

SCICOM SEPTEMBER 2013

ICES SCIENCE COMMITTEE

ICES CM 2013/SCICOM:02

REF. COUNCIL

**Minutes from the
Meeting of the
ICES Science Committee
(SCICOM)**

22 and 28 September 2013



ICES

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

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Recommended format for purposes of citation:

ICES. 2013. Minutes from the Meeting of the ICES Science Committee (SCICOM), 22 and 28 September 2013. ICES CM 2011/SCICOM:02. 47 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8326>

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1 Opening

The SCICOM Chair welcomed participants, and asked for a tour de table to introduce attendees, which included guests and country alternates (see Annex 1).

Apologies were received from Antanas Kontautas (Lithuania), Steve Cadrin (USA), Niall O'Maoileidigh (Ireland), and Mats Svensson (Sweden).

A special welcome was extended to Tom Therriault, PICES Science Board Chair, and Laura Richards, PICES Chairman.

2 Adoption of agenda and timetable

The agenda was accepted without comments and no new items were brought up for inclusion.

3 Follow up on decisions taken at the meetings of SCICOM (March 2013)

Most actions agreed at the last meeting of SCICOM (March 2013) were completed, with one exception. The following open items were raised:

- The question of whether French and English are both languages to be used in ICES publications had been brought to the July Bureau Agenda; but there have been more urgent matters to deal with.
- This year all contributors to the ASC were invited to submit a 2-page "Extended Abstract", and most responded positively. There had been some confusion as to whether the submission of full CM papers was acceptable. The SCICOM Chair confirmed that they are still allowed as for some countries this is a relevant publication output, but not encouraged. An 'Extended Abstract' is what we expect from all oral presentations.
- A subgroup was formed in March to work to produce a brief document for Bureau by correspondence explaining the position of SCICOM on JPI Oceans and on Horizon 2020. The SCICOM Chair has informed Bureau on these matters.
- The SCICOM Chair has prepared a mapping document of EGs against the structure emerging from the new Science Plan for discussion at this meeting (agenda item 13.1.1)
- The question of who should be the next ACOM Co-Chair of SIBAS was raised.

4 General arrangements for Annual Science Conference 2013

4.1 Preview of SCICOM Open Plenary sessions at ASC 2013 (Monday am/ Wednesday pm)

The SSG/SI Chairs presented the agendas and plans for the four SCICOM Open Sessions to be held in parallel on Monday, 23 September, after the Open Plenary "The Challenge of Integrated Ecosystem Understanding: an introduction to the new ICES Science Plan, and a selection of recent ICES science highlights". Three sessions were hosted by SCICOM Steering Groups:

- ICES Science on Regional Sea Programmes
- Pressures and impacts on marine ecosystems: a new Science Plan (2014–2018) program replacing SSGSUE and SSGHIE
- ICES Science on Ecosystem Functions

and one session was hosted by a strategic initiative:

- ICES/PICES Strategic Initiative on Climate Change

SSGESST Chairs met before the ASC this year and the SSGESST Chair, Nils Olav Handegard, reported that the meeting had been very useful in improving the information flow between EGs. For next year it would be nice to have some more time for SSG Chairs to work with their EGs.

Action: SCICOM to discuss the format of SSG ASC and WebEx meetings in light of the new Science Plan at the March 2014 meeting.

Linkage between IEA and contaminants groups

WKLINCON had to be postponed this year. The member of WGBEC felt that there was poor engagement in the work by the IEA groups.

Action: Dave Reid to investigate greater involvement in the WKLINCON process by the IEA group members.

Monday morning open sessions

The SCICOM open sessions are scheduled before the official opening of the ASC, and thus not part of the official programme. Concern was raised that they may be overlooked by ASC participants.

This year the Monday open sessions had been announced via the ICES news page clearly stating that they were open to all ASC registered participants, and the registration desk had been instructed to remind all participants, and also to announce the sessions via hand-outs and monitors.

It was suggested that the chairs of the open sessions could attract better attendance by circulating invitations before the meeting.

Tom Therriault, PICES Science Board Chair, said that PICES has a well-established programme of workshops 1-2 days before the official opening of their ASC, but these meetings are listed as part of the ASC to secure a good attendance. This makes the official meeting longer than some would like to see: there is a trade-off between length of meeting and attendance.

Action: Next year's ASC Group (to be appointed in March 2014) will be asked for recommendations on how to improve the visibility of the open sessions in the programme.

4.2 Draft Resolutions and EG Recommendations addressed to SCICOM (preview/planning)

The Secretariat informed SSG chairs of the process and location of drafts resolutions for their business at the associated meetings during the ASC. EG recommendations to SCICOM were also considered and allocated to the appropriate EG for response.

4.3 ASC Award Selection Committee Process (Best Paper, Poster, Early Career Scientist Awards) – Process

In March 2013 SCICOM appointed an Award Selection group for the 2013 ASC: Jörn Schmidt (Chair), Niall O'Maoileidigh, Jan Jaap Poos, Georgs Kornilovs, Tom Noji, Nils Olav Handegard, and Astthor Gislason (alternate ACOM member from Iceland).

This group was tasked to select the winners of the 2013 ASC Merit Awards (Best Presentation, Best Poster and three Early Career Scientist Awards). The Secretariat had provided an online nomination tool for theme session conveners to nominate award candidates, as well as a list of candidates eligible to receive the Early Career Scientist Awards. The ASC Award Selection Committee had a vacancy which was filled by Myron Peck, replacing Niall O'Maoileidigh, who was not able to attend the ASC this year. The SCICOM Chair reminded the group that it is important to consider speakers from talks on Friday, even though the closing ceremony follows these sessions.

4.4 Awards Committee – SCICOM representatives

A new member of the Awards Committee was appointed by SCICOM to replace Olafur Astthorsson, who would be rotating off the Awards Committee by the end of the year.

Decision: Daniel Duplisea volunteered to be a new SCICOM member on the Awards Committee.

Action: HoS urged SCICOM members to take a more active role in identifying potential candidates and encouraging nominations from colleagues for the two prestigious awards, the Prix d'Excellence and the Outstanding Achievement Award, to be conferred in 2014.

4.5 Chaperoning keynote speakers

SCICOM representatives were appointed as hosts and contact persons to liaise with the keynote speakers and to invite them to lunch or dinner. The expenses incurred would be covered via the ASC income.

Tom Noji was appointed as host for Richard Feely. For Ragnar Arnason, based in Iceland, and Doug Butterworth, who is already familiar very with/to the ICES community, no hosts were appointed.

5 Preview of Theme Session proposals for ASC 2014

In March 2013 SCICOM appointed a subgroup to propose the ASC 2013 Theme Session programme, based on the rating provided by SCICOM members and the need to provide a balanced programme. The group would be chaired by the SCICOM host of the 2013 ASC (Begoña Santos), and included Peter Wright, Daniel Duplisea, Fatima Borges, Graham Pierce, and Yvonne Walther.

Prior to the meeting the ACOM leadership had asked SCICOM to consider particular topics for the programme. It was suggested to ACOM should be involved in the ASC group.

Action: SCICOM to consider whether to include an ACOM member to the theme sessions subgroup for 2014.

The Secretariat had received 39 theme session proposals prior to the ASC and one during the ASC. A maximum of 18 sessions could be accommodated. SCICOM was reminded that theme Session proposals developed during the ASC would be considered as long as they are submitted before Wednesday noon. They will be looked at by the subgroup but not sent to SCICOM for ratings.

For future years it was suggested to map the theme session proposals according to the Science Plan topics to give SCICOM members a better overview before ranking proposals. Grouping them together would make the process more consistent.

Action: The call for theme sessions proposals in 2014 should include a request for submitters to group their theme sessions according to the new Science Plan.

6 Science Implementation I

6.1 ICES Training Group (ITG)

Olafur Astthorsson on behalf of the Training Group presented an update for SCICOM, including an overview of proposed courses for 2014. He emphasised that the proposals are at an early stage of preparation and that the Training Programme only has capacity for 10 courses per year, which means there is only room for 2–3 new courses on top of the regular programme.

Overview of proposed training courses for 2014

The following comments were made to the list of training courses proposed for 2014:

Introduction to General Population Dynamics Models – It was not made clear how this course differs from the introduction to stock assessment course. The number of trainers seems excessive (4).

Operational Oceanography: Synoptic Views of the Sea – Given the breadth of the topic it was noted that the ICES community may not be the right target for this course.

Introduction to Bayesian Inference in Fishery Science – It was clarified that this course is to introduce a new assessment tool set up the ECOKNOWS consortium: A Bayesian alternative to the Stock Assessment toolbox.

Bycatch: Problems and solutions – What does this course cover? The description needs to be clear to understand the boundary conditions of the course.

