ICES ACOM REPORT 2013

ICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Report of ICES Advisory Committee

3–6 December 2013

ICES Headquarters, Denmark

ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer

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Welcome

The chair welcomed ACOM to the December 2013 meeting of the Committee.. The meeting was attended by 17 ACOM members and alternates, observers from the Faroe Islands, Greenland and the European Commission, the ACOM Leadership and members of the ICES Secretariat (see Annex 1).

1 Adoption of agenda

The agenda (Annex 2) was modified to add under 10d, Advice based on stochastic projections for stocks under an F management strategy. Item 18 was deleted and European eel will be discussed under 10g ii. The following items were added to AoB: a) Dialogue meeting b) link to the most recent advice on ICES web page, c) World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods (WCSAM) - southern horse mackerel, d) Search facility on the ICES web page.

2 Review of membership

ACOM was created by merging the Advisory Committee on Ecosystem (ACE), the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment (ACME) and the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (ACFM) to have the possibility of providing integrated advice using the best expertise. This implied diversified expertise on ACOM to cover the fields previously included in the separate advisory committees through a flexible system of alternates. ACOM briefly reviewed Document 2a ACOM Members for members and alternate expertise. Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Portugal and Sweden were found to have mostly fisheries experts as ACOM members or alternates. The chair will write to the ACOM member from those countries, cc'ed to the countries delegates, to ask them to nominate other alternates in the field of contaminants, environmental science, ecosystem science, and aquaculture.

It is not sufficient to have alternates with the relevant expertise, however, the appropriate experts should be called upon when advice is prepared, reviewed and approved. ACOM members should verify that Advice Drafting Groups are properly attended, particularly for non-fisheries advice. When receiving the e-mail notification that new advice is available for review, ACOM members should immediately forward the notification to the alternate that will be involved in reviewing and approving the advice if it is not the ACOM member her/himself that will be involved.

3 Minutes from September ACOM Consultations

There were no comments made to the minutes of the September meetings (see Annex 4).

4 2013 Council meeting

4.1 ACOM report

The ACOM report to Council was sent to ACOM before the Council meeting and member's comments were taken into account. In the presentation of the ACOM report to Council, the dialogue meeting for MSY in multi-species and mixed fisheries

contexts, the splitting of the Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS) into catch and biological parameters expert groups, were highlighted along with incoming meetings. The workload issues were also highlighted. In the following discussion, some Council members were unhappy with the outcome of the mackerel advice. Bureau may consider in February how ICES should react to unexpected situations similar to what occurred for mackerel in 2013.

4.2 Planning use of experts – Resource Coordination Tool

A human Resource Coordination Tool is being developed in the Secretariat. A prototype is expected to be available early in 2014 and a full version could be available by mid-2014. The tool will be used to get commitments from Institutes that they will provide experts for specific recurrent and non-recurrent requests for advice. ACOM noted that the tool could also be used for evaluating the contribution of national institutes to the work of ICES.

4.3 ICES strategic plan

The ICES plan was approved by the ICES Council at its October 2013 meeting. The final text of the ICES Advice Plan is expected to be available before the end of December 2013.

5 2013 review

5.1 Review of work progress during 2013

5.1.1 Round table– Feedback from ACOM members:

Several ACOM members noted the workload issue and that efforts should continue to decrease workload, inject new human resources and increase efficiency. ACOM is grateful for the excellent work of the WebEx chairs in dealing with issues prior to the web conference and for cancelling web conferences when no substantive issues have been raised. ACOM Vice-Chairs thanked ACOM for providing comments within the deadline, which made it possible to resolve issues and cancel web conferences. ACOM agrees that silence means consent and that the advice can be considered as approved when there are no reactions to the cancellation of a web conference. ACOM agrees that there is no need for a special mechanism to formally express agreement.

A link to theadvice drafting group (ADG) minutes will be added to the e-mail announcing that the advice is available for review such that ACOM members can easily see if participation in the ADG was adequate and be aware of the issues raised and possibly resolved. The ADG minutes could also be published as annex to the EG report (NB some reports are handled in more than one ADG).

The audits are maturing but still need to be standardised. Guidelines for audit need to be revised to more clearly limit the scope of the audit to ensuring that the data and models used are in conformity with what the stock annex specifies. For the audit process to work properly, EGs have to alert ACOM early that the stock annex has not been followed and in those cases, a review group will be organised.

There is general agreement that the timeline for the provision of advice is much too tight, RGs or ADGs start with incomplete documentation from the previous steps and have to complete some of the tasks that the previous step was supposed to have completed. Subsequent to the meeting, the chair made the following proposal to be

discussed at a later stage. It is included here for documentation: *When EGs, RGs, or ADGs rejects an assessment, as occurred in 2013 for northeast Atlantic mackerel, the ACOM leadership should be immediately alerted, the leadership should discuss a few possible course of action and recommend one for decision by ACOM. If it is not possible to agree a course of action by e-mail, an ACOM subgroup should be formed to deal with the issue and recommend a course of action to ACOM. This implies that deadlines for the delivery of advice will likely be missed. Recipients of advice would be alerted early in the process that the deadline is likely to be missed*.

Terms of Reference seem to only grow, they are never reduced. They should be periodically trimmed, particularly the generic Terms of Reference.

The rule limiting participation in the ADG to the chair of the EG should be more strictly enforced.

The main responsibility of agreeing the advice rests with the Advice Drafting Groups. ACOM members should ensure that ADGs are well attended. It would be unusual for an ACOM member whose country has not participated in an ADG to provide substantive comments at the advice approval stage: for the process to be efficient, such comments should have been provided during the ADG. A possible improvement to the process might be for ACOM either to approve or reject the product of the ADG, but not take the responsibility of changing the substance of the advice: if the advice is approved, it is published; if it is not approved, it is sent back to the ADG. This would be following the principles that the advice is drafted by the best experts, but approved nationally. It would require considerable discipline for this process to work and it would require more flexible timelines or would be likely to incur delays.

It has been difficult to garner the necessary scientific resources to reply to non-recurrent requests and often the technical work is not delivered on time, arrives at the last minute, and the Review Groups have very little time to do its work. The timeline is very compressed and there is no possibility for sending material back if problems are detected. The problem is compounded by ADGs being poorly attended, with sometimes only 2 people to take responsibility for the draft advice. It is hoped that the Resource Coordination Tool might alleviate this problem.

It is Important that ACOM members communicate to the community the approaches and needs of the advisory system; communications should not come only from the ACOM leadership or from Secretariat, but also from all ACOM members.

5.2 Pending advisory services in 2013

The only advice pending for 2014 is the advice for OSPAR on update of Ecological Quality Objective (EcoQO) on Seabird Population Trends. A process has been established and advice is expected to be released 19 December.

5.3 Role of ACOM to approve advice

ACOM welcomes the excellent work of webex chairs in resolving issues prior to web conferences and cancelling the webex when there are not substantive issues. ACOM considers that silence means consent and that no reaction to the e-mail cancelling the webex is equivalent to adoption of the advice.

