

Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Coordination and Support Action

The following report is provided for Council's information.

ICES is represented by the General Secretary in the operational board of the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Coordination and Support Action.

ICES leads three work packages under the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Coordination and Support Action: Aquaculture, ecosystem approach to ocean health and stressors, knowledge sharing platforms. Detailed information is available online: <http://ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/AORA-CSA.aspx>

A short overview on the progress of the work packages is provided below:

Work Package 4: Ecosystem Approach to Ocean Health and Stressors

ICES Lead: Mark Dickey-Collas

AORAC-SA WP4 is tasked with supporting the trilateral group (EU/USA/Canada) on ocean stressors/ecosystem approach, with input from the EU Horizon2020 projects under BG1 "Improving the preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems".

The objective is to provide the EU-USA-Canadian Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance with relevant and responsive information on the status of Ecosystem Approach (EA) research in Europe. As well as to create and support the Transatlantic Trilateral Working Group on "Ecosystem Approach to ocean health and stressors" with implementing its roadmap in order to enable and develop ecosystem approach to ocean management in the EU, Canada, and USA.

Work in 2016 has included various scoping meetings, and a joint workshop on the status of science for operationalising the ecosystem approach, as well as synthesizing the report and other outcomes from the workshop. The 2017 work plan is in development but emphasizes engagement with stakeholders.

Work Package 7: Aquaculture

ICES Lead: Wojciech Wawrzynski

AORAC-SA WP7 is tasked with supporting the trilateral group (EU/USA/Canada) on aquaculture.

The objective is to provide the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance with information on the status of aquaculture research in Europe relevant to scientific and industry needs in the North Atlantic; to map and assess the connectivity of on-going aquaculture research activities and programmes in Europe; and to support the Transatlantic Trilateral Working Group on Aquaculture with implementing its

roadmap in order to enable and develop sustainable aquaculture in the EU, Canada, and USA.

In 2016 the WP has concluded work on the 'Inventory of major Canadian, European and US aquaculture research activities/projects' and defined aquaculture themes of common interest, as a part of its 'roadmap'. Work in 2016 included workshops of the WG with theme leaders in order to define thematic scope of themes. The plan for 2017 is to finalize the roadmap, together with a short-term work plan, per each theme.

Work Package 11: Knowledge Sharing Platform

ICES Lead: Neil Holdsworth

AORAC-SA WP 11 is tasked with establishing a long-term knowledge sharing platform (KSP) in research priority areas (Ocean literacy, Seabed and Benthic Habitat Mapping, Ecosystem Approach to Ocean Health and Stressors, Ocean Observation, Aquaculture, Marine Biotechnology).

The objective is to allow for long-term usability of the data, information and knowledge products thereby generating real value from the investment in infrastructure. The aim is to include a classification system, which allows for a simple, focused and reliable use and analysis of the information made available through the knowledge platform.

Work in 2016 has included making progress on a European catalogue of projects/portals with data/information products and their relevance to knowledge sharing platform. The work package is waiting on further information about working group membership. The work plan for 2017 is to arrange a physical meeting to draft a shared (EU-US-CA) vision of what a KSP should comprise.