SCICOM encouraged the Training Group to consider the above comments when designing future training programmes. Re-running of courses in 2014

The Training Group needs to decide when the conditions are right to repeat or to stop offering a particular course. It can often be difficult to decide in advance if there will be enough participation, and a critical mass is needed for all courses (new or rerun) to make them financially viable. Few registrations may indicate that the market is saturated, but it may be that better announcements at the right time make a difference. In response to questions, Olafur indicated that all participants are asked to provide feedback after the courses, and that the Training Group tries to learn from the comments.

How close is the Training Programme to being cost-neutral?

SCICOM was informed that the courses run in 2013 under the new business model have given a positive return. The training programme is considered cost neutral,

although this does not take into account Secretariat staff costs. The SCICOM Chair said that the spreadsheet should not include the cost of secretarial support, as it was never intended that the training programme would fund the Secretariat. Secretariat support to all ICES activities is part of the infrastructure funded through contributions. SCICOM was comfortable that the fee increases had made the programme self-sufficient.

E-learning

In reply to a request from SCICOM the Training Group had explored the options for e-learning. Several trials had been tested for video-recorded lectures, but it was concluded that investments would be needed if e-learning becomes a priority. In addition, not all instructors are willing to participate in video recording because of copyright concerns.

Technologies for e-learning are rapidly developing, and ICES can learn from developments in universities. The objective of the ICES Training Programme is not to develop new training techniques, but as technologies become more effective and affordable, they should be considered. The advantages of live, face to face courses should be considered. The Training Group also felt that course discussions, group interactions and group assignments are important elements of the programme that would be lost in a e-learning format. One of the secondary outcomes of the training programme is the opportunity for students with similar interests to meet and form relationships that can be important for their career and for ICES.

Comments from SCICOM members:

- ICES could consider linking up to the IODE programme infrastructure. They would probably be willing to cooperate with ICES.
- Face-to-face courses are good, but for some aspects e-learning can be better. Appreciating the pros and cons of both the Training Group was asked to consider, for each of the proposed courses, whether they could be run effectively as online/remote courses
- It would be good to get more courses online, and perhaps the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) could be a channel; it may involve a substantial amount of work and additional expenses, but in the longer term costs would be reduced.
- Offering courses at other venues than Copenhagen could be explored, i.e. in Southern Europe where costs are lower. One ICES training course was held in Vigo in 2013 and it worked quite well.

Decision/Action: SCICOM noted that there are advantages and also challenges associated with e-learning, but nevertheless the Training Group should continue to explore the opportunities of e-learning/e-training as a new format within the Training Programme.

Decision/Action: SCICOM asked the Training Group to continue updating the training budget, but requested that the Secretariat cost be removed from the spreadsheet to facilitate the assessment of cost-neutrality.

Decision/Action The Training Group and SCICOM thanked Søren Anker Petersen for his hard work and strong dedication to making the Training Programme a success since it was established in 2009. SCICOM welcomed Anna Davies, who will now support the Training Group.

6.2 ICES Data and Information Group (DIG)

DIG Co-Chair, Ingeborg de Boois, gave a short update from DIG. The annual DIG meeting was held in Copenhagen from 22–24 May 2013. The main items discussed at the meeting were

- the Data Plan,
- The Data and Information Strategic Plan,
- Data Citation, and
- Collaborations between DIG (as a SCICOM operational group) and the ICES Data Centre.

Data citation is a complex and rapidly evolving topic. DIG in cooperation with PUBCOM is preparing a document to inform and keep SCICOM updated on the developments in data citation. The first version is almost ready and it will be a living document.

The ICES Data Centre provided an overview of newly developed tools. DIG is very positive about these developments. SSG Chairs should make the EG Chairs aware of these developments.

The Head of Data Centre encouraged SCICOM members to take part in the new Data Plan.

Action: For the new data sets and portals, we are looking forward to including more ichthyoplankton data from a larger collection of eggs surveys. SSGESST Chair offered to be the liaison to SSGESST EGs.

Comments/questions

- What are the links between the ICES Data Centre and the World Data Centres? WDC's have now been replaced by the ICSU World Data Systems (WDS). ICES participates in the IODE activities related to these, and at the 22nd IODE assembly the concept of Associated Data Units (ADU) was launched. The ICES Data Centre fulfils the criteria for membership, and this is in the pipeline.
- Ongoing efforts such as the WKDATR workshop in January 2013 have highlighted significant issues with DATRAS data that need to be addressed. SCICOM appreciates that this is a substantial maintenance job that will take time with current resources, and the survey groups need to be aware of this.
- What is the status of VMS data? Are we any closer to getting VMS provided twice a year? We are slowly getting there, but it is still an uphill battle. For example, WGSFD met two weeks ago, but some important countries failed to attend and submit data, and this is a problem. OSPAR and HELCOM are expecting this information from us. Despite problems we are about to launch more data calls with HELCOM and OSPAR.

Although raised under DIG it is not a DIG issue and should be considered further before action is taken. IROC (ICES review of ocean climate) and its web-based interactive tool

The tool to interact with the data on the IROC report is ready, but has not yet been released as we are waiting for WGOH to finalise the publication of IROC. The data underpins the report and should be made available after the report is released. The

next stage is to maximise its use with end-users. Advice and support from SCICOM would probably help.

The SCICOM Chair reiterated that we don't make the best use of volume of the vast chemical/oceanographic information that we have in our datasets. The web tool would help, especially if end-users learn to use it. Institutions providing information to IROC will value ICES efforts to fully exploit the data in innovative ways. It is the biggest ICES database and the least utilised.

DIG Chairmanship

SCICOM was informed that the terms of both DIG Chairs will end this year. DIG members proposed that Ingeborg de Boois should continue as Chair of DIG for a second term.

Decision: SCICOM supported the reappointment of Ingeborg de Boois unanimously, and expressed its appreciation to Helge Sagen, who co-Chaired the group for a number of years.

7 Science Implementation II

7.1 Implementation of Multi-annual ToR

With reference to Document 13, the SCICOM Chair presented the Multi-annual Expert Group revolving list, which had been prepared by the Secretariat. The list provides an overview of the deliverables of all the multi-annual groups, of use by SSG Chairs in managing their portfolio. This document will develop into a web-based database in the future.

Prior to the meeting SSG Chairs had been asked to track the deliverables from each group, and the SCICOM Chair reminded the committee that there is an obligation for SCICOM (via SSG Chairs) to monitor the EG deliveries. This monitoring helps EGs stay on track, supports their work in times of limited resources, and would help deciding what groups need to benefit from a new term after their current term expires. Some felt that the online tick-off box system would introduce an added layer of bureaucracy and suggested that it should be possible to handle this task offline. The most important role of the SSG Chair should be to encourage the implementation of the Science Plan. The SCICOM Chair clarified that the SSG Chair should not take on the role of quality control, but just monitor if the deliverables have actually been produced.

Action: The Secretariat was asked to replace "Year 1, 2 and 3" by date and year to enable easier tracking.

Action: SSG Chairs to have conversation on how the tool should work, including possibility of EG Chairs to have access to the tool.

SSG role and meeting format

In 2009 the old committee model was replaced by the SSG model with EG Chair membership but without national representation. EG reporting is no longer taking place at the ASC and SSGs are missing a forum where there is an exchange with the EGs. One option would be to add an extra ASC day for SSGs to interact, manage groups and get value adding. Better coordination will be needed between SSGs in the context of the new Science Plan.

Action: SCICOM will allocate time at its spring meeting to look at how the SSGs will operate in the future under the new demands of the Science Plan (including discussion on membership and regular WebEx meetings).

Proposal for Science WG Chairs meeting

It was suggested that a WG Chairs meeting would be helpful to plan multi-annual ToRs every three years, and to launch the new Science Plan with clear understanding of the roles of EGs and SSGs.

For some EG Chairs a meeting linked to ASC would make it easier to obtain funding. Alternatively, a stand-alone meeting could be held back to back with the spring SCICOM meeting.

Action: The SCICOM Chair thanked the committee for these useful views, and asked the incoming SCICOM Chair to add an item on how the SSGs will operate in the future to the midterm SCICOM agenda. This discussion may include a back to back meeting with EG chairs, as part of the implementation of the new Science Plan.

7.2 Evaluation of EGs under multi-annual ToR

By the end of their three-year term working groups are expected to close down unless they request an extension of work under new ToRs. The first three-year term to expire is for Working Group on Operational Oceanographic Products for Fisheries and the Environment (WGOOFE) in 2014 and they will be asked to complete the self-evaluation form. A number of groups will move into this process in 2015.

Action: SCICOM is expected to finalise the processes to request and assess EG extensions at the spring meeting. The Secretariat will prepare and present the draft online evaluation tool.

7.3 Delivery of operational oceanographic products to IEA process

The ICES Ecosystem Professional Officer, Mark Dickey-Collas, presented Doc 15 'Supply of Operational Oceanographic Products to facilitate Integrated Ecosystem Advice from ICES', which outlines a call for oceanographic products from data producers in support of ICES work. He welcomed views from SCICOM on how to further shape this document.

The operational oceanographic product (OOP) process is expected to feed the ICES Ecosystem Overview fact sheets, among other uses. The intention is to provide continuous information on oceanographic trends. The process will be iterative and should facilitate a dialogue between the producers and users of oceanographic products.