6 and 7 Advice plan finalisation and updating the roadmap for extension of mixed/multispecies/ecosystem approach and plan for 2014

Agenda item 6 and 7 were treated together. A subgroup (Martin Pastoors, Mark Tasker, Han Lindeboom, Chris Zimmerman, Eskild Kirkegaard, Anne Christine Brusendorff, Ellen Johannesen, Henrik Sparholt and Anne Cooper) chaired by Ghislain Chouinard was formed to make the Advice plan compatible with the ICES, Science and Data plans. The Advice Plan should link with the Data Plan on the role of the Data Centre in the smooth transfer of data from national institutes to ICES Data Centre, from the Data Centre to the assessment model(s), from assessment models to the EG reports and from EG report to Advice (the last 2 transfers may be covered under the RACMS). ACOM considered the list of actions to be used as performance indicators. Draft 2 of the Advice Plan was uploaded on the SharePoint site on December 8, and ACOM was asked through the ACOM Forum to provide comments by December 13 for finalisation of the draft before the end of December. Agreement of the text and list of actions will be completed by correspondence or web conference if needed.

Detailed comments on the Advice plan were made by the observer from the EC who provided them in writing (Annex 3). The Pelagic Regional Advisory Council (PRAC) had provided written comments on the ICES Plan as well.

8 MSFD developments

8.1 Plans with DG ENV and Cooperation with regional sea conventions

Claus Hagebro brought ACOM up-to-date on recent developments on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), including the Mediterranean and Black Sea. There is currently considerable work at the expert level, and requests have been received or are expected on 1) Food Web indicators, 2) an assessment of D3 in all 4 regional seas, 3) capacity building on integrated monitoring and financing in the Black Sea and 4) preparing a document and participating in a drafting group meeting (preparation for a technical group under the EC).

The cooperation and involvement of ICES in the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) is developing and ICES is considered an important partner by the European Commission and will possibly be involved in the review process of the Commission Decision 2010/477/EU.

Mark Tasker informed that a financial issue expert for the workshops on integrated monitoring in the Black Sea with experience also with European Funds is needed, ACOM should consider and identify a financial expert if possible.

ACOM should in general consider the provision of experts to the expert groups/workshops resulting from the EU requests.

9 Change to multiannual advice with annual tolerance checks (WKUPDATE results)

A subgroup (Maurice Clarke, Ken Patterson, Fatima Borges, Inigo Martinez, Cristina Morgado, Poul Degnbol) chaired by John Simmonds reviewed the draft report of Workshop on Updating ICES Advice (WKUPDATE) and made proposals on the fre-

quency of assessments for all stocks and the format of advice. The agreed changes for the frequency of assessments for WGDEEP and WGEF were incorporated in the ToRs for 2014 (see below). There was a large consensus that simplifying the advisory sheets by having a part that is updated annually and a static part that is updated less frequently was desirable, but ACOM preferred to delay implementation for one year when the Report and Advice Content Management System (RACMS) would be operational. The subgroup prepared a number of examples of what the simplified advice could look like. In doing so they made proposals that could be implemented already in 2014 in the guidelines to draft the advice (e.g. standard sentences under the graphs on page 1 of the advice.

The issue of Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP) and Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF) stocks treated in the WKUPDATE subgroup:

Maurice Clarke presented a new template for elasmobranchs advice to be implemented in the 2014 Advice. The agreed frequency and staggering of assessments for WGDEEP and WGEF was as follows:

WGEF: biennial Advice for skates and rays with assessment starting on 2014 for BoB, Iberia and Celtic Sea.

biennial Advice for skates and rays with assessment starting on 2015 for North Sea.

biennial Advice for Sharks with assessment starting on 2015 and quadrennial Advice for zero catch sharks.

WGDEEP: Icelandic stocks to be assessed annually.

biennial Advice for EU stocks with assessment starting on 2014.

biennial Advice for non EU stocks with assessment starting on 2015 (Rollover advice on 2014).

10 Future developments of the basis and substance of ICES advice and planning for 2014

10.1 Finalising Ecosystem Overviews

Ecosystem overviews were last provided in the book of advice for 2008. The process to prepare the current version started with Workshop on Ecosystem Overviews (WKECOVER) in January 2013 to agree a content and format. The integrated assessments working groups (IEAWGs) were asked to populate the drafts prepared by WKECOVER. The IEAWGs did more than was asked for and the Workshop to draft advice on Ecosysem Overviews (WKDECOVER) was organised in November to agree on drafts prepared by the Secretariat from the work done in the expert groups. The structure of the overviews is now fixed (description, key signals, differences in areas, activities, pressures and state). There are currently 3 ecosystem overviews prepared and a 4th is being finalised.

The intent is to pick up material from the ecosystem overviews in the assessments and in the advice. For that purpose, the ecosystem overviews should be widely distributed to EGs and ADGs. The benchmarking process will be the mechanism through which environmental/ecosystem relationships from the ecosystem overviews

will be formally included in stock assessments and advice. Stock assessment benchmarks could begin by presentations on the key environmental/ecosystem signals that should be taken into account. The ecosystem overviews can also be used in evaluating technical measures. The overviews will be further developed and sharpened over time.

The presentation to the Annual Meeting of Advisory Working Group Chairs (WGCHAIRS) in January could highlight a few of the important relationships included in the ecosystem overviews. The overviews will be incorporated in the book of advice as they become available for each eco-region.

10.2 Data limited stocks (WKLIFE3 results)

Carl O'Brien (WKLIFE Co-Chair) provided a summary update of the 'Third Workshop on the Development of Quantitative Assessment Methodologies based on LIFE history traits, exploitation characteristics, and other key parameters for data limited stocks' (WKLIFE3). The data-limited stocks (DLS) data categories and methods have not changed; simulations showed that over-exploited data-limited stocks may be in trouble after 3–5 years, therefore, targets are needed; the PA buffer is useful and should be used more often; and methods are needed for bycatch stocks (e.g. risk-based methods) and short-lived species specifically. WKLIFE 4 will work on F proxy survey-based methods analogous to Category 3 and further develop length-based approaches to assessment and the setting of targets.

10.2.1 Engaging experts

Poul Degnbol showed the spreadsheet with stock coordinators showing that most DLS were without stock coordinators. ACOM members were asked to look at this sheet and identify stock coordinators. The Secretariat/ACOM leadership will write to ACOM members suggesting for which DLS their institute could provide stock coordinators. It should be noted that data-limited method development and assessment is an active area of fisheries science and modelling around the globe. This should be considered an exciting area for ICES scientists to work as ICES is making major contributions at the global level.

10.2.2 Further developing the DLS guidance document

The suggestion is to move technical material related to categories 1–2 stocks from the Introduction to ICES advice to the Guidance document. This will be considered by the Workshop to draft general advisory guidance document (WKINTRO) in January 2014. Additional guidance provided from WKLIFE III is found in the WKLIFE III summary slides from Carl O'Brien.

10.2.3 Target categories:

Anne Cooper made a presentation on the 2012 and 2013 stock data categories, including the stock experts' assessment of target categories that could be reached within the next 3–5 years with existing data and methods as well as data and methods that are currently planned to come online shortly (e.g. via benchmarks). Note that the intent is not to move stocks into category 1. ACOM was asked to look at the categories and provide feedback on those targets that should be changed. This table will be shared with clients and stakeholders in January 2014 to obtain additional feedback.

