystem.
2. They develop methods for species recognition and discrimination, focusing on identification of marine metazoan zooplankton, including cryptic species and determination of phylogenetic relationships.
3. Their work supports the analysis, recognition and understanding of patterns and changes in community structure, species diversity, species phenology and productivity. Further, the group seeks to assess and predict how these characteristics affect food webs, trophic relationships and the transfers and cycles of nutrients, chemical elements, energy, and biological production.

**Action/recommendation:** All WGCHAIRS were encouraged to review their web texts, and to bear in mind that these websites should be designed to reach a wide audience; not only the current members of the groups.

### 31 Authorship of expert group reports

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Celine Byrne presented a proposal for guidelines for authorship of expert group reports to be published under the new report series called ICES scientific reports. Following discussion, it was agreed that this issue should be added as a task for the breakout groups under Session G to consider and to provide feedback on. Based on the feedback received, the revised guidelines for editor/authorship were posted on the WGCHAIRS Forum for review after the meeting:

#### Authorship of expert group reports

Responsibility for defining editorship and authorship of expert group reports will rest with expert group chairs. Unless specific requests regarding the sequencing of author names are agreed by the expert group and then passed to the ICES Secretariat by the expert group chairs the following (default) arrangements apply.

1. Chair(s) are named as editors and are responsible for editing the report
2. Expert group members are named as authors if they participate in meeting(s) of the expert group leading to the report and/ or make a contribution to background analyses or review in person or remotely and/ or are responsible for contributing to the report.
3. All authors are assumed to agree to the content of the report (refer to “Guidelines for ICES groups” for the steps to take if this is not the case)
4. Sequencing of editor list is alphabetical by surname
5. Sequencing of author list is alphabetical by surname

Celine Byrne presented the ICES peer-review database and requested chairs to keep the ICES editor, Ruth Anderson, informed of any peer-reviewed papers linked to the work of expert groups.

### 32 Addressing advisory ToR in the ICES system

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ACOM Chair, Mark Dickey-Collas, gave some background on how the advisory system works. He explained that ICES will only except a special request for advice if we know we have the capacity to answer it. Therefore, when groups are approached by the Secretariat, it will be an initial enquiry asking if they are interested in helping with a request. There is an expectation that an increasing number of groups will be dealing with advice in the years to come. There are many good reasons why it is to everyone’s benefit to work together and contribute to advice.

ICES advice offers a route for expert groups to highlight their impact and there are really exciting and cutting edge requests for advice in the pipeline!

During discussion the ACOM Chair commented that expert groups are approached within a week of ICES receiving the requests for advice. Some requests are developed over time; some tend to be last-minute. ICES is in ongoing dialogue with clients to try to get an earlier warning.

When ICES gives advice it is quality-assured and independently reviewed. When we approach a science group or ACOM legacy group, what is produced is transformed into what we think the advice should be. What the group produces forms the foundation of the answer. If the text is changed dramatically, the groups will be informed.

When groups respond to advisory requests the advice should be included as an annex to the next report. The secretariat and ACOM will work with the group to make sure the EG report comes out at the same time as the advice.

### 33 Mentoring Chairs

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SCICOM Chair recalled the actions initiated since WGCHAIRS January 2018:

- A presentation had been made available for mentoring chairs and inducting new members. The presentation was introduced at ASC 2018.
- Feedback from EG Chairs was incorporated into the Guidelines which were released soon after the WGCHAIRS January meeting
- Next step is to host an online introductory session for new (and existing) chairs in February 2019.

Comments /suggestion to further help the process:

ACOM Chair pointed out that there is also a need for promoting the benefits of chairing. Some groups have problems finding new chairs and some chair are reluctant to take on a second term of office.

Positive feedback was received from incoming chairs that the WGCHAIRS meeting in itself had been very helpful to learn more about the ICES process.

It was pointed out that it is really important to have a least one year of overlap between chairs. This allows the incoming chair to be an apprentice for one year.

Make best use of the good support from steering group chairs and the secretariat.

SCICOM Chair thanked participants for the positive feedback.

### 34 Breakout groups: session G

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In Session G, three groups consisting of 6–8 expert group chairs were invited to identify ways to develop and promote science from their expert groups and identify supporting actions. Reference was made to document 31.1 on Highlighting and disseminating expert group outputs.

The groups were also asked to discuss guidelines for including authors in reports. Each group was asked to identify a rapporteur and submit a short (one-page) summary.

### 35 Reporting back from breakout groups in Session G, conclusions and actions

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A summary of discussions from breakout groups under Session G is provided in Annex 6.

Following the reports on these discussions to plenary, the meeting noted the benefits of recycling material produced by ICES communications department at local institutes (and vice-versa) and the potential benefits of closer working between ICES Communications and the institutes.

SCICOM Chair responded that there is already a network of communications professionals, but despite this many of the major institutions are not retweeting ICES material- including on the strategic plan and science plan launch.

**Action:** SCICOM chair to seek feedback on the current operation of the network of communications professionals and their capacity to share science stories.

## 36 Close

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Next year's WGCHAIRS will take place from 28 to 30 January 2020, and expert group chairs were invited to send in suggestions for side meetings or agenda items.

The ACOM and SCICOM Chairs thanked the participants, in person and on WebEx, for their participation.

## Annex 1: List of participants

Name	Group	Steering Group/Committee/Secretariat
Jann Thorsten Martinsohn	WGAGFA	ASG
Terje Svåsand	WGEIA	ASG
Bill Karp	First Vice-President	Bureau/Council
Fritz Köster	President	Bureau/Council
Joël Vigneau	PGDATA	EOSG
Julie Coad Davies	WGBIOP, WGSMAIT	EOSG
Olavi Kaljuste	WGBIFS	EOSG
Richard Nash	WGALES	EOSG
Andrea Belgrano	WGBIODIV, WGRMES	EPDSG
Arantza Iriarte	WGEUROBUS	EPDSG
Cesar Gonzalez-Pola	WGOH	EPDSG
Francisco Javier Campuzano	WGOOFE	EPDSG
Lidia Yebra	WGZE	EPDSG
Lynda Blackadder	WGScallop	EPDSG
Marco Uttieri	WGEUROBUS	EPDSG
Marie Johansen	WGPME	EPDSG
Mark Payne	WGS2D	EPDSG
Rodney Forster	WGOOFE	EPDSG
Sophie Pitois	WGZE	EPDSG
Alexandra Silva	WGHANSA	FRSG
Anders Galatius	WGMME	FRSG
Ching Villanueva	WGBIE	FRSG
Claire Moore	WGMIXFISH	FRSG
Elvar H. Hallfredsson	WGDEEP	FRSG
Lisa Readdy	WGBIE	FRSG
Mikaela Bergenius	WGBFAS	FRSG
Sofie Nimmegeers	WGCSE	FRSG
Stefan Palm	WGBAST	FRSG
Valerio Bartolino	HAWG	FRSG
Andrea Morf	WGMPCZM	HAPISG
Arni Magnusson	MGWG	HAPISG
Juan Bellas	WGBEC	HAPISG
Neil Campbell	WGSFD	HAPISG
Olivier Thébaud	WGECON	HAPISG
Roi Martinez	WGSFD	HAPISG
Steven Brooks	WGBEC	HAPISG
Anna Olafsdottir	WGINOR	IEASG
Benjamin Planque	WGCERP	IEASG
Debbi Pedreschi	WGEAWESS	IEASG
Erik Olsen	WGINOSE	IEASG
Marcos Llope	WGEAWESS	IEASG
Matilda Valman	WGIAB	IEASG