Various comments were given by SCICOM:

- The EU has invested money into provision of oceanographic products and a number of oceanographic data producers need to demonstrate the value of their products.
- Operational products are already accessible in databases, so the question is how to collaborate with all the relevant data centers in the provision of services that may be duplicated.
- The format of the products needs to be worked out in cooperation with the ICES Data Centre and our expert groups. Providing a clear and visible des-

tion for a product (e.g. the ecosystem overviews) make the likely success of the call greater.

- It is important to clearly state what is meant by a call for OOPs. More specificity is needed. Greater detail is also needed on how will ICES select providers that may supply similar data. Will providers advertise themselves as official suppliers to ICES?
- The Data Centre gave input to the document and appreciates the potential danger for overlapping services, but hope this will be managed through the process.

Mark Dickey-Collas responded that the original plan was for a 3-year contract agreement with suppliers, and reiterated that a number of groups already generate products that are directly related and suitable for this call, e.g. MyOceans, MERCATOR, who have supported our initiative. Resourcing issues has been discussed with the ICES Data Centre.

Action: The SCICOM Chair requested that four items be addressed in the document: 1) Clarify that the information requested is particularly aimed at supporting ecosystem overviews and providing context to the ICES advice, rather than specifically linked to integrated ecosystem assessments and advice. If this is made clear to the suppliers their product would be more targeted.

2) Clarify the meaning of “operational”, in terms of what processes will be instigated to manage and use the data,

3) Clarify what are the consequences for the data providers in terms of intellectual property?

4) Clarify whether EGs will/ should play a filtering role of providers (e.g. if the WGZE already collates zooplankton data, do they filter what suppliers provide through the OOPS calls? In relation to this, can WG be providers of data, and if so, do we need SLAs with them?

Action: Nils Olav Handegard, Dave Reid, Myron Peck volunteered to take part in the group (already consisting of Mark Dickey-Collas, Glenn Nolan, the Chairs of WGOH, WGOOFE, and ICES Data Centre).

SCICOM recommended postponing the launch of this document till spring (instead of January)

Action: Mark Dickey-Collas to consider the above and provide a new draft for SCICOM to consider in spring 2014.

8 ICES Strategy Review

The SCICOM Chair introduced Doc 16, the Draft ICES Strategic Plan 2014–2018. He pointed out that the most important features are a) a **new ICES structure** which has lifted the ICES Data Centre to become the fourth leg of the stool, b) new **ICES Vision and Mission**, which will be further discussed in Council, c) the **four pillars**, which include one or more goals with associated activities for each leg of the stool. He noted that the science pillar, named “**Building a foundation of Science**” has goals and supporting activities which will be implemented through the Science plan. The drafting group has aimed to link the Science Plan and the Strategy so there is a good consistency between them.

The following comments were made by SCICOM members:

- The Strategy does illustrate well the work of the four pillars, but not so much how the different pillars will work together.
- The use of the word sustainability was discussed – it is generally overused in the literature and has lost some of its meaning.
- A joint implementation strategy may be needed. Are the Science, Advisory, Data plans the implementation elements of the strategy? Because the Science Plan is not a full science implementation document. It was acknowledged that each “Plan” was written for specific purposes and not mirroring each other.
- The strategy is not mentioned until Chapter 6; it should be mentioned at the beginning of the report.
- The same colour coding of the four pillars should be reflected throughout the document.
- A strategy should invite us into ICES and inspire us. The strategy clarifies who does what, but the language is not necessarily sufficient to inspire and motivate.

Aquaculture science developments

Ole Torrissen (visiting scientist at ICES from IMR, Norway) was asked to provide a presentation on aquaculture in the context of ICES. Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing industries globally and the implications are significant. If ICES wants aquaculture to become a new focus area it is essential that the right niche for ICES is identified.

SCICOM welcomed Ole and hoped that his presence at the Secretariat will stimulate a stronger aquaculture community within ICES. Ensuring that aquaculture events in ICES are well attended is an important point - managers need to be convinced that ICES adds value to other aquaculture organisations and processes.

ICES could, for example, coordinate the work on improving the science behind aquaculture. But should ICES be doing science to improve the industry?

SCICOM also stressed that Ole Torrissen must establish good links with all aquaculture expert groups and in particular WGAQUA, and to continue the work as outlined in the 2012 Aquaculture Discussion Paper.

SCICOM thanked for the presentation and looks forward to an update towards the end of his secondment.

9 Update on SCICOM activities I

9.1 Cooperation with other organisations (HoS)

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

HoS informed the meeting that ICES contacted IPBES after the SCICOM spring meeting decision to offer our collaborative services in the field of marine biodiversity. IPBES welcomed the approach and the SIBAS co-Chair was invited to participate in a pan-European stakeholder consultation meeting of IPBES. At the meeting the SIBAS Co-Chair requested that marine issues should be incorporated into IPBES work at the same level as terrestrial. The SIBAS co-Chair is planning to attend the IPBES-2 meeting in December 2013.

Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) and Large Marine Ecosystems (LME network)

HoS informed the meeting that GEF and LME have developed a Project Identification form (PIF) to develop a major GEF-funded project entitled “Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and Their Coasts through enhanced sharing and application of LME/ICM/MPA knowledge and information tools”. The proposal is for a total grant volume of USD 2.5 m, with an expected USD 15 m of in-kind contribution from project partners. NOAA, IOC/UNESCO and ICES are the main players in the project, other partners are UNDP, IUCN and Conservation International.

ICES is involved in the capacity building and training component and a final proposal will be built over the next year. For ICES to get a share of the funding we should provide in-kind contributions, including IEA work and work by the ecosystem survey working groups, to match USD 4.1 m. Less encouraging is that despite excellent research, network and cooperation opportunities, the latest WGLMEBP meeting saw poor participation from ICES scientists. The ICES secretariat will work with the Chairs of WGLMEBP on the 2014-2016 work programme to make it more attractive to ICES scientists. The ICES work on IEA is congruent with new directions in the LME framework and was much welcomed.

Comments and questions:

- SCICOM expressed caution with using survey groups as matching funds from ICES given that some of their work is already partly (50%) funded by the DCF. We are running the risk of selling the product to two different buyers. The ICES secretariat is aware of the problem; we will only need 11 months of IEA and survey group activities over three years to fit our needs, so we are on the safe side.
- What could ICES contribute to the LME project in terms of IEAs? The plan is to offer “best practice” standards. The idea is to identify the unique points and export these to the training courses for the GEF Best Practice communities.
- Good to see this is moving forward. LMEs are interested in the Training Programme, but also to have some kind of internship programme, such as hands-on training on board ICES research vessels and taking an active part in our daily work.

Decision: SCICOM values the cooperation with GEF/LME, but still has to understand better how this will work. SCICOM will monitor developments in coming year.

ICES and the Arctic - HoS updated the meeting on recent activities related to the Arctic, including attendance at the 2113 Arctic Science Week in Krakow, Poland, and cooperation with SAON and AMAP. SCICOM appreciated the significant amount of work done by the Secretariat in enhancing its scientific activities in Arctic waters as a result of the strategic decision in Council.

AFWG recommendations – on request of Council the group made a number of recommendations for future stock assessments and ecosystem surveys in the Arctic which were all noted by the Bureau. Norway will invite to the first concrete science activities in the Arctic in spring 2014:

ICES survey planning group for the Polar Ocean. In July 2013 Norway was invited by the Bureau to take the lead with regard to the establishment of a survey planning group for the Polar Ocean. A workshop planned for spring 2014 will be established to

review on-going survey activities, identify gaps and propose a roadmap. AMAP will be invited to participate in the group.

European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) - SCICOM was informed about the European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC). EMBRC will become a distributed research infrastructure of state-of-the-art research and training facilities at leading marine research stations across Europe. Funded through European access agreements, EMBRC will provide access to facilities to SMEs, Academia and Industry from member countries that sign to the EMBRC agreement. ICES is on the EMBRC Reference User Group.

JPI Healthy Oceans - The SCICOM Chair updated SCICOM on JPI Oceans activities, especially the pilot actions proposed on a) environmental effects of microplastic pollution, b) ecological aspects of deep-sea mining and c) multi-use of infrastructure for monitoring the North Sea. The latter has been contested because of overlaps with other initiatives outside JPI. The Chair reminded the committee that JPI Oceans is funded through member countries on the basis of variable geometry.

ERANET/COFASP - The committee was made aware of a new call relating to fisheries aquaculture which is important to some ICES working groups.

Action: an update from ERANET/COFASP should be included in the SCICOM spring agenda.

9.2 CIESM

CIESM has invited ICES to attend the 2013 CIESM Congress, the SCICOM Chair and General Secretary plan to attend on behalf of ICES and will deliver a presentation.