10.3 Working procedures in 2014

10.3.1 The role of student reviews

The issue under this agenda item is that Expert Groups whose work will be reviewed by the students in 2014 think that they do not need to do the audits. That is not the case: the students do a much more in-depth review than the audits. It is really the work of the EGs to ensure that the annex is applied. Note that ICES now has 2 student review groups. Students of Yong Chen at the University of Maine have joined those of Steve Cadrin at the University of Massachusetts. Note that Andre Punt/Trevor Branch should be contacted in 2014 as they have shown potential interest.

10.3.2 Physical meetings

A subgroup (Christopher Zimmermann (lead), Massimiliano Cardinale, Jan Horbowy, Martin Pastoors, Yuri Efimov, Jesper Boje, Didzis Ustups) met to discuss the possibility of holding more physical meetings. The practice of providing comments at least one day before the web conferences to approve the advice has made it possible to cancel several web conferences when no substantive issues needed to be resolved. With the simplification of the advisory sheets, and the cancellation of WebEx meetings, the usefulness of physical meetings to improve efficiency no longer needs to be pursued. The subgroup recommended to: 1) Minimise overlap in membership between EGs and related ADGs, 2) Ensure minimum number of participants in ADGs (5?) -> requires communication of expected participants, 3) ICES Secretariat to invite 1–2 independent participants (no specific national interests) where required/controversies anticipated, 4) Discuss with clients whether an advice delivery can be postponed if there are major issues (to send back to ADGs).

10.4 Advice format 2014

10.4.1 Catch based advice

Experiences from 2013. How to deal with discards in 2014 advice: a subgroup led by Alain Biseau prepared a guidance document that will be presented to WGCHAIRS. The guidance is provided in document Doc 10.d.i Catch advice 2013. New standard texts for catch advice were agreed by ACOM in this document.

10.4.2 Rounding of advice

ACOM agreed to continue not rounding catch advice. When there is an automated mechanism to transfer automatically the assessment results from the model to the working group report and automatically to several places in the advisory report, automatic rules for rounding the advice can be reviewed and easily implemented without causing inconsistencies in various places in the document or in various documents.

10.4.3 Pictograms

Christopher Zimmerman presented one slide (ACOM Advice dials.pdf) which ACOM had commented on in the beginning of 2013.

It was generally agreed that this should be an automated process, to be further developed in the light of RACMS. The secretariat will report back when progress is made.

10.5 Expert group and ADG recommendations

Cristina Morgado annotated the agenda with the recommendation numbers from EGs, ADGs and Web Conferences to approve the advice. The intention was to discuss/agree the recommendations under the appropriate agenda item, but this was only done for a few of the recommendations. The Chair will review the other recommendations and follow up as appropriate.

10.6 Requests for advice to be delivered in 2014

The first special request to deal with in 2014 will be the NEAFC, Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland requests concerning redfish management plans. In addition requests had been received from NASCO and OSPAR. The requests are listed on the SharePoint site: https://community.ices.dk/admin/Requests/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/, the site will be updated as further requests are received.

10.7 Benchmarks 2014 and 2015

10.7.1 2014 and 2015 plan (BS)

Barbara Schoute updated ACOM on the plans for the 2014 and 2015 benchmarks.

10.7.2 Interbenchmark eel

Henrik Sparholt introduced this issue. The first issue has to do with data used in the assessment. Each country have estimated the pristine silver eel escapement (B0), current silver eel escapement (Bcurrent) and often also current anthropogenic mortality (∑A), for each eel management unit (EMU) (typically a river basin) or merged EMUs into regional or national areas. These B0, Bcurrent, and ∑A have not yet been peer reviewed by ICES. The question is how to organize this in 2014. There are 82 EMUs in the EU so it will be a big task. The WGEEL experts have probably been too involved in the development of these estimates to also review them so one option could be to ask the 3 reviewers from RGEEL or other appropriate experts to do it in a pseudo inter-benchmark process. This could require about 2 person-month per reviewer. Some ACOM members were worried about the 3 experts being available and it was suggested that they might not be needed for two full months but could be supported with basic work and thus. There was general support from ACOM to the involvement of 3 external experts. A request for funding has been sent to the European Commission.

The second issue deals with the default ICES harvest control rule for long lived species used by WGEEL. The reviewers identified that because almost all fishing occurs before the escapement is measured, it is the escapement harvest control rule that should be used. ACOM agreed with the review group.

10.7.3 Planning benchmarking process

Carmen Fernandez updated ACOM on the joint ACOM/SCICOM Steering Group on Benchmarking and on the ACOM Subgroup on Fish Benchmarks (Carmen Fernandez, Floor Quirijns, Didzis Ustups and Morten Vinther). The ACOM subgroup is to help select stocks to be benchmarked and organise into appropriate groups (increasingly by ecoregion), to consider groups of stocks (or sequence of benchmarks over 2–3 years) that helps integrating mixed fisheries / multispecies / ecosystem aspects, to work towards overall ICES direction for integrated ecosystem assessment and advice, to establish ToRs for benchmarks, including intermediate steps for delivery before

benchmark (e.g. Data-Compilation workshops), to follow-up of work at set times prior to benchmark workshop and to help identify/select international experts to be invited. ACOM noted that stocks should be benchmarked only when there is new information or new model(s) to evaluate, i.e. fixed benchmarking frequency is not desirable if there is nothing new to review or implement.

In the short term, the subgroup will decide on the final list and grouping of stocks to be benchmarked in 2015 and cooperate with the ACOM/SCICOM Steering Group on Benchmarking.

10.8 Guidance for WGEF and WGDEEP

This agenda item was dealt with under agenda item 9.

11 Workplan in 2014

11.1 ToRs and agendas for ACOM expert groups

The following was highlighted in the discussion of ToRs and agendas for ACOM expert groups:

- The number generic TORs for assessment expert groups is high but it should be left for the chair to decide what is feasible within a meeting.
- Discard will be added as Agenda item in the generic ToRs for assessment expert groups
- The draft advice for Icelandic capelin will be prepared in advance of NWWG. The advice will be issued prior to the rest of the advice.
- It should be checked with WGNEW if witch should stay in WGNEW for one more year since the benchmark is not until 2015.
- It was repeated that stock coordinators are still missing for several stocks. ACOM should provide names for new coordinators
- It was requested if the sandeel advice could be released as early as possible.
- ToRs for WGEF and WGDEEP may change as a result of the discussions on multiannual advice
- List of stock coordinators for HAWG stocks should be updated

11.2 Meetings with Clients and stakeholders, ToRs and agenda for MIRIA and MIRAC

The ToRs for the MIRIA and MIRAC meeting were presented and accepted.

Release dates of advice in the autumn should be discussed at the MIRIA meeting.

11.3 Scheduling ACOM meeting at ASC

The ACOM Consultations that will be held in connection with the 2014 ICES Annual Science Conference in A Coruña, Spain, were scheduled for Sunday 14 September from 9:00 to 18:00 and Friday afternoon 19 September.

