Annex 2: Recommendations

Recommendation	For follow up by:
1. Environmentally driven sandeel recruitment forecasts for SA1r were presented by WGS2D this year. The forecasts have been perceived positively by the expert group which would like a follow up for the next year for SA1r and a similar product for the other sandeel areas.	WGS2D
2. Sandeel growth shows high variability and a negative trend with consequence for the quality of the assessment and advice of the stocks. HAWG therefore proposes to WGS2D the development of a forecast product predicting the individual weights-at-age and/or growth rates.	WGS2D
3. Larvae surveys are carried out by different countries and the result of these surveys are of direct importance for the assessment. In recent years other clupeids besides herring are occurring in the survey samples in increasing numbers. Since clupeid larvae can easily be mixed up, effective quality control and proper larvae identification is essential for reliable survey results. The overall agreement on clupeid larvae identification between participants at the 2014 WKIDCLUP workshop was 66%. It is necessary to repeat these identification workshops regularly in order to keep the level of identification for experienced and train and improve the skills of new survey participants. HAWG recommends that a Clupeid larvae workshop (WKIDCLUP2) is carried out in September 2020.	EOSG, WGBIOP
4. HAWG recommends to the Working Group on Surveys on Ichthyoplankton in the North Sea and adjacent Seas (WGSINS) to review the current design of the IHLS, in the light of the available survey effort, to deliver information on the relative stock components abundances, and if necessary to implement a new survey protocol that can deliver these data.	WGSINS
5. HAWG recommends that the management strategy evaluation and the suggested method for advice for sprat in 7d and 7e (spr.27.7de) is further evaluated in the upcoming Data limited stocks workshop (WKDLSSLS, 16-20 September 2019) to address a number of methodological concerns that have been raised in HAWG 2019: 1) the conditioning of the operating model that exhibited only a very small uncertainty, 2) the lack of a thorough evaluation of the uncertainty in the main indicator for the harvest rule (PELTIC acoustic survey) and 3) the proposed harvest rate of 20% when the indicator only has a time span of 6 years.	WKDLSSLS