9.3 UN Assessment of Assessments – brief update

This year's meeting for the regular process brought forward question of how inter-governmental organisations can help the process. Since ICES has experience in training and capacity building this might be brought in, but it was made clear that it will depend on the funding. The pool of experts now consists of 480 experts. The nomination process is quite slow and approx. 3-4000 scientists will be needed).

Hern Ojaveer informed the meeting that he had been invited to the pool of experts to contribute to the chapter "Extent of assessment of marine biological diversity".

9.4 PICES

The key event in our cooperation with PICES this year was the Workshop on Global Assessment of the Implications of Climate Change on the Spatial Distribution of Fish and Fisheries (WKSICCME-Spatial), carried out in spring 2013 as part of the SICCME section/strategic initiative. This was a very successful and timely exercise to bring a significant volume of ecosystem modellers together. The workshop is planning to publish a suite of papers from the workshop together with relevant papers from the 2013 theme session B.

Revision of P/ICES SGSP report

SCICOM and the PICES representatives, Thomas Therriault, Chair of the PICES Science Board, and Laura Richards, PICES Chairman, agreed that it would be timely to revise the [Report of the P/ICES Study Group on Strategic Planning](#), which provides strategy to our cooperation. PICES and ICES both agree that our cooperation has

been extremely productive, including the joint strategic Initiative on Climate Change, joint working groups, joint co-sponsoring of symposia and theme sessions at our ASCs, etc. Yet, PICES agrees that not all items in the existing cooperation document have been addressed, while there are emerging issues that would benefit from a refresh (e.g. bioinvasions, alien species), especially with the ever shrinking pool of resources available. The document should be strategic for both organisations.

Action: A subgroup will be established with participants from the ICES and PICES side to draft an updated report. Henn Ojaveer volunteered to be part of the process.

Theme Sessions proposed for PICES 2014

The ASC 2014 Group was asked to consider topic sessions submitted to the 2014 PICES annual meeting, should they provide opportunities for co-sponsoring. The subgroup was made aware of the financial implications of co-sponsoring PICES sessions.

Decision/Action: the final list of topical sessions for the 2014 PICES Annual Meeting will be circulated for intersessional decision, once it becomes available. Similarly, ICES 2014 theme sessions will be circulated to PICES once the final list is agreed.

10 Symposia 2013–2014

The HoS presented the following draft resolutions for SCICOM review and approval:

Open Science Conference on “Future Oceans - Research for Marine Sustainability: Multiple Stressors, Drivers, Challenges and Solutions

An Open Science Conference on “Future Oceans - Research for Marine Sustainability: Multiple Stressors, Drivers, Challenges and Solutions to be held 23-27 June 2014 in Bergen, Norway, with Eileen Hofmann (USA), Ratana Chuenpagdee (Canada/Thailand), Julie Hall (New Zealand), Raleigh Hood (USA), Ian Perry (Canada), Carol Robinson (UK), and Bernard Avril (IMBER International Project Office, Norway/France) as Conveners.

There is a strong link between IMBER and ICES scientists (via WGIPEM). IMBER hosts a modelling community and their work is seen as important to ICES. However, this request for sponsorship was received at a very late stage, thus allowing only minimal engagement from ICES. Following previous decisions in similar circumstances, the request for financial support was not approved.

Decision: The request for financial support was not approved. However, ICES would offer institutional support by offering the ICES logo and by encouraging ICES co-chairmanship (without funding) of relevant theme sessions.

Symposium on “Are the eels climbing back up the slippery slope?” – August 2014

A Symposium entitled “Are the eels climbing back up the slippery slope?” is proposed to be held 17–21 August 2014, at Québec City (Canada) with Martin Castonguay (Canada), John Casselman (Canada) and Willem Dekker (Sweden) as Conveners. This symposium will be jointly organised by ICES and the American Fishery Society AFS.

After the ASC the conveners have been in contact with the Secretariat and the IJMS Editors in Chief to discuss the range of possibilities for publishing the symposium, and to inquire about the practicality of dual outlet.

Decision: PUBCOM was very supportive of the symposium but did not accept the proposal of the convenors to divide the outputs of the symposium between two journals (AFS and ICES). However, PUBCOM would very much like to see the eel symposium published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science (including both North American and European eel papers). With this caveat the request for co-sponsorship, including financial support, was approved.

Symposium on “Marine Ecosystem Acoustics – observing the ocean interior across scales in support of integrated management – May 2015

A Symposium on “Marine Ecosystem Acoustics – observing the ocean interior across scales in support of integrated management” was proposed to be held in May 2015, in Nantes, France, with Tom Weber (USA), Nils Olav Handegard (Norway) and Verena Trenkel (France) as Conveners. A special volume of the ICES Journal of Marine Science is requested.

Nils Olav Handegard presented the draft resolution. The symposium received unanimous support from SCICOM members, as a continuation in the suite of acoustics symposia in ICES.

Decision: SCICOM supported co-sponsorship and financial support, as well as journal issue.

“Third International Symposium on the Effects of climate change on the world’s oceans” – 2015

The third International Symposium on the Effects of climate change on the world’s oceans is to be held 23-27 March 2015, in Santos (Brasil) with the support of IOC, PICES and ICES. Symposium coordinators are the IOC Head of Ocean Science, the PICES Executive Secretary and the ICES Head of Science.

Decision: A resolution was prepared and approved by WebEx on 11 October, including financial support.

Scientific Symposium on Harmful Algae and Global Climate Change

A scientific symposium on “Harmful Algae and Global Climate Change” is to be held during 19–22 May 2015 (preliminary dates), in Gothenburg, Sweden with Bengt Karlson, Sweden, Raphael Kudela, USA and Mark Wells, Canada, as Conveners. This draft resolution was submitted after the ASC.

Decision: Approval was postponed, the conveners/organisers will be asked to add more details to the draft resolution and resubmit for the spring meeting of SCICOM.

Marine socio-ecological systems: including the human dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments.

An initial proposal for a symposium on this topic was presented. A formal draft resolution will be submitted for intersessional approval in 2014. The conveners hope to have broader support by then. The lead from the ICES side will probably be Olivier Thebaud.

11 Introduction of candidates for SCICOM Chair position

The SCICOM Chair introduced the two candidates for the SCICOM Chair position. Their statements of intent and CVs had been made available on the SharePoint site

prior to the meeting. The two candidates introduced themselves and responded to questions from the committee.

12 Science Implementation III

12.1 ICES Publication Group (PUBCOM)

PUBCOM Chair, Myron Peck, presented the PUBCOM report to SCICOM.

PUBCOM membership - SCICOM noted that a new PUBCOM member will be needed after the election of new SCICOM Chair.

Decision: A process will be established to nominate a new SCICOM member for PUBCOM.

Phasing out printed publications - Recognizing that there are high costs associated with printing and distributing ICES publications, and a decreasing demand for hard copies, PUBCOM recommends phasing out printed publications of Cooperative Research Reports (CRRs) and Techniques in Marine Environmental Sciences (TIMES) in favour of digital publications, beginning with resolutions submitted in 2015.

Funds traditionally used on printing and distribution of hard copies could be made available to pursue more dynamic and interactive web-based publications.

SCICOM noted the recommendation from PUBCOM and commented that keeping a high standard of the digital publications is very important.

Action: SCICOM value the proposal, which is consistent with Secretariat efforts to reduce recurrent science costs to develop innovative science objectives. SCICOM needs to evaluate the consequences of this proposal in the spring 2014 meeting.

Extended abstracts - Extended abstracts in lieu of full-length papers were introduced for the ASC 2013 in Reykjavik. The transition to extended abstracts went well and many presentations were supported by an extended abstract. Only two full papers were submitted.

Publications - SCICOM was informed that four CRR manuscripts and three TIMES have been published in the past year. All publication activities are going well/on track.

A new ICES series (SISP – Series of ICES Survey Protocols) was launched in 2012, and since September 2012 one new protocol was published (Manual for the Midwater Ring Net sampling during IBTS Q1). Another is likely to be published soon. Four other Survey Protocols have been received by the secretariat and are either being reviewed or awaiting review in 2013.

Comments

- Concern was raised over the low number of CRRs published in the past year. Do we need incentives for groups to submit more publications? It was expected that MA ToR should encourage more publications as outputs from the groups. 10 CRRs per year would be a more reasonable number.
- SCICOM reflected that metrics on the number of CRRs may not be as appropriate as page volumes. There are resource implications as more resources will be needed at the Secretariat to handle a larger volume of publications.

- The production of CRRs and TIMES involve a significant amount of work, but the publications are not valued in the same way as peer-reviewed literature. The CRRs fill the gap between peer-reviewed literature and expert group reports. Could the review process be upgraded?

Action: the Secretariat, together with the PUBCOM Chair, will check if the current volume is adequate. If there is extra capacity it might be appropriate for PUBCOM to inform EGs that there is extra room for their outcomes. However, SCICOM has expressed support for more peer-reviewed outputs and less outputs in the grey literature.