11.4 Scheduling Annual ACOM meeting

The 2014 ACOM meeting was scheduled for 2–5 December in ICES Headquarters.

11.5 Adoption of the Workplan and resolutions for 2014

These items were briefly introduced. ACOM was asked to review the ToRs and provide comments to the ICES Secretariat.

12 Decision making in expert groups

This item was not covered during the meeting. It will be covered by correspondence.

13 Tools for advice production – Content Management System

Anne Cooper made a presentation on the RACMS system, introducing the table at the end of Document 12, which is a vision and specification document that was initiated to facilitate a dialogue among RACMS stakeholders, Secretariat, ACOM and SCICOM with feedback on each item by ICES Data Centre/IT. ACOM is invited to contribute input on our requirements. This is an urgent request as we are at a crossroads: the IT team at the Secretariat needs clear guidance from users now in order to choose which technological basis and to maintain the schedule for preparing the next phase of RACMS. Document 12 should facilitate the articulation of what is desired/needed and what is possible for a workflow-based system and a word processing-based system that will be used for all of ICES Science and Advice products. ACOM comments to this table are due by 31 December and should be made by consensus.

14 Data issues

14.1 Feedback on the DCF

ACOM was informed that the DCF feedback document submitted earlier in 2013 needs to be updated for information on EGs that meet after May and also to include the advice on data collection released in November (Section 1.5.2.2).

14.2 DCF reporting

The data tables were not prepared in 2013. In 2014, it is proposed that the Secretariat would compile all the data quality issues mentioned in advisory reports and send this compilation to the EC instead of the data tables. ACOM agreed that countries can be name where there are data problems and data transmission issues.

14.3 Expert group estimates

It is expected that the introduction of quality standards in the DC-MAP will de facto resolve the issues of standardisation and documentation. ACOM agreed that EG estimates are essential to reliable assessments.

14.4 Data calls for advice 201

Cristina Morgado informed ACOM about the data calls planned for 2014.

14.5 Protocol for the use of data from science-industry cooperation projects

ACOM agreed that formal agreement, guaranteeing access to the data regardless of the implications of using the data, were needed for science - stakeholder project.

15 ICES' role in IUCN listing

Mark Dickey-Collas updated ACOM on an IUCN meeting held earlier in 2013 in Malaga to assess teleosts. Mark DC commented that Blim used in ICES assessment is often more conservative than the criteria used by IUCN to assess threats.

16 Popular outreach

16.1 Popular advice documents

Expert groups and advice drafting groups have been involved in developing the popular advice. More than 140 popular advice sheets were produced this year. The observer from the EC asked for statistics on access to the popular advice. The ICES Secretariat will provide this. The EC also made note that they are very happy with the effort and they will be in touch with the Secretariat about linking this with their sustainable fisheries campaign.

16.2 Press release on stock developments

ACOM agreed that it would useful for ICES to tell the general public the results of the assessments. Carmen Fernandez, Martin Pastoors, Gary Shepherd and Massimiliano Cardinale prepared a draft of the press release with the help of Terhi Minkinnen from the Secretariat. ACOM found the draft too scientific and agreed to ask Terhi to redraft the press release and send it to Bureau for approval following the standard procedure.

Poul Degnbol will take calls afterwards

17 2014 MoUs

Except for the MOU with the EU, all MOU stand until one of the parties wants to change it. Currently, the MOU with the EC is negotiated every year.

18 Pro bono-advice on North Sea Crangon

Christopher Zimmerman introduced this topic. ACOM agreed that *Crangon* and *Crangon* fisheries as well as the environment would benefit from more active management of the *Crangon* fisheries. ACOM therefore supports the proposal to organise a workshop in 2014 to further the development of ICES advice on *Crangon* if requested. ACOM asked the members from the countries involved in this fishery to encourage their management authorities to make a request (individually or jointly) to ICES for advice. If such a request was received, ICES would organise the workshop, a review group, an advice drafting group and an approval web-conference. If no request is received, ACOM will need to re-discuss a plan of action.

19 Eel issues

This was discussed under agenda item 10.g.ii

20 Decisions on topics not yet decided:

There we no outstanding decisions.

21 Nomination and elections

No nominations and elections were outstanding since the ASC consultations.

22 Any other business (AOB)

22.1 Dialogue meeting

A Dialogue meeting (number 14) is planned to be organised for autumn 2014 on MSY in mixed fisheries and multispecies contexts. This will be organised jointly with MY-FISH project and possibly GAP2. There is apparently interest from The Netherlands in organising the Dialogue meeting.

22.2 Link for the most recent advice on top of ICES web page

The latest advice can be accessed directly at the very bottom of the ICES web page but users have to scroll down the page. It can also be accessed by clicking on "Follow our advisory process". Users of the advice will be asked at MIRIA and MIRAC if they are satisfied with those solutions.

22.3 WCSAM – southern horse mackerel

The exercise for WCSAM of applying several assessment methods to various stocks showed that the method used as the basis of ICES advice for southern horse mackerel provided results that differed from those of the other methods applied. A term of reference will be added to the EG for them to consider this difference.

22.4 Search facility on the ICES web site

Improvements to the search facility have been made, but it remains more efficient to use Google to find reports on the ICES web site (e.g. search Google with "ICES EG year" provides the result more quickly).

Closing of the meeting

2013 was the last year in service for both ACOM Vice-Chair Han Lindeboom and ACOM Chair Jean-Jacques Maguire.

Claus Hagebro, ICES Secretariat thanked Han Lindeboom for good cooperation and highlighted the work done by Han on specifically the environmental special requests, the ecosystem overviews and integrated assessments.

Poul Degnbol thanked Jean-Jacques Maguire for his dedicated and excellent work and for the firm and considerate approach he had taken in leading the Advisory Committee.

The chair noted that when he wrote to ACOM in September 2010 before the election of the ACOM chair, he told ACOM that his main objective would be to reduce work-load because he understood that to be a major issue based on the discussions he had with ACOM members during the ASC. He noted that he had seen first-hand that it was and remains an issue, but thought that some progress was made: audits have been transferred to the EGs and, while the system still needs to be improved, this will end up being more efficient, no doubt. Also, as indicated in Cristina Morgado's presentation, the data tables which were very time consuming on EGs and on the

Secretariat have been eliminated. But the workload has also increased by providing quantitative advice for data limited stocks, mixed fisheries advice for the North Sea and multispecies advice for the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. The chair expressed his pleasure to have been able to work with ACOM over the last three years and expressed the wish paths will cross again as he intends to continue to attend the ASCs. He thanked all for their confidence and help and wished all participants good luck. The meeting was closed at 12h30.

