

## Annex 2: Resolutions

2021/2/FRSG13      The **Working Group Elasmobranch Fishes** (WGEF), chaired by Jurgen Batsleer (Netherlands) and Pascal Lorange (France), will meet in Lisbon, Portugal, from 14–23 June 2022 to:

- a) Address generic ToRs for Regional and Species Working Groups.
- b) Update the description of elasmobranch fisheries for deep-water, pelagic and demersal species in the ICES area and compile landings, effort and discard statistics by ICES Subarea and Division, and catch data by NEAFC Regulatory Area. Describe and prepare a first Advice draft of any emerging elasmobranch fishery with the available data on catch/landings, fishing effort and discard statistics at the finest spatial resolution possible in the NEAFC RA and ICES area(s);
- c) Evaluate the stock status for the provision of biennial advice due in 2022 for: (i) spurdog in the NE Atlantic; and (ii) skates in the Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregions. Conduct exploratory analyses and collate relevant data in preparation for the evaluation of other stocks (skate stocks in the North Sea ecoregion, the Azores and MAR; catsharks (Scyliorhinidae) in the Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas and Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregions; smooth-hounds in the Northeast Atlantic and tope in the Northeast Atlantic) in preparation for more detailed biennial assessment in 2023;
- d) Collate landings and discard data from countries and fleets according to the ICES data call to follow recommendations from WKSHARK5 to: (i) address the following issues: data quality and onboard coverage; raising factors; discard retention patterns between fleets and countries; discard survival; (ii) advise on how to include discard information in the advisory process; and (iii) develop a coherent data-base for landings/discard information used in the assessments.
- e) Follow the outcomes of WKSKATE and to make the best use of survey indices in the assessments where appropriate.
- f) Further develop MSY proxy reference points relevant for elasmobranchs and explore/apply in MSY Proxies analyses for selected stocks;
- g) Further develop the ToR for the proposed joint ICCAT-ICES meeting in 20XX to (i) assess porbeagle shark and (ii) collate available biological and fishery data on thresher sharks in the Atlantic;
- h) Work intersessionally to draft/update stock annexes and then develop a procedure and schedule for subsequent reviews.

The assessments will be carried out on the basis of the stock annex in National Laboratories, prior to the meeting. The assessments must be available for audit on the first day of the meeting.

Material and data relevant for the meeting as specified in the 2022 ICES data call must be available to the group no later than 14 days prior to the starting date.

WGEF will report by 12 August 2022 for the attention of ACOM.

*Only experts appointed by national Delegates or appointed in consultation with the national Delegates of the expert's country can attend this Expert Group*