<b>Name</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Steering Group/Committee/Secretariat</b>
Solfrid Hjøllo	WGIPEM	IEASG
Gudmundur Oskarsson	WGINOR, WGWIDE	IEASG, FRSG
Mark Dickey-Collas	ACOM Chair	ACOM
Eugene Nixon	ACOM Vice-Chair	ACOM Vice-Chair
Ghislain Chouinard	ACOM Vice-Chair	ACOM Vice-Chair
Henn Ojaveer	ACOM Vice-Chair	ACOM Vice-Chair
Simon Jennings	SCICOM Chair	SCICIOM
Jens Rasmussen	DIG	SCICOM
Sarah Bailey (HAPISG)	HAPISG	SG Chair
Silvana Birchenough	EPDSG	SG Chair
Sven Kupschus	EOSG	SG Chair
Adriana Villamor	Advisory Programme Assisting Secretary	ICES Secretariat
Anne Christine Brusendorff	General Secretary	ICES Secretariat
David Miller	Advisory Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat
Eirini Glyki	Advisory Programme Assisting Secretary	ICES Secretariat
Julie Kellner	Science Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat
Lise Cronne	Science Programme Assisting Secretary	ICES Secretariat
Lotte Worsøe Clausen	Head of Advisory Support	ICES Secretariat
Michala Ovens	Advisory Programme Departmental Secretary	ICES Secretariat
Rui Catarino	Advisory Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat
Ruth Fernandez	Advisory Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat
Sebastian Valanko	Advisory Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat
Inigo Martinez	Advisory Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat
Vivian Pii	Science Programme Departmental Secretary	ICES Secretariat
Wojciech Wawrzynski	Head of Science Support	ICES Secretariat
Colin Millar	Advisory Programme Professional Officer	ICES Secretariat

## Annex 2: WGCHAIRS Agenda

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Chairs: Mark Dickey-Collas and Simon Jennings

Monday 21 January 2019 14:00 –Friday 25 January 2019 13:00

### **Mon 21 January (plenary sessions unless otherwise stated)**

1. Opening and welcome for chairs of expert groups contributing to advice (14:00) (Mark Dickey-Collas)
2. Review of expert group activities in 2018 (14:15) (Mark Dickey-Collas)

#### **Break (15:30)**

3. Let's talk about ACOM guidelines (16:00) (Lotte Worsøe Clausen)

#### **Close for day (17:30)**

#### **Evening reception**

### **Tue 22 January (plenary sessions unless otherwise stated)**

4. Introduction to today (09:00) (Mark Dickey-Collas)
5. Fisheries Overviews- why bother?

Including breakout groups: session A (09:30)

*In Session A, groups of 5-10 expert group Chairs will each explore why we have developed fisheries overviews and make suggestions about potential changes and improvements*

#### **Break (10:30)**

6. Reporting back from breakout groups in Session A, conclusions and actions
7. Look forward to 2019, including the meeting with recipients of ICES advice (MIRIA) (12:00) (Mark Dickey-Collas)

#### **Lunch (13:00)**

8. Breakout groups: session B (14:00)

*In Session B, groups of 5-10 Expert Group Chairs will each address questions on the future of advice in ICES*

#### **Break (15:30)**

9. Reporting back from breakout groups in Session B, conclusions and actions (16:00)
10. Expert groups and steering groups (17:00) **(Mark Dickey-Collas)**

*Questions and discussion about the new approach to expert group parentage that affiliates every ICES expert group with a steering group*

#### **Close for day (17:30)**

### Wed 23 January (plenary sessions unless otherwise stated)

11. Opening and Welcome to all ICES expert group chairs (09:00) (Mark Dickey-Collas and Simon Jennings)

12. Update on actions from WGCHAIRS 2018 (09:20) (Simon Jennings)

13. Guidelines for ICES groups (09:30) (Simon Jennings)

*Update and review of guidelines for ICES groups and a call for feedback on how to meet the information needs of new and existing Chairs more effectively.*

14. Expert groups and steering groups (09:45) (Mark Dickey-Collas)

*Update on the new approach to expert group parentage that affiliates every ICES expert groups with a steering group*

15. **Data best practice (10:15) (Jens Rasmussen, Data and Information Group chair and Neil Holdsworth, Head of Data and Information)**

*Best practice for data handling in ICES expert groups and how to get guidance and support.*

- Break (10:30)** (pre-registration for breakout groups in Sessions C and D)

16. ICES Strategic Plan and Science Plan (11:00)

*Introduction to the new ICES strategic plan and science plan and discussion of implications for expert groups*

17. Breakout groups: session C (11:45)

*In Session C, groups of around 10 Expert Group Chairs will each address questions on implementation of the ICES strategic and science plan*

### **Lunch (13:00)**

18. Reporting back from breakout groups in Session C, conclusions and actions (14:00)

19. Submitting theme and network sessions for the ASC (14:45) (Silvana Birchenough)

*Highlighting the role of chairs in developing theme and network sessions for the ASC and the properties of successful sessions*

20. ICES viewpoints (15:00) (Simon Jennings)

*Facilitating uptake of science into advice. Current status of viewpoints. What are the opportunities to highlight and use developing science? Which topics might be developed for future viewpoints?*

21. Fisheries and ecosystem overviews (15:15) (Mark Dickey-Collas)

*Broadening opportunities to contribute*

### **Break (15:30)**

22. Breakout groups: session D (16:00)

*In Session D, groups of 5-10 Expert Group Chairs will each identify topics for viewpoints and potential contributions to fisheries and ecosystem overviews*

23. Reporting back from breakout groups in Session D, conclusions and actions (17:00)

**Close (18:00)**

**Social event/ meal (18:00) at ICES Headquarters**

**Thurs 24 January (plenary sessions unless otherwise stated)**

24. Opening and welcome for expert group chairs focusing on science ToR (09:00) (Simon Jennings)

25. ICES Science Plan and science implementation plan (09:15) (Simon Jennings)

*Introduction to the science implementation plan and discussion of roles of expert groups and steering groups in supporting implementation*

**Break (10:30)**

26. **Breakout groups: session E (11:00)**

*In Session E, groups of around 10 Expert Group Chairs will identify roles of expert groups and steering groups in implementation of the science plan and support required*

27. **Reporting back from breakout groups: session E, conclusions and actions (12:15)**

**Lunch (13:00)**

28. **Breakout groups: session F (14:00)**

*In Session F, each of the five steering groups will address issues of relevance to their expert group chairs*

**Break (15:30)**

29. Reporting back from breakout groups in Session F, conclusions and actions (16:00)

30. Reporting by expert groups with multiannual ToR (16:45) (Simon Jennings)

*Expert group chairs at the ASC asked for a discussion on the benefits of full annual reporting on completed ToR rather than the adoption of an interim report model*