Annex 1 List of participants

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Annex 2 Draft Agenda

Welcome

1) Adoption of agenda
2) Review of membership
3) Minutes from September ACOM Consultations
4) 2013 Council meeting
   a. ACOM report
   b. Planning use of experts – Resource Coordination Tool
   c. ICES strategic plan
5) 2013 review
   a. Review of work progress during 2013
      i. Round table- Feedback from ACOM members
   b. Pending advisory services in 2013
   c. Role of ACOM to approve advice
6) Advice plan finalisation (sub-group)
7) Updating the roadmap for extension of mixed/multispecies/ecosystem approach and plan for 2014 (sub-group)
8) MSFD developments
   a. Plans with DG ENV
   b. Cooperation with regional sea conventions
9) Change to multiannual advice with annual tolerance checks (WKUPDATE results)
10) Future developments of the basis and substance of ICES advice and planning for 2014
    a. Finalising Ecosystem Overviews
    b. Data limited stocks (WKLIFE3 results)
       i. Engaging experts
       ii. Further developing the guidance document
       iii. Target categories
    c. Working procedures in 2014
       i. The role of student reviews
       ii. Physical meetings
    d. Advice format 2014
       i. Catch based advice – experiences from 2013. How to deal with discards in 2014 advice.
       ii. Rounding of advice
       iii. Pictograms
       iv. Advice base on stochastic projections under F management strategy
    e. Expert group and ADG recommendations
    f. Requests for advice to be delivered in 2014
    g. Benchmarks 2014 and 2015
       i. 2014 and 2015 plan
       ii. Interbenchmark eel and other eel issues
       iii. Planning benchmarking process
    h. Guidance for WGEF and WGDEEP
    i. Workplan in 2014
       i. ToRs and agendas for ACOM expert groups

ii. Meetings with Clients, ToR and agenda for MIRIA
iii. Meetings with stakeholders, ToRs and agenda for MIRAC
iv. Scheduling ACOM meeting at ASC
v. Scheduling Annual ACOM meeting
vi. Adoption of the Workplan and resolutions for 2014

11) Decision making in expert groups (sub-group)
12) Tools for advice production – Content Management System
13) Data issues
    a. Feedback on the DCF
    b. DCF reporting
    c. Working group estimates (sub-group?)
    d. Data calls for advice 2014
    e. Protocol for the use of data from science-industry cooperation projects
14) ICES' role in IUCN listing
15) Popular outreach
    a. Popular advice documents
    b. Press release on stock developments (sub-group)
16) 2014 MoUs
17) Pro bono-advice on North Sea Crangon
18)
19) Decisions on topics not yet decided
20) Nomination and elections
21) Any other business (AOB)

Dialogue meeting
Link to advice on web page
Website search facility
SISAM
Closing of the meeting

Annex 3: Comments of the observer from the European Commission on the Advisory Plan.

From: Kenneth.Patterson@ec.europa.eu [mailto:Kenneth.Patterson@ec.europa.eu]
Sent: 3. december 2013 15:05
To: Advice
Subject: text for the minutes, as requested

COM :

WE ARE DEMANDEURS FOR THIS TYPE OF ADVICE BUT THE ADVICE MUST BE SCIENTIFICALLY SOUND AND NOT PROVIDED ON AN "ADVICE BUT" BASIS (IE NOT AS ADVICE WITH SUBSTANTIAL METHODOLOGICAL CAVEATS, EG. BALTIC MULTISPECIES ADVICE)

OPTIONS SHOULD IN PRINCIPLE BE FRAMED WITHIN CONCEPTS OF Fmsy AND SAFE BIOLOGICAL LIMITS.

WE ARE IN DIALOGUE WITH LEGISLATORS ON THE FUTURE SHAPE OF MULTIANNUAL PLANS (IN PURSUIT OF SOLVING THE INSTITUTIONAL IMPASSE). IN THIS PROCESS A NUMBER OF VARIABLES HAVE NOT YET BEEN DEFINED OR REFINED. WE WILL STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ICES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2014, WHEN POTENTIALLY SOME CONCRETE GUIDELINES FOR OUR WORK IN MIXED FISHERIES WILL BE DECIDED UPON.

THE OUTCOME OF THE DIALOGUE ON THE FUTURE PLANS WILL INFLUENCE HOW BOTH PLANS AND ANNUAL DECISIONS ON TACs WILL BE DETERMINED, AND WITHIN WHICH BOUNDARIES SUCH DECISIONS WILL TAKE PLACE. IT IS TOO EARLY FOR FURTHER SPECIFICS

A WORKING METHOD FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE PLANS IS UNDER WITHIN THE COMMISSION, ALSO VIEWING AT REGIONALIZATION OF MANAGEMENT UNDER THOSE FUTURE PLANS. MORE DETAILED GUIDANCE ON PROVISION OF ADVICE WILL FOLLOW SUIT.

WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE ICES/NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTER WORKSHOP IS THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THE ADVICE FRAMEWORK TO BE DECIDED.

IN THE NEAR TERM, WE STILL INCREMENTALLY REQUIRE SINGLE-SPECIES Fmsy ADVICE COVERING TOTAL OUT-TAKES FROM EACH STOCK – IN LIGHT OF THE DISCARD BAN.

WITH THE COMING CLOSER OF THE LANDING OBLIGATION, WE WILL ALSO NEED SPECIFIC ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE ISSUE OF "CHOKE SPECIES" IN MIXED FISHERIES.

POLICY DECISIONS BASED ON MULTISPECIES ANALYSIS AND MIXED FISHERIES OBJECTIVES IMPLY TRADE OFFS. WE WILL CONSIDER HOW ICES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ASSESSMENT OR ADVICE ON SUCH TRADE OFFS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT OUR CURRENT PERCEPTION IS THAT THE SCIENCE IS NOT YET STABLE AND RELIABLE.

ICES SHOULD DEVELOP A NEW SPATIAL MODEL TO ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC OVERVIEW TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION CHANGES WHEN MAKING MULTISPECIES FORECASTS.

Annex 4 2013 Annual Science Conference Advisory Committee Consultations

Chair: Jean-Jacques Maguire

Reykjavik, Iceland

Sunday 22 September and Friday 27 September

Opening of the meeting

Participants were welcomed by the ACOM Chair, Jean-Jacques Maguire. 41 ACOM members, alternates, expert group chairs, EU staff and ICES staff attended the meeting.

1 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the additions of follow up to WCSAM workshop report, ICES Dialogue meeting 14, and the ICES web site search facility in AOB. Dialogue meeting 14 on MSY in multispecies and mixed fisheries contexts was added to AOB during the Friday meeting. Possibility of a physical ACOM meeting to approve the spring advice was added by the chair while writing this summary.

2 Review of membership

ACOM members were asked to verify that the membership lists are correct.

3 Advisory Services Scheduled for the remainder of 2013 (including ecosystem overviews)

ACOM was informed that 1) WGHARP may need to meet in 2014 if pup production is lower than expected; 2) that it might have been helpful to involve ICCAT in the definition of pelagic Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas; 3) A special process (meeting during the first week of November, chaired by the OSPAR Executive Secretary, Darius Campbell) has been set up to produce ecosystem overviews according to the format and length agreed at WKECOVER; 4) France is a major player on Bay of Biscay sole and need to be involved in answering the non-recurrent request; 5) a special process may need to be set up if the WGSE does not provide the necessary information on birds; 6) ToRs for a workshop to suggests criteria and processes to update or not advice will be written and circulated.

4 ICES strategic plan

4.1 Bureau Working Group on ICES Strategy

ACOM was invited to read the plan and provide comments to the ICES President. Some did, and those comments were reviewed by the ICES Bureau at its meeting on Tuesday September 24.

