

2003

## **Living Resources Committee (G)**

Chair: Henk J. L. Heessen (Netherlands)

Rapporteur: Fatima Cardador (Portugal)

The Living Resources Committee met on Tuesday 23 September from 09:00 to 13:00 and on Saturday 27 September from 09:00 to 10:30.

### **Opening**

The Chair welcomed the participants and it was agreed that Fatima Cardador (Portugal) would be Rapporteur. The agenda was presented and adopted with the addition of the presentation of a proposal by Pierre Petitgas (France) for a new Study Group. The election of a new Chair would take place during the Saturday session at 10:00.

### **Reports of working groups**

#### **Working Group on *Crangon* Fisheries and Life History (WGCRAN)**

The Chair of WGCRAN, Axel Temming (Germany), presented Doc. G:01. He regretted that not all major countries that participate in the *Crangon* fishery had been able to attend the meeting. The fishery for brown shrimp in the North Sea ranks amongst the three most valuable fisheries in this area. WGCRAN is making good progress in modelling the fishery. The present models should rather be considered as an investigation tool than be used as a management tool.

#### **Working Group on Cephalopod Fisheries and Life History (WGCEPH)**

Uwe Piatkowski (Germany) presented Doc. G:02. He explained that it was important that meetings of this Group be held in conjunction with an EU-funded Concerted Action. Otherwise attendance of its meetings would be much less.

#### **Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF)**

The Chair of WGEF, Maurice Clarke (Ireland) presented Doc. G:09. WGEF spent a significant amount of its most recent meeting on sorting out landings data. Landings data for most elasmobranchs are usually not available on a species basis, but just for categories like "sharks" or "rays and skates". It was discussed whether this Group should be under ACFM or LRC, but it was felt that its work should focus both on assessments and on increasing knowledge of the biology of these species. ACFM had requested the addition of a term of reference on deep-water sharks. It was noted that this Group should work together with an EU elasmobranch group in order to avoid duplication.

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

As there was no representative of this Group, Doc. G:11 was not discussed.

#### **Working Group on Fish Ecology (WGFE)**

Niels Daan (Netherlands) presented Doc G:04. This Group was set up last year to address Ecological Quality Objective questions which were beyond the remit of WGECO.

The Group was also tasked to provide a response to requests from OSPAR and HELCOM, including the provision of an assessment on which the justification of the fish on the OSPAR priority list of threatened and endangered species and habitats will be based. This was to ensure that the data used for producing the justification are sufficiently reliable and adequate to serve as a basis for conclusions that the fish concerned can be identified consistently with the Texel-Faial criteria. This resulted in the Group providing a revised classification for relevant fish species under these criteria (Table G1).

In consideration of the 2004 terms of reference for WGFE, the Committee requested the addition of a term of reference to analyse the relative catchabilities of survey gears. Work on this topic might ultimately result in the possibility to combine data from several surveys in the ICES area, in order to produce a new ICES Fish Atlas.

#### **Stock Identification Methods Working Group (SIMWG)**

As there was no representative of this Group, Doc. G:15 was not discussed.

#### **Workshop on Lobster Reference Points for Fishery Management (WKRPFM)**

Joël Chassé (Canada) presented the report of this Workshop, Doc. G:10.

### **Draft resolutions**

Draft resolutions were adopted for all Expert Groups.

At the request of ACE a specific term of reference was added to several groups (WGCRAN, SGCRAB, WGCEPH, WGEF, WGFE), in order to provide information for the Regional Ecosystem Study Group for the North Sea (REGNS). It was noted that the request to

|  | Global importance | Local Importance | Rarity | Sensitivity | Keystone species | Decline |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------|-------------|------------------|---------|
| Sturgeon<br>( <i>Acipenser sturio</i> )                      | ✓                 | ✓                | ✓      | ✓           |                  | ✓       |
| Houting ( <i>Coregonus lavaretus oxyrinchus</i> )            | ?                 | ✓                | ✓      | ✓           |                  | ✓       |
| Short-snouted seahorse<br>( <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> ) | ?                 | ?                | ✓      | ✓           |                  | ?       |
| Seahorse<br>( <i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i> )                 | ?                 | ?                | ✓      | ✓           |                  | ?       |
| Allis shad<br>( <i>Alosa alosa</i> )                         | ✓                 |                  | ✓      | ✓           |                  | ✓       |
| Sea lamprey<br>( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )                 | ✓                 |                  |        | ✓           |                  | ✓       |
| Couch's goby<br>( <i>Gobius couchi</i> )                     | ?                 | ?                | ?      |             |                  | ?       |