**Close (17:30)**

**Friday 25 January (plenary sessions unless otherwise stated)**

31. Highlighting and disseminating expert group outputs (09:00) (Terhi Minkkinen)

*In which ways can Expert Groups better highlight and communicate their work and measure the impact it is having on science and advice?*

32. **Highlighting ICES science beyond our network (09:15) (Simon Jennings)**

*The promotion and influence of ICES science on the international stage*

33. **Authorship of expert group reports (09:30) (Celine Byrne)**

34. **Addressing advisory ToR in the ICES system (09:45) (Mark Dickey-Collas)**

35. **Mentoring Chairs (10:00) (Simon Jennings)**

*Actions to support identification, development and mentoring of future chairs: summary of progress since WGCHAIRS 2018 and discussion on options for further support*

**Break (10:30)**

36. **Breakout groups: session G (11:00)**

*In Session G, groups of around 10 Expert Group Chairs will identify ways to develop and promote science from their expert groups and identify supporting actions*

37. Reporting back from breakout groups in Session G, conclusions and actions (12:15)

38. **Meeting summary and actions (12:45) (Simon Jennings)**

**Close (13:00)**

## Annex 3: Session C: Science Planning and Expert Group, breakout group reports

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### Group 1

Rapporteur: Debbi Pedreschi

#### General feedback:

Both the strategic plan, at first glance is inclusive and at a high level, which is good, and it covers the main points of what we see at ICES.

#### Main points:

#### Detailed points:

- **Generally**, it was felt that both the strategic and science plan does the fit into our individual working groups. The one except is for biodiversity, which is mentioned only once. The new visions and priorities laid out help the groups and chairs to horizon scan. The priorities laid out in the science plan help chairs to see what other groups or areas they could be contributing too and helps to reorientation our group and ToRs with these clearly defined science priorities.
- **Opportunities for crosscutting:** We concluded that WGChairs and the ASC session were the most helpful for meeting people and groups. The mapping of the steering groups was very useful for identifying experts. This can be done externally and independently. A suggestion was to utilise how all the groups have mapped their ToRs onto the science plan. We could map this out using a clustering analysis. As a tool for a first contact. We have also identified that they need to update the introduction on the website.
- **Who are the actors.** The plan is very vague, page 6 the blank boxes are all the actors who are unnamed. It does not specify the nature of collaboration and it is missing who we interact with other larger organisations. It doesn't need to be in the strategic plan but this does need to be somewhere else. It would be important to compile (up to date) information like this (although messy and complicated) which will show if there are gaps.
- **Other imbalances** in both the science and strategic plans are for oceanography and climate change:  
Climate change: spread throughout the document. But we don't give it the synergies and strengths that it deserves as it is diffuse. How can we change that? How do we strengthen this? We do not cover all of the areas broken down by the IPPC.  
Oceanography at ICES has become a weak area, as oceanography is focuses on Copernicus and other organisations. ICES does not have to out compete them, however we do need to work to collaborate and build bridges so that we can continue to fulfil the needs.
- **Encouraging participation** is challenging. Mandate and incentives are needed to connect in a meaningful way. Putting resources into strategic areas. A lot of national contracts have changed and don't include ICES work, which narrows scope of what we are able to communicate on. This needs to be addressed by national delegates. Issues for young researcher then you have no time to do research. Short-term model development and then its lost,

there is a gap between ACOM and SICOM. Economic crisis crushed continuity. Researchers forced to apply for funding. Also chairs of the group can organise to write a papers, inter-comparison papers are so important. Citation is a problem as it makes it difficult to interact with the fisherman. There is a possibility to exclude people. Encouraging young researchers by validating carrier for LinkedIn. Possibly we could have a group poster session? Where the working groups present what they do..... recruitment, this is what we do, these are the skills we need, de-mystifies the process. Like JRC in poster.

## **Group 2: North Sea group**

Rapporteur: Marie Johansen

Some comments from members of the group.

### **Overall discussion of the science priorities**

The Science Plan has two priorities that link tightly together and that is impact of human activities and sea and society. If these are different it needs be more clarified in the wordings. Is the meaning of the vagueness of these two points for us to interpret these as the WG's think best suited?

Some people think that fish stock assessment has been diminished and/or included in broader aspects of the science priorities. Seafood production will include stock assessment of fish. Integrated ecosystem understanding has been getting less understanding as it is not comprehensive and understandable.

### **Discussion on the collaborations between advisory and scientific groups.**

The advice groups will only have members nominated by the ICES member states but might need information from the science community that are not there. One possibility is to have a day where scientists of interest are invited to the meeting to be part of the discussion of specific science issues, defined as a workshop to get round the issues of the restrictions in who can attend. One good example is from small fish pelagic groups have been chair inviting expert to present their science to the group on a specified day of the WG meeting.

Another way that group has interacted is the involvement of people involved in both ACOM and SCICOM groups sharing knowledge particularly on survey results and new assessment methods.

**Interactions between assessment groups and scientific groups.** There is sometimes a problem when an assessment groups is giving a ToR to an existing scientific group as there is no funding involved. The scientific group sometimes pass it back to the assessment group as they are not able to address the ToR within the framework of the activity of the scientific members.

### Group 3

Rapporteur: Erik Olsen

New elements in the plan: new technologies (genetics, machine learning, etc.), aquaculture, more focus on human interactions with the ocean ecosystem.

1) Where does the work of your expert group fit into the plans?

- Aquaculture – fits mainly under impact of human activities and seafood production, some advice. Fits well in the new science plan. Some links with other priorities (e.g. Emerging techniques, etc.)
- DIG– Evidence for science making, essential data, working together - Cross-cutting: Applies to pretty much all of the science priorities as it applies to all expert group dealing with data. Fits well under Emerging techniques and technologies (machine learning, Big data). Advisory group working with the Data Centre, opportunities to look for commonalities across ICES data.
  - o Need to clarify the roles of the Data Centre, DIG, PGDATA for the ICES community and ensure good communication both between these groups and with the expert groups and users. Improve general awareness of these groups with the community.
  - o Much progress over the last decades in data impacts how ICES can work.
- Celtic Sea WG – Would see fitting under Conservation and Management Science, contributes to Ecosystem science.
  - o Confusion about the title ‘Seafood production’; at first glance of the title only, does not seem to be associated with fisheries advice.
- Atlantic larval and egg survey WG – Very wide and overarching: addresses issues with surveys, new techniques would fit mainly under ‘Ecosystem science’; ‘Observation and exploration’ ; ‘Emerging techniques’, ‘Seafood production’ .
- PGDATA – Evidence for decision making would fit under the science priority ‘Observation and exploration’. Cross-cutting group: data needs, data coordination,
- Integrated Assessment of the North Sea: fits under the seven goals but particularly ‘Ecosystem Science’, ‘Sea and Society’.

2 - What can you do to further develop some of the new areas of science highlighted in the science plan?

3- Do you see opportunities for cross-cutting activity and collaboration with other expert groups?