4.2 Advisory plan

As most missing parts in the draft plan are related to the proactive challenge, ACOM vice-chairs Han Lindeboom and Mark Tasker were asked to lead the drafting of the next version of the Advisory Plan to be discussed in December involving Canada, Estonia, The Netherlands and Poul Degnbol. The European Commission will invite ICES to a meeting on the future CFP which may have implications for the Advisory Plan.

5 Advisory process / review of 2013 and further development in 2014

5.1 Audit process

ACOM is grateful to Floor Quirijns who gathered information from Expert Groups (EG) on this topic for discussion with EG chairs on Thursday September 26. The message conveyed at that meeting is that audits MUST be done by EGs and that this is one of their main tasks. The guidelines for these audits may have put EGs on the track of more elaborate reviews than was anticipated and audit guidelines should therefore be revised to avoid this possibility. EGs are encouraged to use small groups of 2–3 people to ensure, during the meeting, that the stock annex has been appropriately implemented. The EGs should not proceed discussing assessment results until they have confirmed that the stock annex has been appropriately implemented. ACOM was informed that Yong Chen (http://www.umaine.edu/marine/people/profile/yong_chen) from the University of Maine would like to set up a student review group. The ICES Secretariat will get in touch with Yong Chen to set up the process.

5.2 RACMS process

Human and financial resources have been obtained from the ICES Council to implement phase 2 of the Report and Advisory Content Management System (RACMS).

RACMS will be linked to the new standard graph program as the first step in linking the data, reference points, assessment output, etc. to the advice through the content management system. In 2014, the Secretariat will also work to develop specifications for the EG reports so that this text and data (both sources, figures and tables) will be linked to RACMS' outputs (e.g. popular advice, advice 2 pager). To accomplish these 2014 implementation objectives, the Secretariat is increasing its human capitol, hardware and network capacities to have RACMS operational in time for the sandeel advice (February 2014). Anne Cooper is the staff contact for RACMS—please share ideas, comments, and concerns with her.

ACOM agreed that an advisory group (John Simmonds, Niels Hintzen, Rob Scott, Coby Needle, Mark Payne, and Einar Hjorleifsson) will work with Anne Cooper on developing the system in relation to dynamic reporting. Any interested ACOM member is welcome to join. It is important that the system makes it easy to verify that agreed changes have been implemented and/or easily identify changes from one version to the next. The plan is to implement this system in as many groups as possible already in 2014. ACOM will review progress in 2014 and decide for which EG the system will be implemented when.

5.3 Special requests – environment

The number of non-recurrent environmental/ecosystem requests is increasing and it is difficult to find human resources for the processes to answer these non-recurrent requests. ACOM members were asked to be more active in helping finding human resources for these processes even if those are not in their immediate institutes. The planned ICES Resource Coordination Tool, soon to get under development, should help in this regard.

The chair underlined the responsibility of ACOM to announce and find experts to workshops, expert groups and advice drafting groups. The recent examples of ADGWIDE and ADGHARP with 20 and 4 participants respectively illustrate the situation which must be taken seriously.

The Commission mentioned that for the requests from DGENV and DGMARE there is just one contact point to ensure the coordination and avoid duplication. The last requests for this year will be submitted now.

5.4 Criteria to update the advice

EGs were asked to identify indicators and thresholds that could be used to decide if stock status has changed sufficiently to update the assessment and the advice. EGs response was that for category 1 stocks the best indicators are the results of the assessment. Some EGs, e.g. NWWG, are very positive about moving away from annual assessments, whereas stocks with much political attention and shared stocks will need more deliberative discussion.

ACOM agreed with this view and concluded that the assessments for category 1 stocks would be updated every year and that criteria need to be developed to identify among those for which the forecast and advice should be updated. ToRs for a workshop to develop those criteria and to be held before the ACOM meeting in December will be sent to ACOM during the first week of October. The criteria are expected to be linked the DLS hierarchy, whether the stock has a management plan or not, the status of the stock vs reference points etc.. While recipients of advice were generally positive to this approach which would minimize change from one year to the next, details will be important . For category 2 stocks, the criteria for category 1 stock may be used. For category 3+ stocks it is still necessary to identify indicators and thresholds.

Decision: The ACOM Chair will draft ToRs for a workshop to be held before the December ACOM meeting. ToRs will be available by the conclusion of the 2013 ASC.

5.5 Guidelines for chairs – decision making in benchmarks and expert groups

The draft guidelines were updated, but there remains some disagreement that could be resolved by amending the text. ACOM should be aware that some of the problems that were encountered recently did not have clear scientific pros and cons and views were not entirely disconnected from outcomes. This will be on the agenda for the December ACOM meeting.

5.6 Guidelines for benchmarks

Updated guidelines are available and were accepted with a minor update.

5.7 Reference points

ToRs for WKMSYREF2 (co-chaired by John Simmonds) were tabled and updated during the Consultations. The WK will be held in early January 2014. A report will not be produced for WKMSYREF but material from that meeting will be used for the report of WKMSYREF2. A co-chair remains to be found and analyses and having completed analyses presented at the WK would be very useful. The EC is asking for point estimates of reference points in single species advice but possibly for a range in a multispecies context. The science is not limited by those requirements and users of the advice may be presented with a range to choose from if there is no scientific basis to choose within the range.

Various additional issues were discussed:

- The aim is to "close the book" and make sure the single species approach is consistent and sound, realzing that it is to some extent in conflict with the multispecies approach.
- Software from J.Simmonds were not available last year and it was agreed to find out what the status is now.
- The tighter we can make the ToRs for WKMSYREF2, the more we can expect results to be delivered from the Group.

5.8 Mixed fisheries advice / Multispecies advice

ACOM Maurice Clarke asked ACOM members to let him know if the roadmap prepared last December needed to be modified. It seems that the roadmap is still valid. In the discussions with EG chairs, progress seems to be according to plan for the Celtic Sea(s) and for Iberian waters. The roadmap will be finalized at the ACOM December meeting and incorporated in the Advice Plan. As indicated elsewhere, a Dialogue meeting on MSY in mixed fisheries and multispecies contexts will be discussed at the meeting of the ICES Council in October. ACOM is receiving mixed messages from the European Commission on multispecies advice: it is asked for in the MoU, but EC officials act surprised when such advice is presented at meetings with stakeholders.

The EC would like to discuss the Roadmap paper with ICES in October 2013. Political commitment is there. It should be linked to the CFP 2013, the MSY goal (for all stocks including data limited stocks, in 2015 or at least 2020) and the discard ban. The mixed and multispecies approach is the best to give MSY advice. Mixedfisheries under the umbrella of the multispecies context, is the ideal.

It was mentioned that ICES says: "... it is not possible to have MSY for all strocks simultaneously..." , and still this is the EC goal.

5.9 PGCCDBS new set-up

The workload of the Planning Group on Commercial Catch Discards and Biological Sampling is becoming excessive and PGCCDBS is suggesting to create two WGs for its two main streams of business: 1) sampling commercial catches and 2) standardizing the analysis of biological parameters. ACOM agreed that the proposal was sensible and understood that PGCCDBS itself may be replaced in the future and that this was linked to the future DC-MAP. PGCCDBS and the two new groups are expected to become co-owned by the ACOM/SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Integrated Observation and Monitoring.