IJMS manuscript handling and review process - For IJMS it has been a busy and eventful year. Submissions have increased and the handling times decreased. The Journal's Impact Factor rose from 2.0 to 2.3 in 2012. Its ranking also rose from 12th out of 48 titles to 7th out of 49 titles in the ISI Fisheries category. The Editorial Board has been significantly expanded (currently 35 members) in order to increase the pool of manuscript handling expertise.

In 2012 it was decided that manuscripts submitted for publication in symposium issues would be handled by the journal editors, and not by appointed guest editors. SCICOM had requested an assessment of the effect of this change. SCICOM was informed that two symposia had been handled under the new procedure, and their processing went smoothly and without significant delay.

Popular advice (ASGPOP) - SCICOM was informed that this issue has been discussed at ACOM and Bureau, and a process to follow up on the PUBCOM recommendations has started.

Big Data Session – A 'Big data' session was proposed for the 2014 ASC. PUBCOM recommended that this topic be considered for a short open session at the 2014 ICES ASC. This issue was dealt with under agenda item 15, ASC Theme Sessions 2014 (final decisions), see Section 15.

Repositioning of PUBCOM - PUBCOM discussed the future of the group in the context of the new Science Plan. PUBCOM currently reports directly to SCICOM, but is also dealing with issues of relevance to ACOM. It may be relevant to consider whether PUBCOM should report to SCICOM only.

The following comments were made by SCICOM members:

- While relevant to the whole organisation, PUBCOM reports directly to SCICOM as its most relevant committee. This is the same for data (DIG) and Training, which are operational SCICOM groups relevant to the whole organisation.

Decision: SCICOM sees no reason to change the reporting structure of PUBCOM, but acknowledges that all operational groups do work for ICES as a whole.

12.1.1 ICES website

The new ICES website was launched in February 2013. The Secretariat has received a variety of comments and has responded to all feedback as promptly as possible. Some of the feedback has resulted in improvements to the website. Overall, the new website is a big success, although there are still significant issues with the search engines.

12.1.2 Review and approval of Category 1 resolutions

The PUBCOM Chair, Myron Peck, presented the Category 1 draft resolutions. The following draft resolutions were all recommended by PUBCOM for SCICOM approval, and the following were approved at the SCICOM WebEx of 11 October:

Special volumes

2013/1/SGEF01: A special volume of the ICES Journal of Marine Science is requested for manuscripts stemming from two sources:

- The ICES-PICES Strategic Initiative on Climate Change Impacts on Marine Ecosystems (SICCME) workshop on changes in spatial distribution (WKSICCME-Spatial) which took place on May 22nd to 24th 2013 in St. Petersburg, Russia, and
- Theme Session B “Responses of living marine resources to climate change and variability: learning from the past and projecting the future” which will take place at the 2013 ICES Annual Science Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland.

2013/1/SSGEF02: A special volume of the ICES Journal of Marine Science is requested for manuscripts stemming from the ICES Symposium on “Marine Ecosystem Acoustics – observing the ocean interior across scales in support of integrated management” which will take place May 2015, in Nantes, France with Tom Weber (USA), Nils Olav Handegard (Norway) and Verena Trenkel (France) as Conveners.

Cooperative Research Reports (CRR)

2013/1/SSGHIE03: The Report covering the output and documenting the outcomes from the Joint Rijkswaterstaat/DFO/ICES Workshop: Risk Assessment for Spatial Management (WKRA SM), edited by the chairs of WKRA SM, as reviewed and approved by the respective ICES committees, will be published as an ICES Cooperative Research Report. The estimated number of pages is 100. The document will have the structure of a guidance document.

2013/1/ACOM04: 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), as reviewed and approved by the Chair of the SCICOM Committee, will be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series. The estimated number of pages is indefinite.

2013/1/SSGEF05: The **ICES Report on Ocean Climate**, edited by Agnieszka Beszczynska-Möller (Germany) and Stephen Dye (UK), as reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Steering Group on Ecosystems Functions (SSGEF), will be published annually for five years in the *ICES Cooperative Research Report* series. The estimated number of pages is 80. This is a multi-year resolution.

Action: Authors should be made aware that PUBCOM is recommending an enhancement in digital publication facilities and a reduction in hard copy production within this five-year resolution period. With this comment PUBCOM recommends support for this resolution.

2013/1/SSGHIE06: The report on **Trends in Important Diseases Affecting the Culture of Fish and Molluscs in the ICES Area 2003-2013**, edited by Neil Ruane (Ireland), Ryan Carnegie (USA), Susan Ford (USA), Tristan Renault (France), Simon Jones (Canada), Lone Madsen (Denmark), Pia Vennerström (Finland), is planned to be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series.

2013/1/SSGHIE07: The report on the **Disease-associated population effects in commercial marine fish and shellfish species**, edited by Thomas Lang (Germany), Stephen Feist (UK), Simon Jones (Canada), Susan Ford (USA), Tristan Renault (France), is planned to be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report.

2013/1SSGEF08: The report on the **Identification guide of cephalopod paralarvae from the Mediterranean Sea**, authored by Nuria Zaragoza, Antoni Quetglas (Spain) and Ana Moreno (Portugal), as reviewed and approved by the Chair of The SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystems Functions (SSGEF), will be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series. The estimated number of pages is 135.

TIMES

2013/1/SSGHIE09: The report on **Calculation of the Fish Disease Index (FDI): technical details**, edited by Werner Wosniok (Germany) and Thomas Lang (Germany), is planned to be published in the ICES TIMES series.

Decision: SCICOM approved the above category 1 resolutions

The following TIMES were not recommended for publication:

2013/1/SSGHIE10: The report on the Workshop on the Application of Passive Sampling and Passive Dosing to Contaminants in Marine Media (WKPSPD), recommended the publication of a paper in the ICES Techniques in Marine Environmental Science (TIMES) series on passive sampling of hydrophobic contaminants in sediments. The estimated number of pages is 30. The Working Group on Marine Sediments and the Marine Chemistry Working Group agree to jointly submit the final draft of the proposed publication by March 2015. **PUBCOM recommends that the authors indicate a clearer timeline and that the resolution then be resubmitted.**

2013/1/SSGHIE11: The report on the Workshop on the Application of Passive Sampling and Passive Dosing to Contaminants in Marine Media (WKPSPD), recommended the publication of a paper in the ICES Techniques in Marine Environmental Science (TIMES) series describing the determination of sampler-water partition coefficients and sampler-sampler partition coefficients, including their uncertainties. The estimated number of pages is 20. The Working Group on Marine Sediments and the Marine Chemistry Working Group agree to jointly submit the final draft of the proposed publication by March 2016. **PUBCOM recommends that the authors resubmit the resolution proposal when they are closer to the publication time.**

Decision: SCICOM agreed not to approve the resolutions above, consistent with PUBCOM recommendations.

Cancellation of resolutions due to exceeded deadlines

Following SCICOM's decision of 2010, resolutions older than 2 years are considered as having lapsed and require a new submission, including justification that the information to be published continues to be timely and relevant. PUBCOM recommends cancellation of the following approved resolutions due to exceeded deadlines. PUBCOM advises authors to resubmit a new proposed resolution when manuscript is closer to completion.

Cephalopod stocks in European waters, edited by Graham Pierce (UK). **C. Res. 2008/1/LRC17**

Harmful algal blooms and bio-toxins in the ICES area, edited by Richard Gowen (UK). **C. Res. 2010/1/SSGHIE06**

Decision: SCICOM agreed to cancel the above resolutions, consistent with PUBCOM recommendations.

13 ICES Science Plan review

13.1 SSGEF meeting – feedback and report

Graham Pierce, SSGEF Chair, reported from the SSG Monday Open Session which was attended by approx. 35 people. Short presentations were given by the Chairs WGSE, WKSICCME-Spatial, WGCEPH, WGPME, BEWG and SGNS, SGIMT and WGOH on high priority issues and highlights.

The second part of the SSGEF meeting concentrated on the new Science Plan, specifically referring to Ecosystem Effects and Dynamics. Some attendees had more concerns over the implementation of the Science Plan than over its contents.

Key issues discussed:

- **Report format for multiannual EGs.** Although SCICOM is requesting short concise reports in Year 1 and 2, highlighting the deliverables, some groups still send in reports using the old format. The long reports are of limited value and thus guidance is needed on format and length. It was suggested to move away from reports in pdf format and to explore the possibilities for interactive, web-based EG reports, following the PUBCOM initiative.

Action: The SCICOM Chair will remind EG Chairs about reporting format and the reasons for the different formats.

- **Facilitating links and communication between groups.** There is still room for improving the ICES website to make it more operational. It should be easier to locate information on other ICES groups. An interactive web design that facilitates the communication between groups is needed. SCICOM should look for more resources to be fed into this. SCICOM was informed that the Secretariat is currently in the process of putting together a keyword list tagging groups and publications, allowing a more advanced search in the website library.

How will results from groups feed into advice, how can groups help the process? It was concluded that personal contact is the best way to ensure good communication.

Can we help expert groups with websites? Some already have websites, e.g. WGZE.