- Define the best way for cross-collaboration between working group to work smoothly particularly regarding survey data (e.g. potential data changes). Should it be done through the Steering groups or directly between expert groups?)
- Need to define the linkages between the Steering groups and the science priorities.
- Integration is superficially described, need to be more precisely defined.
  - o Suggest that steering groups develop action plans to ensure integration from the different science areas. Discussion around the terms of



reference – bottom-up vs top-down – Needs to involve a discussion with Steering groups chairs.

- o Would be good for WGCHAIRS 2020 to have discussions around the 4 strategic areas identified in the Strategic Plan regarding links, status, progress, opportunities etc

4 - What support do you need to help you do this work?

- Support to ensure sufficient and consistent participation for some working groups. Issue of national funding. Need to see the ways to attract participation. Some people may not be interested because of lack of publication opportunities.
- Publication does not have a strong presence or sufficiently highlighted in the strategic plan.

#### Group 4

Rapporteur Colm Lordan

- Science plan document does not include description of ICES itself “ICES at a glance”.
- Once the Advice Plan is developed we could think about binding them together.

Where does the work of your expert group fit into the plans?

- SCICOM ToR Mapping Process
- Need to be done for advice groups in connection with the Advice Plan

What can you do to further develop some of the new areas of science highlighted in the science plan?

- Biodiversity maybe is not highlighted as well as it should be in the science plan. It is there but this is very important global issue
- Maybe this should be higher profile in the Advice plan
- Bringing of science from academia into ICES challenge (time and money)– models exist US & Ireland

Do you see opportunities for cross-cutting activity and collaboration with other expert groups?

- SA groups need to work on this- We need somehow to make the time and space for science in the agendas – so groups like WGBIOP can
- Collaboration with IEA groups especially - participation of chairs
- The strategic intent to set up formal or informal links with other organisation globally is not visible within the plan although it is implicit in the vision “to be a world leading marine science organisation.”

What support do you need to help you do this work?

- New Fisheries Resource Committee chair could lead with this working with other SG chairs

## Group 5

Rapporteur: Anna Olafsdottir

**Question 1.** Where does the work of your expert group fit into the plans?

All participants felt like their working groups were presented in the new ICES science plan.

**Question 3.** Opportunities for cross-cutting activity and collaboration between WG.

Benefit to working more closely with other WG both within ICES and at other organizations beside ICES. Such collaboration would:

- Limit duplications of work
- Support work between groups by provide data and results that can be used in other groups.
- Learn how to provide useful data that are useful for other WG – fit for purpose information for other scientists and for managers (traffic light system). Sharing of time series between WG.
- Chairs should ask for specific contribution between WG and start using it. Translate data into services.
- WG chairs to facilitate, what do you have and what do you need? What can you produce for others?

**Question 4:** What support do you need to help you do this work?

- Provide an overview of what the WG produces like 3 points.
- Database with WG ToR and products, and keyword search.
- At next year WGCHAIRS meeting have:
  - Breakout sessions for WG with common ToR.
  - 15-business meetings between WG discussing WG services and needs, or something like speed dating between chairs.
- Missing strategy of how to provide data to outside user.
- Make an overview of availability of which data is available in which data base. Some data are available in mane data bases. Also include information like location, date, type for data that are not openly accessible but exists.
- Make data within ICES more findable, spatial scale, region, even restricted data give location, date.
- Steering groups – connection between them missing.

## Annex 4: Session D: Developing Fisheries and Ecosystem Overviews & Viewpoints, breakout group reports

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Rapporteur: Andrea Morf

### Our Understanding of viewpoints:

- A “commercial” for management needs that managers currently are not asking for
  - o Historically many current management requests (e.g. mixed fisheries) started out as exploratory advice given by ICES
- ICES needs to be able to highlight issues that not necessarily are “mature”

### Current status of science in group

- WGS2D: provides data products to be used by other groups
- Bay of Biscay groups, Baltic and North Sea IEA groups provide input to ecosystem overviews

### Possible ICES Viewpoints

- North Sea & Baltic IEA groups: food web trend analysis
  - o Topic is pretty mature, but unclear how it would fit into a
- Social science – making catch advice to include economic advice. A viewpoint for including economics in ICES advice would probably be stopped in the ACOM review process.
  - o Method development has come very far in the economic sector compared to the social sector
  - o Need to make people (clients) aware of the state of science in economics in relation to marine management to have an informed discussion of the possibilities and limitations
  - o Current ecosystem models used in IEA groups are ready to run future scenarios for multiple human activities and to analyze these outputs economic valuation (e.g. of catch rates) will be calculated
- 10-year forecasts of ecosystem state based on physical state of the ecosystem. Currently no clients for this kind of outputs, but could be considered as a viewpoint (demonstration advice).
  - o Would fit into multi-year fisheries management plans (e.g. Celtic sea)

### Possible ecosystem /fisheries overviews

- IEA groups and regional fisheries assessment groups should continue to provide input to ecosystem and fisheries overviews.
- New input from social science groups should be channeled into the ecosystem overviews

### Question on how to contribute to these products

- How mature is mature? How far along the Tech Readiness Level scale do we have to be before we can consider a topic mature enough for a viewpoint? Many relevant topics are currently on a ‘proof of concept’ stage, rather than ‘operational’.

- ICES could consider using viewpoints to explore areas where we should be going, rather than limited to fully mature topics.
- The name “viewpoint” is ambiguous as it conveys the message that this is a ‘view’ rather than a fully mature piece of advice.
- Should ICES do more conflict analysis (between different stakeholders). Should be considered for future collaboration, especially for IEA groups.

## Group 2

Rapporteur: Debbi Pedrechi

Yes, every group can contribute to all three products. Can be done through chairs and steering bodies, but first we need to talk to the groups and institutes.

- What is the overlap of the two overviews? Could we possibly have one overview, more succinct, with a defined time frame (Currently there is a mismatch: fisheries advice is short term but ecosystem is longterm). Yes, it would be a monster of a document but it would be a reference bible. This would resolve some of the issues in relation to where we are going put information on spawning grounds?
- There is also a geographical mismatch between the ecosystem overview and the fishing overview, fishing overview incorporates coastal catches, it is not clear where coast starts in ecosystem overview.
- Fishing opportunities for small scale fisheries, aquaculture opportunities and trends and coastal habitat should be covered in both overviews.
- Should there be a coastal overview?
- Bring the three products back to your groups, pre meeting, to give time to digest them.
- The key challenge is perhaps not incorporating everything we can but incorporating what people need

## Group 3

Rapporteur: Henn Ojaveer

Is your group already producing mature science that would add to the scope and impact of fisheries overviews and/or ecosystem overviews or be suitable for a viewpoint?