5.10 Advice for fisheries where a discard ban is in force

The EU is changing its fisheries management to a landing obligation. Advice on catches instead on landings is welcomed by clients. **EU** will come back on this in the MoU where they will ask for data on a stock by stock basis.

ICES (secretariat) need to pick up on data needs and guidance for working groups on how to deal with a discard ban in advice drafting (Generic ToRs).

ICES cooperates with STECF to work on the implementation and consequences for assessments. Between ICES and STECF there is a difference in discard calculations in databases. A comparison was looked at in a meeting in September, mainly raising issues on a fine scale cause differences. As more estimates are becoming available, the difference between discard ratio estimates becomes more harmonized.

There is a need for guidelines for survival experiments to demonstrate if a stock has 'high survival' for derogation measures.

It would be useful to have the results of the guidelines to conduct survival studies be available as early as possible, if possible in time to be implemented during the 2014 field season. ACOM members should inform their administration that there is only one year left to do baseline studies on the state of the ecosystem before the implementation of a landings obligation/discard ban. This does not only concern sea birds, only 15–20% of discards are eaten by sea birds, the rest falls to the bottom. The WG on seabird ecology has a ToR to study this and the issue could also be considered by WGECO.

ICES should look into forecasting issues on a stock by stock basis. **WGFTFB will be asked** to come up with preparation and a WK is set up for this.

ToRs for a workshop under the ICES - FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB) are being developed in cooperation with SCICOM. ACOM vice-chairs John Simmonds and Mark Tasker are following progress on this.

Base-line studies on the current environmental situation that could serve as a basis for trends in status can be used to study the effects of a discard ban. → Seabird ecology group has a ToR to consider this, WGECO should look at this too.

ACOM to find a group to study the effects of protein discarded but not eaten by seabirds is least studied, ECO, fish ecology, any other group? Human contact with the results of a discard ban (birds foraging elsewhere for instance) will be important to consider too.

5.11 Recommendations for ACOM

Recommendations from EGs concerning specific countries have been sent to these countries. Feedback is requested for November 15 so that replies can be compiled for consideration at the ACOM December meeting. The chair will examine the other EG recommendations addressed to ACOM and suggest a process to deal with them early in October for consideration at the ACOM December meeting.

5.12 Criteria for use of data

Draft guidelines on criteria to decide if data collected in cooperation with or by users of the advice was tabled. The intent is to avoid having such data presented or withdrawn based on the outcome of the inclusion as was experience early in 2013: a fishing sector offered survey data they had funded but withdrew the information when

the inclusion resulted in a lower TAC. Care should be taken that the guidelines/criteria should not prevent us from using some of the data that we are currently using e.g. unallocated landing. The criteria should be discussed with data collection people. These criteria/guidelines will be finalized at the ACOM meeting in December. The document should also incorporate information on spatial information. Within the current DCF, there is no free access to all vessels and the word "unbiased" access", might not be the best, due to high refusal rates to observers on-board. This happens in spite of the access to all vessels is ensured in the Regulation (i.e. DCF).

6 Workplan

6.1 Workplan for Advice requested for delivery in 2014 – Expert Groups (including multispecies ToRs suggested for assessment WG), Review, Advice drafting and Adoption of Advice

ACOM was asked to carefully review the draft Resolutions. The ICES Council used to spent considerable time reviewing them while ACOM, under the current leadership, may not have paid enough attention in the recent past. ACOM was asked to pay particular attention to the generic Terms of References and to the ToRs for new groups.

The length of the generic ToRs was discussed, some members thought that these are too detailed while other saw this as being very useful, especially for new chairs.

What ICES has heretofore called "Special Requests" have become so frequent that from now on they should be called "Non-recurrent Requests". The EC noted that the regionalization of the CFP may lead to a further increase of non-recurrent requests.

There was a request to move the meeting of WGEF earlier in the year so that advice could be provided at the end of June. The consensus was this was not desirable. The May - June period is already sufficiently busy, and there are data issues with having the WGEF meeting earlier than its current schedule.

As discussed under agenda item 5c, ACOM members have the responsibility of finding ecosystem/environmental experts. It is important to know what resources ACOM can count on. This should be covered in the Advisory Plan.

ACOM suggested that EGs should read minutes of ADG and RG and reply to them in their report.

ToRs for *WKFooWI - Workshop to develop recommendations for potentially useful Food Web Indicators* need to be tightened and sharpened.

ACOM Vice-chair John Simmonds will attempt to clarify with the main players when advice for capelin can/should be provided.

ACOM agreed that WKFLAT would not include the plaice stocks in 2014. Plaice stocks will be included together when additional genetic and distribution information is available.

WGNEW is expected to meet every year, but covering different species from one year to the next. WGNEW is expected to provide the final draft advice to ADGs.

7 Nomination and elections

7.1 ACOM Chair

Four scientists have been suggested as chair of ACOM: John Simmonds, Carmen Fernandes, Eskild Kirkegaard and John Casey. Eskild has accepted to be a candidate; John Simmonds, Carmen Fernandes and John Casey declined. During the Friday meeting, ACOM was asked if they wanted to have an election even if there was only one candidate: 11 people voted against having an election and 5 voted in favor of an election. An election was therefore not held.

ACOM agreed to adopt more formal rules for recommendation for election at the ACOM meeting in December. The basic rules would be that there is one vote per country, if every country is present, the majority is 11. The options on the ballot would be to vote for one of the candidate or vote blank. If on the first round one candidate has 11 votes, s/he wins. If not a second round is held. If after the second round one candidate has 11 votes or more s/he wins and so on. If no candidate obtains a majority, there are two options: 1) ACOM could report to the Council that it does not have a majority recommendation, or 2) the person with the most votes, even if is not a majority, is recommended to Council for election.

7.2 Election of Expert Group Chairs

The nominations made by the working groups for new EG chairs were approved (see Annex 4)

8 ACOM / SCICOM collaboration

The ACOM Chair gave a brief synopsis of the Saturday's ACOM/SCICOM Leadership meeting. Topics included: (1) how to implement the new Science and Advice Strategic plan; (2) ACOM needs to raise a co-chair for the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment group and for Observation and Monitoring group; to be discussed in December; (3) ecosystem benchmarking presentation made by Carmen; (4) WGOOPs presented and discussed; (5) how to improve interactions between SCICOM and ACOM; ACOM will need to be more clear on needs and SCICOM should make known what is available to ACOM.

9 Publications

ACOM endorsed the publication: *The collation of age-estimation protocols by the Planning Group for Commercial Catch and Discard Biological Sampling*, edited by Lotte Worsøe Clausen (Denmark) and Gráinne NíChonchúir (Ireland). The respective resolution was forward to the Publication Commiteee.to be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series.

10 AOB

10.1 WCSAM

Conference co-convener Mark Dickey-Collis presented the Strategic Imitative on Stock Assessments where data rich and data-limited stocks were examined. As part of this work, Carmen Fernandez presented a comparison of the results on the South-

ern horse mackerel assessments: the SISAM results are quite different from the ICES report. Given this, where do we go from here? There are differences in scaling, which are considered important, but the (robustness of) resulting advice from the assessment output is important as well.