Table G1. Revised classification of relevant fish species under the Texel-Faial criteria (From the 2003 report of the Working Group on Fish Ecology, CM2003/G:04).

WGFE was extremely broad and was supposed to cover all non-commercial fish species, which would require a considerable amount of work. It was felt that this request should either be withdrawn or formulated in another way, asking for a more general reply.

### Matters referred to the Committee by the Consultative Committee and the Advisory Committees

The Chair briefly discussed the history of the ICES Strategic Plan, the ICES Action Plan, and the wish of the Bureau and the Council to record the progress that is made concerning the points mentioned in the Action Plan. In the new Terms of Reference to be agreed during this ASC, the relevant numbers that refer to specific actions from the Action Plan should be mentioned in order to help in recording progress. Also the Chair has been asked to submit an overview of the progress made in 2002/2003.

The changes in the advisory structure of ICES were briefly outlined.

### Proposals for new groups

Two proposals for new groups were presented to the Committee and were accepted. These proposals were:

- Study Group on Regional Small Pelagic Fish, which was presented by Pierre Petitgas (France). This proposal was accepted by the Committee after considerable discussion.
- Workshop on Survey Design and Data Analysis presented by John Simmonds (UK). This proposal

was a joint initiative with the Fisheries Technology Committee who would parent the activity.

### Theme sessions 2004

It was suggested to widen the scope of the theme session "Cephalopod stocks: review, analysis, assessment and sustainable management", which was proposed last year by not restricting the item to cover just European research and to stimulate wider participation to this theme. Also, a Spanish co-convenor was proposed.

The proposal on "Recent advances in the oceanography and biology of the Iberian waters and adjacent shelf seas: results from integrated multidisciplinary projects" was agreed, but it was suggested that this theme should include research in the Bay of Biscay. It was expected that such a theme would receive a large number of contributions.

The Committee strongly supported a repeat of the theme on "The life history, dynamics and exploitation of living marine resources: advances in knowledge and methodology", which was the most successful theme during the ASC in 2001.

### Theme sessions 2005

Tore Haug (Norway) proposed a theme session on "Monitoring techniques and estimating abundance of seals and whales." Three co-conveners are proposed working on land-breeding and ice-breeding seals and on whales.

Emma Hatfield (UK) introduced the proposal for a theme session "Fishery, ecology and life-history of small pelagic fish". Such a theme session would be very timely

due to some EU-funded research projects that will finish in 2005.

Finally, the Chair proposed a theme session on an Elasmobranch Fisheries Science. Recently considerable progress has been made concerning the assessment of elasmobranchs. Also, elasmobranchs are specifically mentioned in the new MOU between EC and ICES.

### **Proposals for symposia**

The Committee did not have a proposal for an ICES symposium in 2006 or 2007. It was mentioned that an ICES symposium would be organised in 2007 on a topic that is relevant to the Committee.

### **Arrangements during this ASC**

The Committee felt that the arrangement during this ASC, where the Committee had two sessions of 4 and 1.5 hours respectively was adequate. It was mentioned that

the attention received by the joint session on surveys would significantly increase if this session was organised in the form of a theme session and was held in the course of the meeting. It was found unfortunate that this survey session on Tuesday afternoon coincided with the meeting of the Fisheries Technology Committee.

### **Election of a new Committee Chair**

There were 16 voting members of the Living Resources Committee or Delegates present for the election of a new chair. Dave Reid (UK) was elected after one voting round.

### **Closure**

The Chair thanked the Rapporteur for her help with the report of the sessions and thanked all members for their participation in the discussions and for the support he had received during the last three years.