Two candidate viewpoint topics suggested:

- What are the potential drivers of and implications for (both retrospectively and in future) of spatial displacement of fisheries? Relate the issue potentially to climate change effects, fishery regulations/restrictions, other human activities overlapping with fisheries distributions. Relates also to EU Maritime Spatial Planning and Marine Strategy Framework Directive’s context. Joint effort of WGSFD and WGFBIT, at least partly relying on output of FP7 BENTHIS project.
- Separate management of meta populations – it is becoming more the rule rather than the exception. What effects would this have on management? There have been a lot of wk’s in recent years with a focus on assessment of different stock units e.g herring. Also, salmon assessment in the Baltic, where information on local spawning populations is taken into consideration. Creating awareness of loss of genetic biodiversity of the populations. There is a lot of info available but how to package it.

Are there areas of science you would like to develop to feed in to fisheries overviews and/or ecosystem overviews or to feed in to a viewpoint?

The following issues can be considered to be added to Ecosystem Overviews:

- Ecosystem services
- Social and economic considerations/elements
- Cumulative effects/impacts
- More elaborated and detailed text on MPA's
- Species/habitats restoration
- Trade-offs between conservation and impact of activities
- Future scenarios of key/critical time-series (e.g. recruitment)
- Critical information on freshwater environments relevant for migratory anadromous/catadromous) species

#### Group 4

Rapporteur: Colm Lordan

Not everyone was familiar with overviews.

Economic Data would be to have in the overviews

- We would need to define boundaries
- Define Standards etc. (e.g. consistent effort metrics... currently KWdays but how is it calculate)

It is important that there are standards and guidelines so we have consistencies across ecoregions.

Multi-Species Modelling is at a stage where we should make a viewpoint (particularly for the North Sea where there is EwE and ECOSPACE).

WGSAM and EwE groups are in a position to contribute to FO and EOs

Time scale of updating was discussed – e.g. content updates annually and general review every 3 yrs.

There is overlap between overviews, there is slightly different emphasis in each.

Biodiversity currently not well addressed in the overviews.

Sections on management and PETS could be improved in FOs linking to WGBYC risk assessment.

There are 3 pollution groups and they have plenty of information that could improve the EOs (e.g. impact of pollutants on Marine mammal populations).

FAIR data – web services

## Annex 5: Session E: Implementing the ICES science plan, breakout group reports

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### Group 1

Rapporteur: Benjamin Planque

#### **ToRs, science plan codes, database**

Discussion about the science plan coding. Expression of need for the code/ToRs database + an interactive web-based system. So it's possible to check who is working in the same area. Need to go beyond the pdf format. Need to make the DB easily accessible.

e.g. check how an EG is connected to science plan items, check how a code is addressed by different groups. extract the list of ToRs related to a science code.

Note that the allocation of ToRs to codes is unbalanced (some topics are more addressed than others). Also some information is missing from the ToRs wording (e.g. 'North Sea' missing from the ToR writing in a North Sea WG.) -> need to be able to search with keywords, in relation to ToRs, EG names, SG names, background justification for the ToRs.

Question: will the DB be accessible from outside the ICES community? If for example people want to find out which group is working on a specific topic (e.g. eel, trawl, Barents Sea).

Suggestion from Erik Olsen that EG should provide keywords. Top-down steering to guide on the use of keywords...or secretariat support to validate keywords (meaning, spelling).

Some groups have used the old codes, so there is a mismatch between the coding which needs to be updated. Need for version tracking. How do we deal with old reports? Need for a vocabulary that can accommodate new (future) topics and related codes.

Sven informed that ToRs are not written in stone. They can be changed during the EG group life-time if needed. Procedure: EG makes changes, hand it in to the SG chair, then it's send up to the forum and the group can go on with the new ToRs when they're approved.

Q from Erik: how do we ensure that EG chairs/members actually check out what the other groups are doing? Check for overlap, complementarity with other existing or past ToRs. There's no obligation to do so by EGs. Is this the responsibility of the SG, is it feasible? It's not always clear from the EG chairs that they are members of the SG and that there are ToRs for the SG. ... raised the issue about the communication between SG-chair and EG-chairs and between the EG-chairs...maybe it's difficult to get a sense of the group work and interactions. Are we already moving into the next breakout session.

#### **Science Plan**

Science plan...re-emphasize that CC and biodiversity and not visible enough from the science plan for outsiders. Climate is explicitly transversal, but the term 'biodiversity' is missing. Need to highlight this better, make it more explicit, in the implementation plan. The current version has 'climate' once and 'biodiversity' zero times, 'resilience' zero times, 'ecosystem services' twice. Syntax analysis: if there is an intent this should be reflected with use of explicit terms.

Science plan time frame a little unclear/confusing. "2020's and beyond" in the science plan, but the time period 2019-2024 is mentioned in the implementation plan and on p8. Should be written explicitly on the front page of the science plan? We would like to be involved in the preparation of the next science plan (2025?)

In the science plan, do we need a more developed description of the tasks to better guide EG in finding which task they are addressing. Simon expressed the 'bottom-up view' that the tasks were built to be broad and generic and the elaboration is left to the EG and expressed in their ToRs and justification of the ToRs.

### **Implementation Plan**

Table one in the implementation plan was not well understood. What do we have to do about the table. Discussion leads to agreement that we are only concerned with items A.1 to A.4. When there are several responsible, how does the timeline apply to the different responsible group/persons. Can this be colour-coded.

Column 'joint work plan' not so clear to us.

Definition of expert groups (Box 4). Maybe not applicable to all EGs. "groups of scientists who work together to advance understanding of marine systems" maybe not be applicable to Advisory EGs. Sentence on annual

Online reporting of interim report. Might be ok but we need to archive WD, presentations, discussions in the long term. Mention of a previous WG meeting that had disappeared from the SharePoint system after few years.

## **Group 2**

Rapporteur: Neil Campbell

**How would you be able to contribute to the science plan and implementation plan?**

**What support and/or guidance would you need to help with this- and from where in the ICES community?**

The main contribution we can make as chairs is by doing our work and making sure our groups do theirs. We discussed experiences with co-location with groups with which there is synergy, and recognised that this has generally been positive, but also that this presents logistical challenges, for instance that a very large meeting venue may be required which typically means hosting here at ICES HQ, and that this may cause scheduling issues on top of the disruption caused by changing the timing of meetings required to facilitate this.

We recognised that while some groups are relatively self-contained and have linkages to a small number of groups, others can be very widely linked and some kind of prioritisation of these would be required to allow meaningful collaboration. Whether that prioritisation is something that comes top down through ICES leadership and the steering groups, or bottom up through the groups themselves and their chairs is something that needs consideration.

Getting down to the terms of reference themselves, mapping them to the codes successfully requires everyone doing this to have a similar understanding of the codes, ToRs and timings, and further coordination from the ICES community on this may be welcomed. That said, we recognised that the time available for chairs to do their chairing tasks is finite and it is likely that time spent responding to things required to implement the Science plan has to be taken away from other activities.

Issues were raised about how identifying areas of overlap and potential synergies may be somewhat time consuming – currently the group felt that it is a lot of work identify an issue that might be common, to go through a report of another group and understand what they have been doing, before determining if it is going to be a useful contribution. Some means of facilitation of this kind of task would be very welcomed, and we talked about the possibility of using the Chairs forum for this type of communication.