Results of the SISAM exercise are available in a draft manuscript to the ICES Journal that is available on the SharePoint. Mark is looking for ICES leadership to further this initiative as maximizing yield requires a lot of scientific investment and strategic decision-making whereas a less risky approach requires less.

ACOM agreed that to investigate the reason for differences from the various models and try to validate that ICES' results are the best basis for advice. This could include self-test with simulated data and carrying out the short term predictions from all the models. This stock is of interest mostly to Spain and Portugal who have been informed that if they were able to carry this work before the next assessment, ICES would organize a review of the work in advance of the next assessment.

ACOM also agreed that self-tests of assessment methods with simulated data should become a standard part of the benchmarking process.

ACOM noted that standardizing assessment results to benchmarks would be a useful way of presenting results.

ACOM was reminded that the objective is to provide advice for fisheries management, not to do assessments for the purpose of doing assessments (high tech vs low tech approaches)

10.2 ICES web site – search facility

ACOM asked that the link to the latest ICES advice (http://www.ices.dk/community/advisory-process/Pages/Latest-advice.aspx) be brought higher on the home page e.g. with the EXPLORE US, NEWS AND EVENTS etc. so that it would be seen without having to scroll down the page.

ACOM asked that the search facility be improved and be made at least as good as the search facility on the previous web site. Google could be approached to see if it can be used as the internal search facility.

10.3 Dialogue meeting on MSY in mixed fisheries and multispecies contexts

Draft ToRs will be prepared for submission to the Council in October for Dialogue Meeting 14 on MSY in mixed fisheries and multispecies contexts to be organized for quarter 4 in 2014 in cooperation with FP projects MYFISH (http://www.myfishproject.eu/) and SOCIOEC (http://www.socioec.eu/).

11 Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 18h15 on Friday September 27, 2013

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2: Agenda

Overview

Meeting	Day	Date	Hours
ACOM leadership	Saturday	21/9	10–13. Room: Rima B
Joint ACOM Leadership/SCICOM Business Group meeting	Saturday	21/9	14:30–18. Room: Rima B
ACOM Consultations	Sunday	22/9	9–18. Room: Silfurberg A
PGCCDBS related meeting	Wednesday	25/9	10–12. Room: Rima B
ACOM leadership/EG chairs	Thursday	26/9	9–13. Room: Rima A and B
ACOM Consultations	Friday	27/9	17:30–20. Room: Rima A and B

Draft Agenda

Welcome

22) Adoption of agenda (Doc 1)
23) Review of membership (Doc 2a and 2b) (for information)
24) Advisory Services Scheduled for the remainder of 2013 (including ecosystem overviews) (Doc 3 – extract of 2013 workplan)
25) ICES strategic plan
    a. Bureau Working Group on ICES Strategy (for information) (Doc 4.a)
    b. ACOM strategic plan (Doc 4.b)

26) Advisory process / review of 2013 and further development in 2014 (for discussion)
    a. Audit process (Friday meeting) (Doc 5.a)
    b. RACMS process (Doc 5.b)
    c. Special requests – environment (Doc 5.c)
    d. Move to multiannual fisheries advice (Docs 5.d.1 and 5.d.2)
    e. Guidelines for chairs - decision making in benchmarks and expert groups (Doc 5.e, Section 2.5.2 and 2.5.3)
    f. Guidelines for benchmarks (Doc 5.f)
    g. Reference points (Doc 5.g)
    h. Mixed fisheries advice (Doc 5.h/i)
    i. Multispecies advice (Doc 5.h/i)
    j. PGCCDBS new set-up (Friday meeting)(Doc 5.j)
    k. Advice for fisheries where a discard ban/landing obligations is in force (Doc 5.k)
    l. Recommendations for ACOM (Friday meeting) (Doc 5.l)
    m. Criteria for use of data (Doc 5.m)
27) Workplan 2014 (for discussion)
    a. Workplan for Advice requested for delivery in 2014 – Expert Groups (including multispecies ToRs suggested for assessment WG), Review, Advice drafting and Adoption of Advice. (Docs 2014 Workplan, request list, 2014 ACOM resolutions, Benchmarks 2014 and looking forward to 2015 (Doc 6a))
28) Nomination and elections (Nomination to ACOM Sunday, for Nomination to Council (ACOM chair) or decision (Expert Group chairs) Friday
    a) ACOM Chair;
    b) Election of Expert Group Chairs (Doc 7.b)
29) ACOM / SCICOM collaboration
30) Publications (Doc 9)
31) AOB
    a) WCSAM
    b) ICES web-site search facilities
32) Closing (Friday)

Annex 3: List of Documents

No.	Title
1.	Draft agenda
2.a	ACOM members
2.b	List of participants
3.	2013 autumn advisory processes
4.a	Draft ICES Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018
4.b	Draft Advice Plan 2014-2018 version 1.2 August 2013
5.a	Audit experience 2013
5.b	ICES Report and Advisory Content Management System (RACMS) Phase 2 (*extract of Bureau Doc 1801.4*)
5.c	Special requests – environment
5.d.1	Expert groups reactions to ACOM suggestions to reduce workload – generic ToR d)
5.e	Guidelines for ICES Expert Groups
5.f	Guidelines for Benchmark and Data Compilation Workshops
5.g	WKMSYREF2 - Workshop to consider reference points for all stocks – ToRs
5.h/i	ICES Strategy for Mixed Fisheries (Technical Interactions) and Multi-species (Biological Interactions) advice
5.j	Discussion paper on the formation of a new ICES Working Group on Commercial Catches (WGCATCH) and Working Group on Biological Parameters (WGBIOP) and implications for PGCCDBS
5.k	Landing Obligation / Discard Ban
5.l	Expert Group Recommendations to ACOM
5.m	Proposal for criteria for use of data in ICES advisory work
6.a	Stocks proposed for benchmarks in 2015
7.b	ACOM Working Group Chairs (Status 2013)
9.	Draft Resolution for an ICES Internal Publication (Category 1)
10.	Some results from the ICES Strategic Initiative on Stock Assessment Methods

Annex 4: Nominated Expert Group chairs

Group	Present Chair	Proposed Chair
WGDEC	Francis Neat, UK	Neil Golding, UK
WGECO	Dave Reid, Ireland	Anna Rindorf, DK
WGEF	Ivone Figueiredo, Portugal	Ivone Figueiredo, Portugal and Jim Ellis, UK
WGITMO	Henn Ojaveer, Estonia	Henn Ojaveer, Estonia
WGHANSA	Andres Uriarte, Spain	Lionel Pawlowski, France
WGNSSK	Clara Ulrich, Denmark	Alexander Kempf, Germany
WGDEEP	Tom Blasdale, UK	Pascal Lorance, France and Gudmundur Thordarson, Iceland
WGCSE	Joel Vigneau, France and Helen Dobby, UK	Helen Dobby, UK and Colm Lordan, Ireland
WGWIDE	David Miller, NL	Katja Enberg, Norway