EGs may see that Advisory groups use information on their subject from other sources. Can we have an EG products website?

- **Chairs meeting.** There was agreement in SCICOM that it would be timely and useful to set up a workshop of Science EG Chairs, similar to the ACOM WGCHAIRS meeting. At the same time it was recognised that the management of such a meeting may not be easy and that there are funding constraints.

This kind of meeting could also be established in connection with the ASC, on the Monday morning as a way to minimise the travel and ensure that the EG Chairs are funded to attend the meeting. It was proposed to use vide-

oconferencing to cross continents and to include ACOM groups who do science.

Action: The Secretariat and incoming SCICOM Chair will explore the possibilities for a back-to-back WGCHAIRS/SCICOM meeting in March.

Action: The SCICOM Chair recommended that the SSG chairs meet to explore how SSGs can provide the elements needed for the successful implementation of Science Plan.

- Does the Science Plan need to specifically name the EGs (seeing the pieces of the puzzle)?

Decision: SCICOM agreed that the Science Plan needs an annex with the names of all the EGs. We currently try to limit the size, but an overview would be useful.

13.2 SSGSUE + SSGHIE – feedback and report

Daniel Duplisea, SSGSUE Chair, and Erik Olsen, SSGHIE Chair, reported from their Monday morning (23 September) SSG Open Session on “Pressures and impacts on marine ecosystems”, introducing the EPI element in the new Science Plan (2014–2018) replacing SSGSUE and SSGHIE.

José de Oliveira made a presentation on stock assessment methods. Unfortunately Matt Gubbins could not be present to make a presentation on contaminants. The session saw good attendance, including multiple chairs and quite a few young people including PhD students and post docs.

Many of the questions dealt with how groups can contribute to the science plan and its goals.

Some felt that EPI may appear to be a bit too focused on fish issues, but it was appreciated that this may have been the impression from the fact that the only presentation today was on stock assessment methods.

There were concerns on the differences between the different steering groups, and over the artificial division of EGs between SSGs. It was noted that EPI groups often had methodological development element in them.

Communication issues were important and WebEx calls were considered to be an important part of the communication. EG chairs were satisfied to see that there was a clear space for them in the science plan.

Duplisea requested assistance from SCICOM in helping to manage these groups. The idea of a co-chair was also raised as a way to deal with this.

Action: A Co-Chair from SCICOM would be advisable to help Daniel Duplisea manage processes from the European side. DD to explore options and propose a co-Chair at the spring meeting of SCICOM

13.3 SSGRSP – feedback and report

Dave Reid, SSGRSP Chair, reported from the SSG Monday Open Session. A total of 36 Participants from 17 countries attended the meeting. Presentations were delivered from Integrated Ecosystem Assessment EGs: WGIAB, WGINOSE, WGNARS & WGEAWESS.

Key Topics discussed:

- **What are the objectives for an IEA?** It was recognized that for the time being, IEA advice will most likely be in the form of “Proactive” rather than “Reactive” or “Recurring” advice. It was agreed that in the medium term the groups should focus on developing the science, rather than trying to deliver more comprehensive, but possibly weakly substantiated advice. As part of this process groups should be encouraged to develop their own objectives, provide proactive advice when ready for it, request feedback from advice and iterate the advisory objectives of the groups over a number of cycles.
- **IEA by Sub Region.** All the current IEA EGs have responsibility for what are in effect LME regions. However, all have identified that Ecosystem Descriptions and any associated IEA are probably best done at sub-regional scale within the larger ecoregion. Operating at sub-regional scale may make the IEA methodology more effective in terms of collating data and expertise for the first IEA runs. It was also identified (at the meeting and at the ASC open SCICOM session on Wednesday), that some of the IEA methodologies would allow a particular focus on sectors, pressures, or ecosystem components. A full IEA could then be built up over a number of steps. It should be noted that WGINOSE, however, aim to carry out a full analysis with a modified REGNS methodology in 2014.
- **Interactions with WKECOVER – Ecosystem Overviews.** WKECOVER provided a template for the Ecosystem Overviews for these groups. This was broadly welcomed, but was felt to be too constraining. However, the basic approach was agreed. It was agreed that the overviews should allow IEA groups flagging a particular category of response as currently lacking the necessary data. It was agreed that a short (4 page) overview would be desirable. Ideally, these should allow direct dynamic linking to more comprehensive versions.
- **Membership of the SSG.** There was some uncertainty as to who were members of the SSG. Generally, chairs of the component EGs are members, as well as selected members of SCICOM. However, it was noted that the meeting attendees went further than this limited list, and included government representatives as well as scientists. This is to be welcomed, and perhaps a broader membership could be envisaged, possibly encompassing all who showed an interest?

Pierre Petitgas wondered whether Council and Bureau should provide views on how to populate the SSGs, but it was noted that SSGs are an internal SCICOM structure and thus for SCICOM to manage.

Action: SSG membership to be formalised at the SCICOM spring meeting, where the ToR and activity of SSGs under the new science plan is to be discussed.

- **Integration of Integrated EA Expert Groups.** The group was positive about the use of joint meetings to link two or more of the SSGRSP EGs. This has happened twice now, with WGINOSE meeting with WGIAB in Stockholm in March 2012, and WGEAWESS with WGINOSE in Lisbon in February 2013. This was agreed as useful, and should be continued.

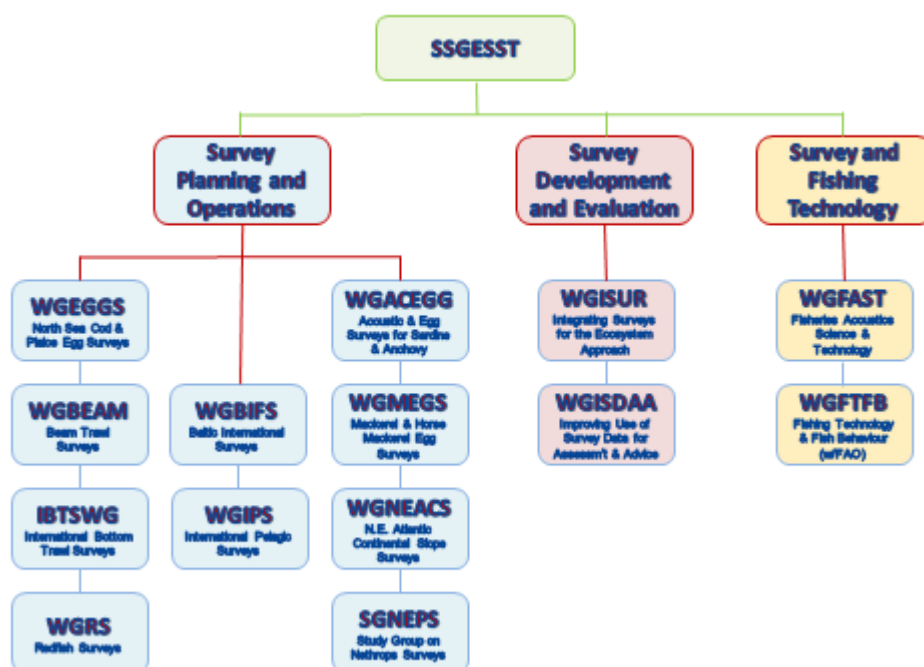
In the discussion that followed the presentation a number of important issues were raised:

- Following the diagrammatic structure of the new science plan, where does the work of the IEA SSG end and when does the process become part of the Benchmarking process?
- The separation between science and advice expert groups and structures is not necessarily useful, and this is obvious when we try to implement science processes and take them to advice.
- We need to facilitate a better exchange between EGs rather than just deciding what is expected of them. Would it be worthwhile to categorise the activities of the groups, within the SSG? It needs to be as painless as possible for groups to contribute to science.
- Should we consider giving the ecosystem overviews to a set of groups and ask them how they see themselves contributing to the overviews?

Decision: SCICOM appreciated the frank exchange of views that show the need to explore how SSGs will work in the implementation of the new science plan, and how EG will interact with the plan's objectives. This is a fundamental discussion that may justify a meeting of EG Chairs. The incoming SCICOM Chair and SSG Chairs are to progress this for discussion at the spring 2014 SCICOM meeting.

13.4 SSGESST feedback and update

SSGESST Chair, Nils Olav Handegard, reported outcomes of WKESST, a meeting of Expert Group Chairs which was held prior to the ASC. One very useful exercise had been to map methods against the EGs. This will allow focusing WebEx meetings at targeted subgroups under SSGESST. The overview will be published on the SSGESST community page:



A number of issues were flagged and recommendations released:

- SCICOM was asked to consider stratifying theme session proposals by science plan topics, so that the process of scoring the proposals has better context.