We talked about how communication amongst chairs and groups could be improved to help implement the Science Plan. The timing of proposals for theme sessions was highlighted as a particular concern, with only having limited opportunities to meet here or at the ASC, and most groups meeting in between these events, having the time to discuss things with our groups and fellow chairs and have a full draft prepared for September is often difficult, and again, we explored whether making better use of the Chairs forum would be helpful here.

In terms of giving the groups a mandate to actually think about how to implement the plan, we considered whether it would be helpful to have some sort of standing term of reference across all groups to report on how they could do this, which would give additional impetus to the project. We talked about using the results of the exercise mapping of terms of reference and taking some time at WG-CHAIRS or the ASC to allow a bit of free discussion between chairs of groups with common interests that might be placed under different steering groups, in a similar way to the “speed dating” idea that was floated yesterday.

In terms of what ICES could bring to this, a quick five-minute demonstration of the chairs forum would be very helpful as it's new and people are concerned about sending inappropriate stuff and clogging up mailboxes, and further highlighting of the google pdf search tool was thought to be quite useful, particularly for new chairs.

We went on to look at some of the metrics of success for the implementation plan, and it was felt that the objective of zero percent overlap between terms of reference may not be exactly achievable or necessarily a desirable outcome. It might be better to agree on what scale of overlap and how that can be best used. We recognised that we can't know exactly what 150 groups are doing, and this might be a goal to move towards, for example by formulating ToRs in terms of “working together with group X, do Y”. And Debbi highlighted the experience of the different IEA groups having terms of reference to deliver workshops to develop approaches and methods.

We considered if there is enough openness within the community to this sort of working together. The science plan is very task focussed and we need to retain flexibility to allow creative thinking and collaboration. Its good therefore that the objectives are relatively high level and that ICES has been willing to hear comments and suggestions on how the plan can be improved.

Looking forwards, we touched on the establishment of new groups, and where do you draw the line between adding a new term of reference to an existing group versus establishing a new one. Some guidance from ICES on this would be welcomed. It is a process that I have been involved in recently with regard to the establishment of a group looking at electronic monitoring technologies, and its is not a particularly easy process.

We considered what kind of rationalisation between existing groups could be possible, and felt that this something that the steering group chairs could address. It's often a challenge for smaller groups can to keep up with the outputs of similar but larger ones



due to the skillsets available to them. Regionally this puts certain areas at a disadvantage. Travel and participation funding for experts from outside the traditionally represented areas, perhaps at the suggestion of the chair. NOAA has a system to encourage academics to get involved with the NSF to get money to attend meetings. Could ICES advertise opportunities of grants and funding possibilities that would be helpful either for travel or for project proposals, which people outside of the loop don't find out about.

Looking at specific items in the table:

A8 in the table is about coordinating symposia with other organisations. What is the role of expert groups in this process? If we know that at a set moment in the year there will be a discussion about peoples thoughts on connecting with international partners and so on it would be a helpful thing.

Recruitment to groups is something that scicom and the secretariat will have to lead on, but it's something that will need a lot of input from chairs as they know who will be working in their field.

C1 – a bit contradictory on all group members being named as an author, versus the groups getting to decide authorship later on, as we have members who are non-participatory.

Giving chairs some opportunity to input, but recognising that they're already busy and being "responsible" for some of these tasks might not be a beneficial thing. C2, for instance, has "Secretariat (lead)" which is maybe a good example of what we would like, where the secretariat would lead and seek input from the chairs. Like a stakeholder analysis to see who should be consulted. This holds for quite a few of the points.

C5 – DOIs for data publications – has a risk in that once something is published it can't be published again. Mark thinks this isn't a big problem as long as people are aware of it in advance.

### Group 3

Rapporteur: Rodney Forster, Linda Blackadder,

#### **Implementing the ICES science plan**

#### **How would you be able to contribute to the science plan and implementation plan?**

E1) Discussion of ToRs –

E1.1 Numbers differ between groups, 3 to 20. 4-6 average. High numbers difficult to deliver. Can be small but defined 'prepare the next symposium'. ToR leads change, older groups have continuity. Generic ToRs – 'provide feedback' Go back to science plan.

E1.2 Setting of ToRs

Advisory ToRs are top-down, science groups are different: mix of rules. Science groups like to have freedom to develop (Objective B); some ToRs not possible in a 3-year cycle. WGALES – 6 year cycle. How to anticipate new developments and keep ToRs relevant? Example – approach ICES for WK to set up new group, with new ToRs.

Interaction with Steering Group – some groups have low level of interaction with SG and with other groups.

WGCHAIRS has been useful to better understand the formal ICES process. Example – lack of links between WGOH and WGOOFE. Common issue – finding users of our

products, getting feedback. Examples – how to get the best out of EMODNET, Copernicus?

E1.2 Delivery - can be late on delivery in some groups, others deliver on time. Depends on commitments of ToR lead. WGOH – do not want to release if product not ready, aim at ASC later, but can be late.

E1.3 Format and size of ToRs: can be symposium abstracts, or annual status report. 400-800 pages assessment. E.g. North Sea stock assessment report.

E1.4 Timing of delivery: during meeting, or afterwards. Get rough outline done before meeting, then fill in within 2 weeks. Important to do work in advance. E.g. ask in January for March meeting. Then select rapporteurs to report. Chairs then edit. Reports get lost.

E1.5 Who does the work: either chairs do everything, or division of labour within group (ToR leads). Subdivision by region. Test of commitment. Membership changes make difficult to select long-term ToR leads. Differences in the way of working. Science groups short and focussed, stock assessments historically had long meetings with very long hours (2 weeks) with deadline for report. Getting shorter.

E1.6 Issues: some members still refuse to use Sharepoint. Files, meeting notes not collated.

E1.7 Changes to ToRs are changes allowed within the 3 (or 6) -year period, or are the ToRs fixed? Depends on how specific the task is. Some groups using SMART - time-limited objectives.

E1.8 Distribution of ToRs, reports (Objective C) Occasional peer-reviewed publications, but beware of publishing same material twice. Usually delivered as reports on ICES sharepoint. Limited visibility to other groups, Chairs are informed by email. New idea to have DOI for each report is welcome (beware duplication). Will these be picked up by Google Scholar? Example – Cooperative Research Report series for WGOH, gives authors reason to contribute. Ageing and Maturity CRR reports. See [http://www.ices.dk/publications/our-publications/Pages/Cooperative-Research-Reports-\(CRR\).aspx](http://www.ices.dk/publications/our-publications/Pages/Cooperative-Research-Reports-(CRR).aspx)

E2 Links to other groups

E2.1 Links between groups (Objective A – catalyse)

160 expert groups, great opportunities for scientific exchange. Most groups would like to share information and progress with others. But, perceived as difficult to join-up with other groups. Identify WGs which have dependencies. How can we find out what is in discussion in other WGs? Example – the WGOH reports and products <https://ocean.ices.dk/iroc/> should have wider awareness.

Need support and guidance of the Steering Group to build these links.

E2.2 Need for knowledge of ICES outputs / work in progress (Objective A.) Resolution to define the annual ToRs – to be built as a system to collate all ToRs. ToRs tagged and searchable by the section, Science Codes, keywords, people. Database should go back in time to avoid duplication of tasks which have been done previously. Linking science codes – emails to group members answered. Small group is easier. Top-down.

