

Living Resources Committee (G)

Chair: Henk J. L. Heessen (Netherlands)

Rapporteur: Maurice W. Clarke (Ireland)

The Committee met on Monday 30 September from 10:00 to 12:30 and on Thursday 3 October from 16:00 to 18:00.

The Chair welcomed the participants and a rapporteur was appointed. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Committee business

The Chair explained the main purpose of the Business Sessions, to:

- Approve reports of Working, Study, and Planning Groups.
- Review and approve their draft resolutions.
- Propose and review Theme Sessions and Open Lectures for the 2003 and 2004 ASCs.

Reports

Working Group on Cephalopod Fisheries and Life History (WGCEPH)

U. Piatkowski (Germany) presented Doc. G: 04. This meeting was held in Rome and was well attended by scientists from outside the ICES area. Cephalopod landings in the ICES area have increased from 47 000 t in 1995 to 57 000 t in 2000. This trend is illustrated in Figure G1, which is an example of a GIS application developed by this Working Group. These applications are designed to display trends by species and ICES divisions (or groups of divisions) on a series of maps. Cuttlefish is the most important component of these landings. The Group has continued to make progress on assessments, but there is a concern that though data availability is improving there is still need for further improvements. The provisions of current EU data collection schemes do not reflect the importance of these valuable species, according to the Group.

Study Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (SGEF)

Doc. G:08 was presented by M. Clarke (Ireland). The group met in Copenhagen and was very well attended, mainly because of funding from the EU-funded DELASS project. Much progress was made on assessing seven elasmobranch species in the ICES area, and several methodologies will be applied in future years. The main problem is the lack of good data. The Group identified the data types that are most important. A momentum has been achieved in assessment methodologies, but it may be lost if new funding is not secured for data collection and to allow the continued participation of specialists.

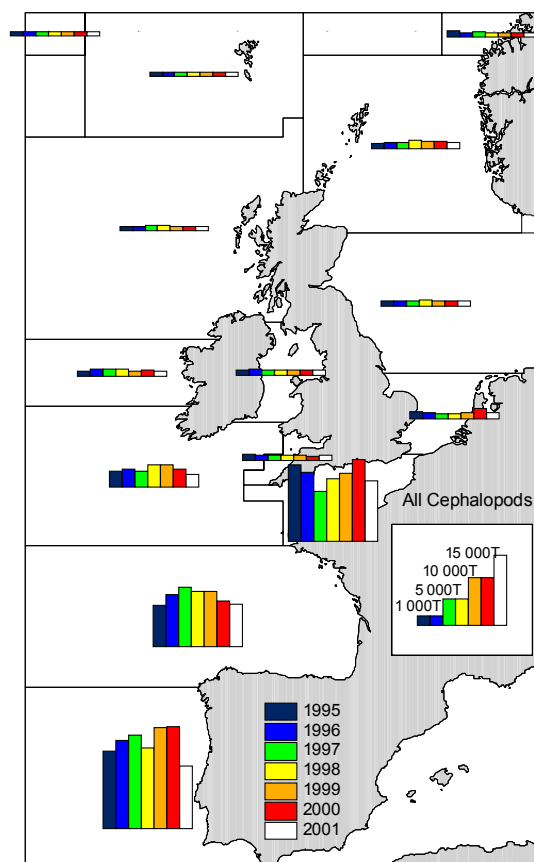


Figure G1. Annual Landings of all cephalopod species in the period 1995-2001 (2001 is provisional). From 2002 report of the Working Group on Cephalopod Fisheries and Life History – Doc. G:04.

Study Group on the Estimation of Spawning Stock Biomass of Sardines and Anchovies (SGSBSA)

Doc. G:01 was presented by A. Uriarte (Spain). The main issues were designing the 2002 daily egg production method programme, standardisation of methodologies and review sample design. Much progress has been made on the use of GLMs for modelling egg production estimates, and GAMs have been explored too, with more work planned. The Group was complimented on the quality of its work and it was recommended by the Committee that next year's report be published as an ICES *Cooperative Research Report*.

Study Group on the Biology and Life History of Crabs (SGCRAB)

In the absence of any representative from this Study Group, Doc. G:10 was not discussed by the Committee.

Open Lecture proposals

The Committee was informed about a proposal for the 2003 Open Lecture, which was under consideration, by the Consultative Committee. The response to his talk could come from a stakeholder, perhaps a fishing industry representative. However, it is important to be aware of the perceived north–south divide in fishing industries, so care should be taken in making the choice.

The Committee also considered possible proposals for 2004 and agreed to submit these for the consideration of the Consultative Committee.

Theme session proposals

The Committee reviewed its three proposals currently on the list of theme sessions for the 2003 ASC.

With regard to the proposed session on “Stock Recovery Plans”, P. Connolly (Ireland) proposed that there should be a series of keynote addresses in this Theme Session, and that it will be necessary to have a North American scientist to give a perspective of the experience there. J.J. Maguire (Canada) was proposed as a good candidate for a keynote address. There should also be a keynote speaker from the European Commission.

For the Session on “Marine Protected Areas” Paul Hart (UK) offered to be a co-convenor. In addition the Committee agreed that the Session on “Evaluation of Management Scenarios” should be combined with the Fleet-Based Predictions theme session.

The Committee noted that the Theme Session for 2004 on “Acoustic Seabed Observations” has been expanded to include multi-beam work and will include Paul Fernandes as a co-convenor.

Draft resolutions

The Committee reviewed the draft resolutions proposed by the Working Groups and Study Groups, and all were accepted with minor revisions.

J. Ellis (UK) was proposed as Chair of the newly formed Working Group on Fish Ecology. At present WGECO has a problem in that it spends much time on subjects such as community metrics. Specific requests for advice from ACE or OSPAR on rarer species needs the attention of a separate group. This Group was proposed by ACE with the recommendation that this Committee be its Parent.

It was agreed to change the Study Group on Elasmobranch Fishes to a Working Group. It was considered that this change would reflect the importance of the group’s work in the long term. M. Clarke (Ireland) will be the Chair of this Group.

It was recommended that a Workshop on Female Lobster Reproduction be established and meet to review the utility of using biological reference points, including eggs per recruit, for management purposes.

Papers from the recent Census of Marine Life H-MAP workshop were considered to be a good addition to a selection of papers from Theme Session L. The Committee supported the proposal that these be published together as a *Cooperative Research Report*.

The Committee supported the Draft Resolution from the Working Group on Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Surveys that there be a Workshop on Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Staging and Identification.

Other business

No peer review of reports was possible this year due to the late production of the reports. Chairs were asked to submit their reports in a more timely way, and take heed to the submission deadline given in each Meeting Resolution.

Closure

After thanking the members and the rapporteur the Chair closed the sessions on Thursday 3 October at 17:30.