



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea  
Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

Council Meeting 2015

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Agenda item 5

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## Council working group on Transatlantic Maritime Cooperation

### Executive Summary

Chair: Cornelius Hammer

*Council is invited to discuss the CWGMTC recommendation to Council:*

*To establish a longer term group, and to appoint a new Chair to continue to develop the issues of marine transatlantic research cooperation, ensuring ICES involvement. The group could be a forum for discussing potential models and mechanisms for coordination and regional funding. The group should be made of Council members, allowing for relevant experts to participate. The structure must be flexible to cover strategic, financial, and other issues that will present themselves.*

*Draft ToRs for this new group are presented in Section 2.*

*Council is also invited to take note of the recommendations of CWGMTC on the arctic.*

## 1 CWGMTC Terms of Reference

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ToR 1.

To summarize the main elements of the EU Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean Area and the subsequent Action Plan for the Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area, transatlantic cooperation agreements and initiatives (an example of the latter; the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation), bilateral cooperation agreements, and any other relevant Atlantic research and cooperation agreements.

ToR 2.

To summarise existing ICES work and other relevant work carried out by ICES Member Countries in the area of maritime transatlantic cooperation, by reference to the agreements and initiatives summarised under ToR 1.

ToR 3.

To describe how the ICES cooperation structure could be used to facilitate and promote work under transatlantic cooperation agreements using the outputs from ToRs 1 and 2, including ICES position in relation to Horizon 2020 calls (e.g. BG-14-2014 "Supporting cooperation initiatives: Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Research Alliance").

ToR 4.

To identify new opportunities for trans-Atlantic marine science and research, that ICES could engage in to support the implementation of the ICES Strategic Plan, through the ICES network (expert groups, projects, databases, etc.), or by fostering strategic partnerships.

ToR 5

To develop an “Arctic roadmap” to identify ways ICES can be used to collaborate with partners and develop a focused plan for making progress on this important priority area.

### **Executive Summary**

The WG came to the conclusion that there is a need for a longer-term high-level ICES working group (Council WG and inclusion of invited experts) to carry on the work being done by the present group. It should however, be designed as “think tank” focused on the long-term structures being necessary for successful transatlantic cooperation, especially with regard to research financing in the North Atlantic. It is foreseen by the group that in the long run a research funding body needs and will be developed that is similar or equivalent to a BONUS. The WG should be tasked to think of possible structures and how ICES could play a significant role in there. Strategically, this should be done in close cooperation and by making use of the AORAC project. Provisional ToRs for the group are given.

The Working Group proposes 15 fields and topics where ICES could support the transatlantic cooperation. These are inter alia, intensified cooperation with NASCO and NOAA in salmon research, provide a basis for solving problems caused by the implementation of the CFP with other RFMO (e.g. ICCAT, NAFO) for instance the discard ban, establish a transatlantic working group on survey strategies and optimization, create a transatlantic working group on deep sea marine protected areas and high seas conservation measures (including the arctic), strengthen relationships with universities and research organisations of the Americans via the Atlantos project and initiate exchange programmes for young scientists.

With regard to the Arctic it is recommended that the most appropriate way forward for ICES is to work within the Arctic Council, to join up with existing working groups and working structures and to supplement where gaps have been identified.

A document should be created that summarizes the results of the ICES Arctic work and analyses what kind of products the integrated ICES Arctic work produces and that assess the gaps and opportunities.

Moreover, the WG was of the opinion that ICES should:

1. Continue existing Working Groups to monitor and assess expanding living resources into the Arctic (recommendation of AFWG).
2. Expand the existing “ecology” Working Groups from their geographical remits into ice-free, open waters of the Arctic (zooplankton, benthos but also WGOH etc.; recommendation of AFWG).
3. Establish a working group on integrated Assessment on the Arctic or letting the existing working groups on integrated assessment develop into such.
4. Establish a survey-planning group (or expand the mandate of an existing group) for the Arctic waters that could coordinate existing surveys and identify gaps and survey needs (recommendation of AFWG).
5. Enlarge its data services with special emphasis on the Arctic Ocean.
6. Be proactive in designing conservation measures, e.g. investigating the appropriateness and dimension on Arctic MPAs.

7. Produce a comprehensive leaflet that explains to the public and the politicians what ICES competences and achievements in the Arctic are. It should present the results of the assessments and its science and based on this, demonstrate the need for scientific expansion.

## 2 Draft ToRs for the Council Strategic Initiative on Transatlantic Maritime Cooperation (CSI-TAMC)

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The following draft ToRs for the Council Strategic Initiative on Transatlantic Maritime Cooperation (CSI- TAMC):

Based on the work already carried out in CWGMTC, as well as new information made available through e.g. projects and national programmes, and the oversight of the ICES transatlantic activities:

**Draft ToR 1** provide strategic guidance to ICES groups involved in transatlantic maritime work

**Draft ToR 2** Provide strategic guidance to Council on ICES role to ensure sustainable transatlantic marine observations, data management, and research cooperation, including ideas for structures and funding of joint research.

**Draft ToR 3** To carry on the work of the previous CWGMTC, and to cooperate with the North Atlantic Research Alliance and to represent ICES within the alliance.

It was proposed by the WG to seek for either a Canadian or US Chair of the WG or for US/CAN Co-Chairs.

Members: An operational group of Council members, and other experts.  
Depending on the agenda and topics to be discussed:  
Chairs of the ICES transatlantic working groups  
External cooperation partners

The full report of CWGMTC is available on the Sharepoint site:

<https://community.ices.dk/Committees/Council/CWGMTC/ layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/HomePage.aspx>