- DIG/ICES Data Centre are asked to consider the urgent need for a database for hydro-acoustic surveys' data.
- PUBCOM/ ICES Data Centre are asked to consider a mechanism for a permanent reference for survey reports

Actions:

- Secretariat to consider ranking theme session proposals by science plan topic
- DIG and SSGESST Chair to consider a database for hydro-acoustic surveys' data
- PUBCOM and SSGESST Chair to explore mechanisms for a permanent reference for survey reports

Animal welfare permits - A lot of the data hosted by ICES is collected on different permits. Some journals require this information and this is something ICES needs to look into. The objective should be to protect ICES as much as possible and therefore the SCICOM Chair requested the ICES Data Centre draft a disclaimer saying that our datasets comply with the regulations.

Action: DIG and ICES Data Centre were asked to look into the question of animal welfare permits.

Data overviews - A data overview is a way of communicating the data and the work for other groups to obtain an easy overview via an interactive map, also approachable for the public.

Action: SCICOM supported the SSGESST recommendation to start looking into better ways of communicating the data visually. The DIG and the ICES Data Centre are asked to consider this recommendation.

The Series of ICES Survey Protocols (SISP) roadmap - SCICOM was informed that the first version of a SISP guideline has been produced and will be published in its own series. There are a number of manuals in the pipeline, and more are coming in.

Connection between survey indices and assessment groups- There have been discussions as to how far does the ACOM/SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Observation and Monitoring Programme include all data collections or just surveys. After discussions with ACOM it has been agreed that the SSG includes all the data collection activities, and thus the work of PGCCDBS. To clarify this, the Chair of PGCCDBS, Mike Armstrong, has been invited to co-Chair the new SSG.

Future focus - The SSGESST Chair gave an overview of future focus/goals for SSGESST: SISP's online, Plan for survey evaluation, Increase science focus. In the longer term he aims to develop an integrated monitoring approach. The SSGRSP Chair pointed to the importance of making good use of WGISUR in this context.

Action: SSG Chairs were encouraged to develop diagrams and road maps with focus points (like the SSGRSP herring bone and the SSGESST EG map), illustrating how the SSGs operate and what ACOM groups connect.

Action: A Co-Chair for SSGESST (preferably with knowledge on the catch side) will be found inter-sessionally¹.

Action: Approval of SSG resolutions should be postponed for SCICOM approval at the March meeting.

The benchmarking SSG will be co-owned by SCICOM and ACOM. The latter have nominated Carmen Fernandez for the role. The SCICOM Chair will consider a SCICOM representative for this role². A draft resolution for the Benchmarking SSG needs to be discussed at the SCICOM spring meeting.

13.5 Input from ACOM/ SCICOM discussions

This item refers to the meeting held between SCICOM Business and ACOM Leadership Groups, on the afternoon of 21 September.

The SCICOM Chair outlined the agenda, which included two main issues:

- a) Shared ownership of ACOM and SCICOM groups and structures
- b) Ecosystem Benchmarking

At the meeting there were presentations from the SG IEA and SG IEOM groups, plus a presentation from Carmen Fernandez on Ecosystem Benchmarking, and from Mark Dickey-Collas on ecosystem overviews and delivery of operational oceanography products.

The SCICOM Chair asked members of the SCICOM Business group to comment on the meeting and their assessment of it. The discussion focused primarily on benchmarking, and the main issues are listed below:

- We are beginning to understand the process that is needed, but there is still a long way to go before we can envisage an ecosystem benchmarking process in place. The concept and what to be achieved needs to be developed. The process is to provide a way of using the understanding into a way that can be used for the advisory system.
- The integrated EA groups are taking risks, showing what they could do. The benchmark process could be guided by this process. Benchmarking can provide an overview as to where those evaluations would go.
- The first step is to develop a framework and this will take time. EA groups working on the science side had communicated to the SCICOM Chair that before the new science plan they were unsure as to where their work fits.
- The benchmarking process can refer to two different things. Are we benchmarking the state of the ecosystems or the uptake of ecosystem science in Stock Assessments?
- One of the first steps will be to benchmark the tools we are going to use, to ensure consistency in the process.

¹ Subsequent to the SCICOM meeting, Mike Armstrong (UK) was nominated and he has accepted.

² Subsequent to the SCICOM meeting, Jörn Schmidt (Germany) was nominated and he has accepted to be co-Chair of the Benchmarking SSG on behalf of SCICOM.

- There is strong support from the ACOM side to the ecosystem benchmarking process. ACOM felt that this may also improve the existing benchmarking system.

13.6 Input from Wednesday afternoon session

This was an open session entitled “The challenge of integrated ecosystem understanding”, with presentations on policy needs (Patterson), Integrated ecosystem surveying (Handegaard), modelling (Huse) and assessment (Stelzenmueller, Robinson, Kenny). Finally, the concepts behind Ecosystem Benchmarking were introduced (Fernandez). Each presentation was followed by discussion and debate, as a way of providing feedback on how to implement the new science plan.

The SCICOM Chair expressed his satisfaction that the session was very useful to slowly percolate the ideas in the science plan to the broader community, collectively identifying challenges and opportunities to guide implementation.

He then asked for comments and feedback from SCICOM on their own views of the session or on specific elements of it. Some of the discussions included the following statements:

- In general we don't have overview presentations in ICES meetings. This session gave a good overview of ICES work, and especially for young and new people it had provided context to their work.
- The Policy presentation (Policy needs concerning advice about marine ecosystems) was an honest presentation of the landscape we are working with now. It brought our work in line with legislation. The downside was that he implied there is no mechanism to consider social or economic advice, but saw a niche there for ICES to fill.
- The Benchmarking presentation was good, strong and wise. Nobody knows how to do ecosystem benchmarking and we need to showcase the examples that are well-defined. What are the key ecological questions to make sure that your fleet is not causing too much damage? This is doable and will fit into the advice requirements.
- In response to queries the SCICOM Chair and HoS informed the group that they had presented the Science Plan to the EU representatives at the ASC. A number of issues were discussed, including how the benchmarking would work, how links with STEFC would work, and how to maximise the work of the commission in ICES. The proactive advice term creates some problems for Brussels and we will have to think of a better word. In general the plan fits with the Commission's vision.
- SSGRSP has a format for fish stock advice and can provide proactive advice within that context. Taking it from proactive and putting it into the reactive advice. The SSG suggested going ahead and starting presenting it to them. In this context the ACOM Chair noted that the 14th Dialogue meeting will focus on the ecosystem process, with proposal for dialogue on MSY, multispecies and mixed fisheries, and on ecosystem and integrated assessments.

The SCICOM Chair had received positive feedback, people enjoyed a session of talking rather than presenting, and SCICOM may want to take that into account when planning future ASCs.

Science fund

The SCICOM Chair presented the new ICES Science Fund, which had been discussed and approved in principle by the Bureau. With the new Science Plan we need to put science at the forefront and this fund is seen as an investment to protect and enhance the scientific credibility of ICES. The Science Fund is intended primarily **to support the participation of academics in ICES activities, working with governmental scientists to develop the best possible science**. Participation in Expert Group meetings will not be funded through this mechanism. This will be a pot of money for things that add value to ICES work and that demonstrate what ICES is doing.

For the first year 50,000 Euros are available. Funds are not secured for future years, and thus a continuation is not assured. The ranking of proposals shall be based on the quality of the science proposed, the impact potential from outputs. The Science Fund will be announced through the ICES website, with proposal submission to Bureau and SCICOM (via Secretariat) by spring 2014. Bureau guides and authorises the final payment. SCICOM assesses the proposals and it is also SCICOM that signs off the outcomes.

SCICOM values the initiative and while understanding the reasons why the committee was not involved in its development, noted that they would have liked to provide inputs earlier. The Chair acknowledged this, but explained that this could not be shared until Bureau and Secretariat had been convinced of the opportunity and the mechanism through which the fund would be supported.

SCICOM discussed the principles and the criteria for funding:

- It may be useful to be a little more prescriptive as to the amounts per project and size of projects. The suggestion is to be able to fund about 10 different projects, thus 5k€ per project.
- Some questioned targeting the collaboration of research institutes and academia. SCICOM Chair explained that this was the basic principle of the fund: collaboration between academia and government scientists, which tend to access different funding structures.
- There are already a lot academics involved in ICES. Is it intended to be primarily intended for those not already involved? No. It is academia-government collaborative work, either through new or existing partnerships.
- We should aim at using this funding to kick-start something that lives on, this should not just be one-off activities. This should be part of the selection criteria.
- For SSGHIE it has been difficult to attract academics. Can you explain the options, will it be possible to seek funding for academics to work on specific ToR, or is that excluded? The SCICOM Chair emphasised that the funding is not for any activities connected with EG meetings.
- This could be a way of funding young scientists. Perhaps it could be considered to give preference to first-time participants to take part in an ICES meeting.

The SCICOM Chair welcomed SCICOM members to join him in refining the proposal on the basis of the guidelines and comments from SCICOM.

Decision: SCICOM supported the proposal unanimously.

Action: SCICOM Chair will include the SF in his presentation at Council, for final approval

13.7 Final discussion ICES Science Plan review

Action: Based on the feedback received from EG Chairs and SCICOM members, the SCICOM chair requested that SSG Chairs incorporate the feedback relevant to their sections of the Science Plan by 30 November.