E2.3 Sharing of data, between GOOS/ROOS community and ICES datacentre.

E2.4 Attracting new people into the WG (Objective B.) What is the process? Chair-appointed members plus national representatives. Inviting beyond the ICES area – temporary members / observers. Ask secretariat to review lists - ICES lists might be very out-dated!. Can split meeting with an open section at which non-members or industry can attend, then normal meeting on following day.

E3 The role of the Chair / Handover of Chairs (Objective B)

E3.1 Best practice for rotation of the Chair(s) – how to retain knowledge. Usually, the out-going chair is still active in the group, but not always. Incoming Chair will usually have good knowledge of the Group, but no of ICES procedures. Agreements between past and present chairs are useful.

E3.2 Chair should hold responsibility for Objective D best practice and behaviour at meetings. Ensure that the working environment is inclusive and objective. Science groups more of a think-tank atmosphere, advisory environment more divisive. Care needed with authorship and group responsibility. Chair should balance work demands within meeting with member’s needs, avoid weekend working and long hours.

What support and/or guidance would you need to help with this- and from where in the ICES community?

<b>Group</b>	<b>mem- bers</b>	<b>active</b>	<b>fre- quency</b>	<b>Existing links</b>	<b>Links would like</b>	<b>#ToRs</b>
<b>WGSCAL- LOPS</b>						
<b>WGOH</b>						
<b>WGBEC</b>						
<b>WGALES</b>						
<b>WGZE</b>						
<b>WGOOFE</b>						
<b>WGSMART</b>						
<b>WGSFD</b>						

## Annex 6: Session F: Steering group and general discussions, breakout group reports

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### Ecosystems Processes and Dynamics (EPD) discussion

EPDSG Chair: Silva Silvana Birchenough

Summary of discussions:

- **Participation**-a total of 13 EGs chairs contributed to this discussion. All of the EGs have been through the process of coding TORs based on the new science coding system. Some Chairs will continue in discussion with the EPD chair;
- **EPD website**- considering the text and website, there is a need for a new refreshed page to reflect the work done under EDP;
- **The use of ICES share points**- is a useful tool to share and store information. However, some EGs chairs feel that the structure is not as optimal as it should be. A suggestion will be to think about using WIKI, to include up-front the meeting agenda and make it more user friendly;
- **Integration between EGs**-There is still a need to support and continue with this process. The EPDSG chair will help to support this process for preparation of ACS theme and networking sessions;
- **Advisory requests**- ICES often request advice to EGs, as useful suggestion will be to provide the full feedback loop to the EGs on the work provided, delivered and the up-take of the advice, if possible;
- **Ecosystems overview**- several requests have been delivered by EGs and it will be useful to understand the timetables (e.g. IPCC equivalent), process and inform the group how the information has been used and if necessary when the text has been edited a final QC of the text should be shared with the EGs;
- **Early career scientists**- invitation and foster active participation from early career scientists is welcomed and encouraged to participate during EGs meetings and ICES ASC;
- **WGCHAIRS meeting**- a way to raise the profile of EGs during the WGCHAIRS meeting at the ASC, could be a 3-minute poster presentation. This opportunity will be a good way to raise profile and foster further collaboration between EG chairs.

### Human Activities, Pressures and Impacts Steering Group

HAPISG Chair: Sarah Bailey

Members of HAPISG started with discussion of the formation of a new working group that will focus on impacts of shipping in the marine environment, identifying potential linkages with existing WGs and suggesting potential experts that would have interest to participate. It was suggested that the scope of the new WG could include socio-economic aspects and consider policy drivers when setting the ToRs.

HAPISG members discussed the new reporting structure – increased flexibility was appreciated although concerns were raised about technology behind the new e-evaluations and suggestions were made to have a thorough testing phase to ensure the technology would be quick and easy to use on different platforms.

HAPISG members expressed a strong need to improve interaction across expert groups, both within and across Steering Groups. It should be made a best practice to scan/search existing ToRs of expert groups when drafting new ToRs for an individual group. The Strategic Initiatives were recognized as being helpful to identify linkages across groups, especially across Steering Groups. It was suggested that time could be allotted to facilitate interaction according to theme/topic at the next WGCHAIRS meeting or at the ASC.

It was suggested that the new database would be very helpful for facilitating interactions and should include group name, ToRs, keywords, geographic scope and next meeting dates and location to facilitate quick identification of relevant groups/meetings. It would be great if the database could have a visual and interactive user interface to quickly scan the science plan topics across working groups – for example, the layout in the photograph below could be used, with boxes for expert groups having different colours to identify the Science Plan linkages.

HAPISG members recognized that a lot of information is available on Sharepoint but can be difficult to find – e.g. reference documents; meeting dates. It was suggested that information could be made more accessible on the ICES webpages rather than inside Sharepoint. A webpage for CHAIRS with a library of linkages to documents and Guidelines/FAQs could make everything easy to find in one spot. It was suggested that WGs could be assigned keywords on their webpages to facilitate rapid searching, and mailing lists could be created according to specific topics.

## Aquaculture Steering Group

Attendees: Eugene Nixon (ACOM Vice Chair); Wojciech Wawrzynski (Head of Science Support); Terje Svåsand (Chair of WGEIA); Jann Martinsohn (Chair of WGAGFA).

Link to [Aquaculture Steering Group \(ASG\) Expert Groups](#):

Summary:

ASG consist of seven Expert Working Groups and two planned workshops.

- Note: The WGAGFA covers wild capture fisheries, aquaculture and other marine related topics where genetics and genomics are of relevance.
- The ICES Science plan is public sine the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- There is a need for enhanced mutual awareness of aquaculture.
- To that end it is suggested to have a WebEx meeting with the ASG Chair Mike Rust and all chairs of the seven ASG Expert Working Groups plus the Head of Science Support Wojciech.
- Aquaculture fits very well in ICES Science Plan.
- There is the suggestion to embark on an Aquaculture activity mapping exercise. ICES should and could facilitate international work on Aquaculture Overviews (showing countries' production, trends, research, challenges). Statistics available via the FAO, EMODNet, Eurostat, the product should reach beyond fish and shellfish. Some WGs (e.g. WGSPA, WGEIA) already have their ToRs reflecting this. See Human Activity Map of Emodnet: <http://www.emodnet-humanactivities.eu/view-data.php>.
- A lot of developments under the Aquaculture Steering Group recently

- Genetics and risk assessment a very important topic, so cooperation among the WGs is needed – topic also developed under the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance (Mike Rust – the ASG Chair also co-chairing the AORA Aquaculture WG);
- Lower trophics should become a part of science discussions in ICES. -Next to finfish and bivalves, also algae/seaweed aquaculture should be looked at.
- Research/Science can (and should) help to support the implementation of legislation and management underpinning sustainable aquaculture.
- Aquaculture is also considered important in context of socio-economic prosperity and food and nutrition security.
- Wojciech points out that ICES would like to strengthen the Aquaculture training capacity and that any suggestions for topics are welcome. There is discussions in ICES to organize Aquaculture short-term courses (within the AORA project and the ICES Training Programme);
- The industry must be somehow involved as stakeholders.
- Activities are being pursued in the context of the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.
- Events of importance:
  - Aquaculture 2019, Mar 7, 2019 - Mar 11, 2019; Location: Marriott New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana USA
  - Aquaculture Europe 2019 - Our Future Growing from Water, Oct 7, 2019 - Oct 10, 2019, Location: ESTREL Congress Center - Berlin Germany

**Action Point:** To inform Mike Rust about discussion and to suggest a WebEx Meeting in February 2019 involving all relevant Expert Working Group Chairs (mail of Wojciech to Mike).

