

Aquaculture

Background

The aquaculture industry is the fastest growing food production sector in the world and is an important component of world food security. A strong science and knowledge base is needed to inform management practices and guide the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry. To adequately address these challenges, ICES:

- Established a Working Group on Aquaculture and a Working Group on Social/Economic Dimensions in 2013,
- Identified aquaculture as a priority area in the ICES Strategic plan in 2014,
- Initiated an open aquaculture dialogue meeting with stakeholders in 2015 to discuss the future of sustainable aquaculture, and
- Agreed to develop aquaculture overviews similar to the fisheries overviews.

Next step

SCICOM had a strategic discussion at its meeting during the ICES ASC on 24 September, 2016 on the scientific content required and future products expected from ICES Action Area on Aquaculture. Based on the thorough and detailed discussions, there was a consensus agreement to reconsider the organisation of ICES aquaculture work. The following decisions were made by SCICOM:

1. To initiate an internal scoping process with the aim to develop a long-term strategy on Aquaculture, including the internal set-up of working group(s) to support this strategy.
2. As a consequence of this it was decided to close WGAQUA in its current form (as per 24 September 2016);

Towards a long-term ICES Strategy on Aquaculture

The SSGEPI Chair was asked to take the lead in outlining the process that would entail the following components:

- an internal scoping process, involving the ICES aquaculture community,
- an external scoping process, involving stakeholders and potential clients, expressing their wishes for ICES deliverables within aquaculture,
- develop a proposal for the organisational set up of ICES aquaculture work including scope and ToRs for expert groups.

A planning meeting will be held during November, 2016 outlining the required process.

Expected timeline

The internal scoping process should be planned for the beginning of 2017. Dependent on the outcome, and the status of the ToRs, membership, and proposed groups, an external scoping process is expected in the latter part of 2017.

The process must ensure that aquaculture experts in the ICES Community willing to contribute will be made an integral part of the entire process.