## Integrated Ecosystem Assessments Steering Group

Rapporteur: Solfrid Hjøllo

IEASG is led by Mette Skern-Mauritzen, who was not present. Mark Dickey-Collas took part for the first part of the session. IEASG consist of 13 working groups and 5 workshops, from which representatives from the following were present: WGEA-WESS, WGIPEM, WGCERP, WGINOR, WGINOSE, WGIAB.

In a roundtable presentation, each working group representative introduced the group's main work and ToR, and gave a glimpse of the scientific work performed within his/her group. The presentations initiated discussions and identified areas of common methods & interests and for future co-operation. An example is the use of a variety of ecosystem models within and across the groups. We discussed the use of complex models versus simplified models, and Erik Olsen demonstrated the use of a very simply but illustrative "Mental Model", to be set up in 5 min for a simple system.

Lise Cronne is contact person at ICES Secretariat for the IEASG groups, and she introduced herself and her services, and gave practical information of how the member list are updated.

The upcoming workshop WKECO3 was presented and participation encouraged.

The group appreciated the opportunity to do networking.

## **Annex 7: Session G: Promoting expert group science and activity, breakout group reports**

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### **Group 1**

Rapporteur: Lidia Yebra

ACOM legacy groups are concern about authorship. What if some members don't want to be named? Could each WG choose to have or not an author's list?

Also it seems that the last bullet point on the Guidelines for authors gives the chairs the responsibility of dealing with order of authors. The option to rearrange ordering of authors may disrupt the work of the group. To avoid this, it is proposed to delete this last sentence:

- Sequencing of editor and author names can be adjusted to reflect contributions if some authors and editors make a significantly greater contribution to the analyses and report. This is the responsibility of the editors in consultation with the authors.

Now that the Reports will be produced every 3 years, are WG expected to modify them to be more like scientific papers?

Concerns were raised about issues with publishing twice the same information.

With respect to communicating science, it has been raised that most feeds on social media relate to secretariat activities or WG meetings, rather than scientific news.

We revised the WG webpages and we agreed that we need to regularly revise and update the information on the ICES web.

### **Group 2**

#### **Guidelines for editor / authorship**

Tricky for large groups and external contributors

Difficult to set the line for what makes a contribution to an author.

The groups need to have the discussion at the start of the meeting about what is needed to qualify as authorship. Alternative, EU approach: everybody is included until they excuse themselves.

Authorship of reports is important as it will give visibility and the EG members get indexed by Google Scholar. Can then be included in personal CVs.

Some groups focus on publishing scientific papers, with little focus on ICES reports.

Try it out in the EGs and give feedback to SciCom for a review of the guidelines

#### **Web-pages**

Agree that it should be updated.

How to enhance the visibility and attract new members outside ICES for the WGs?

As an example, for WGBIODIV was proposed if it would be possible to post the WGBIODIV webpage/activities to the British Ecological Society, Special Interest Groups, e.g. Aquatic Ecology, Macroecology, Quantitative Ecology, Conservation

Ecology, Andrea will discuss this possibility further with the WGBIODIV members during the upcoming meeting 4-8 February.

Also from the WGs webpages, would it be possible to produce a 1-page pdf flyer for each WG to distribute at conferences, meeting etc.

### **Promote expert group science**

#### **Will your group be producing science or taking part in activities this year that should be highlighted by ICES?**

- Not all groups meet every year.
- Yes.
- Have to put outreach, contact with ICES Comm.Team on the EG agenda.
- Consider making 1-page fliers for the EGs
- Papers from EGs are natural outputs that should be highlighted
- Need to remember to acknowledge all parties (all funders, organizers etc)
- Large ICES group will participate in AFS Larval Fish conference.
- Outputs from Survey groups are under communicated – needs to be communicated better. ICES should make an effort to show how fundamental they are for the science we do, for the outputs
  - o Take one survey: Explain it, Explain how the data is used. How much effort is used to carry out the survey
- EGs should report on scientific papers that are relevant for the EGs
- Should highlight all new/odd observations from surveys
- New methods used on surveys (e.g. eDNA sampling)

#### **Outputs/activities that could be highlighted**

SMARTDOTS:	Calibration of maturity stages (species to be determined)
WGINOSE:	Stakeholder WS for Kattegat in May
WGINOSE:	Paper on use of mental models to support EBM (submitted in March/April)
Assessment groups:	When management plans are developed/adopted
WGBEC:	Intercalibration of methods
WGBIODIV/WGRMES:	To be discussed at the upcoming meetings
WGAGFA:	Genotools workshop in support of landing obligations
WGBIFS:	Interim year – no final highlights. Testing StoX software to produce indices
WGALES:	Not meeting this year, but strong participation at Larval Fish conference at AFC
WGINOR:	No highlights in 2019

#### **What are these outputs and activities and when are they expected?**

- Workshops
- Stakeholder meetings
- Scientific papers



- Need EGs to send overview of time-plan to ICES Comm. Team
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#### **What support and/or guidance would you need to help turn them into news items?**

- Someone to work with you to translate the science into a news item.
- Scientists have to understand that they need to invest time in developing the news items – they have to work with the comm. Team.
- Better coordination between home institution comm team and ICES comm team to minimize double work to make news items.
- In the dialogue between host institutions and ICES there are some challenges in translating from national languages to English (time and resources)

#### **Please identify contact names and groups?**

See list above

### **Group 3**

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Rapporteur: Marcos.

#### **Guidelines**

- We generally agree with the guidelines because they are flexible and they follow the general procedures by which we normally handle these things. We discussed again that there are some many ways of contributing that it would be very difficult to evaluate, like who brought the stakeholders in or started an idea. It is important to bear in mind that **this is not a paper** it is a report that collects work carried out over three years. This point has been raised already but there may be **country issues** if someone is left aside.
- In terms of double publication: there is software out there that can detect **plagiarism** and give a percentage of coincidences so we have to be careful with the wording and not just copy paste. This depends a bit on the discipline but it is becoming common everywhere so this something to bear in mind as well.
- Authorship is also about agreeing about what is in the document and as we are moving more and more towards advice, being an author and agreeing about what is stated in the document is also important. **Consensus**.

#### **Promoting expert group science and activity (breakout G agenda)**

- We found the presentation was clear enough. We got the message, we will try to contribute more through the different media.
- We expect to contribute to highlight in the future but no this year and we found the process very streamlined, we know who to contact.