Action: SCICOM Chair to incorporate generic/overall comments.

Following this final review of the Science Plan it will be circulated to SCICOM, Bureau and the next Chair of SCICOM for finalisation.

13.7.1 Mapping EGs to the new ICES Science Plan and Structures

The SCICOM Chair presented Doc 23, Mapping of Science EGs, presenting a proposal for re-mapping of EGs following the new structures in the draft Science Plan.

The diagrammatic flow recognizes that most EGs operate across steering groups and are not isolated silos. A mechanism needs to be put in place to ensure this flow does happen.

It was recognised that there is no perfect way of mapping EGs into SGs. For example, all groups under a topic area (e.g. climate change or oceanography) should be grouped together, but this does not always work. It was noted that the mapping has two major objectives:

- a) Provide pastoral care to EGs as they develop their work
- b) Provide guidance and processes so that the knowledge from EGs filters through to the Integrated Assessment objectives.

Action: It was agreed that the MCWG would fit better under Pressures and Impacts

Action: It was decided that the document should include WGs but not workshops.

Action: The SCICOM Chair requested additional comment from SSG chairs to be sent to the Secretariat by 30 November.

14 Strategic Initiatives

14.1 SIBAS (Ojaveer)

SIBAS Co-Chair, Henn Ojaveer, presented an update from the Strategic Initiative.

SCICOM at its mid-term meeting in May 2013 had requested a list of ICES Expert Groups with ToRs containing biodiversity components. The list includes both SCICOM and ACOM-affiliated expert groups.

In conclusion, SCICOM was informed that at least 22 EGs have biodiversity-related ToRs in their agenda. The ecology-related groups, together with WGBIODIV and WGECON, should be considered as the most important players as contributors to SIBAS. Specific ToRs should be considered for selected multi-annual EGs to ensure that biodiversity ToRs are included for MSFD related descriptors and also to ensure scientific input in general. Positive feedback from the relevant EG Chairs.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

This IPBES-2 meeting was seen as important for ICES and crucial to be part of the IPBES list of stakeholders. .

Decision: SCICOM will be represented by the SCICOM-nominated SIBAS co-chair, Herrn Ojaveer to ensure a continued dialogue with IPBES. It was agreed that if funding was required for this meeting the SIBAS co-Chair will discuss needs directly with the HoS.

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (Quingdao, China, 12-16 October 2014)

SIBAS Co-Chair was asked to continue dialogue with WCMB organisers with an aim to organising and convening an ICES session. The conference convenors have indicated that such options will be opened soon and tentatively welcomed an ICES SIBAS session.

The SIBAS Co-Chair will start the process to identifying potential interests for SIBAS in cooperation with the ACOM SIBAS Co-Chair and SCICOM members were invited to contribute their ideas.

Action: SCICOM will return to the issue at their meeting in March to explore if there is a particular session to support.

EUR-OCEANS Hot Topics Conference - A changing ocean (Gran Canaria, Spain, 6-8 November 2013)

Herrn Ojaveer had prepared a poster to be displayed at the conference.

Decision: ICES will be represented by HoS.

Biodiversity Convention (CBD) and ICES

SCICOM was informed that there had been some difficulties in reaching an agreement on the language of the CBD-ICES MoU. The written agreement was the achievement of the former chairs of SIBAS and SCICOM agreed that it should be completed. There is now hope that with Jake Rice's assistance the problem will be solved.

Action: ICES HoS to ensure the CBD MoU is signed as soon as possible.

Bioinvasions work within PICES and CIESM

Action: The issue of bioinvasions will be taken on in connection with the redrafting/revisiting the PICES and ICES document listing areas of science that we are interested in fostering together.

SIBAS membership

SCICOM was informed that Herman Hummel has been invited to join the core membership of SIBAS in his capacity as coordinator and partner in several relevant projects.

Decision: Herman Hummel was accepted as member of the SIBAS core group

14.2 SISAM + Boston Conference summary (Cadrin/ Dickey Collas)

SISAM Co-Chair, Mark Dickey-Collas, presented an update for this Strategic Initiative.

SCICOM congratulated SISAM on the success of the World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods (WCSAM) and associated workshop on methods. This was a major milestone for SISAM and extremely successful with 220 participants from 27 countries.

SISAM provided three major recommendations for the future:

- Substantial coordinated strategic investment needed for stock assessment science.
- ‘Good practice’ guidelines – a concerted effort is needed to develop these.
- Agreement was reached to form Global Assessment Methods Working Group for Sustainable Fisheries (GAME).

SISAM is now considering a special issue of the ICES Journal as well as the development of a complementary Cooperative Research Report to supplement the proceedings.

Decision: There was agreement in SCICOM that SISAM has not completed its work and should not close down without a clear exit plan. SISAM should ensure the establishment of GAME and also establish a good connection with WGMG for continuation.

Action: SISAM was asked to continue discussing/exploring the next steps, and was asked to report back to SCICOM in March.

SISAM Leadership

SISAM has been co-chaired by Mark Dickey-Collas and Steve Cadrin from 2010–2013. Mark Dickey-Collas had continued his involvement after joining the Secretariat, but is now stepping down.

Decision: After the SCICOM meeting Ciaran Kelly accepted to take on the job as new SISAM co-Chair together with Steve Cadrin.

Open Session for ASC 2014

SISAM had submitted a theme session proposal during the ASC, but unfortunately it was too late for SCICOM to consider it. Instead of the proposed theme session, the proposers were asked if they would be interested in hosting an open session as a follow up of the SISAM initiative, in which case it could fit in the Monday morning time slots. The proposers agreed to consider this route and to submit a proposal well in advance of the SCICOM spring meeting.

14.3 SICCME (Mackenzie)

Brian MacKenzie, SICCME Co-Chair, gave an update on the main events in the past year.

ICES/PICES Intercessional Workshop on Global Assessment of the Implications of Climate Change on the Spatial Distribution of Fish and Fisheries, 22–24 May in St. Petersburg, Russia, co-chaired by Myron Peck, Anne Hollowed and Suam Kim – The workshop was a major success with 67 participants from 13 countries. The workshop was designed to address a number of specific questions in breakout theme sessions, and the subsequent discussions and reporting contributes to all SICCME goals and objectives.

In 2013 SICCME members continued to contribute scientific papers on climate change impacts on marine ecosystems for consideration by the author teams of the IPCC. The IPCC report is planned to be released in 2014 and will provide updated scientific knowledge of the extent of climate change, and how it is impacting marine ecosystems. The IPCC lead authors will be invited to attend the SICCME open session at ASC 2014.

SICCME sponsored the ASC 2013 ICES/PICES Theme Session on *“Responses of living marine resources to climate change and variability: learning from the past and projecting the future”*, which received the largest number of abstract submissions this year.

There will be two workshops at the 2013 PICES ASC in October; a PICES forecasting meeting in the spring and several theme session proposals have been submitted for ASC 2014.

SICCME is currently planning the Climate Change symposium to be held in 2015 in Brazil. The programme is under preparation.

Thomas Therriault, Chair of the PICES Science Board, expressed his satisfaction with SICCME, which is well supported within PICES as well. P/ICES theme sessions always receive high rankings and this is an area that we definitely want to see continue.

15 ASC Theme Sessions 2014 (final decisions)

Begoña Santos, on behalf of the SCICOM ASC group, presented a proposal for the ASC 2014 theme session package. Basing their work on the votes and rankings provided by SCICOM members, the ASC group had condensed 40 proposals into a package of 18 theme sessions.

Some theme sessions were combined and conveners will be asked to merge their proposals.

One Theme Session ‘The Big (Ocean) Data Journey’ was converted into an Open Session for one of the open business slots at the 2014 ASC, with the recommendation of merging elements from the two other proposals

- The "supply chain" of operational oceanographic products for ICES: celebrating recent advances and identifying future needs
- Mining Fisheries Related Data

Decision: SCICOM approved the Big Data Journey for an Open Session for one of the open business slots at the 2014 ASC and the conveners will be asked to prepare an agenda for this session to be approved at the SCICOM spring meeting.

Decision: The final list of Theme Sessions approved by SCICOM is given in Annex 2. The SCICOM Chair thanked the ASC group and Chair for their work.

16 Update from conference coordinator

16.1 Evaluation of ASC 2013 and recommendations for future ASCs

Görel Kjeldsen, for the last time, reported on the evaluation of the 2013 ASC:

- The Secretariat had been flexible with the early registration fee, to accommodate late travel approvals by country members.

- A high number of posters had been submitted this year, and there was feedback that the overall quality of posters had been good.
- Prior to the conference a SharePoint site had been established allowing presenters to upload online. Even so, some presentations were handed in late.
- There had been some concern over the attendance at the closing session, which was scheduled later than in previous years, but it was very well attended.
- Lunch arrangements were good, and meant that conference participants were kept within the building.
- Travel funds were distributed to 25 (of 62) applicants.
- Social events were very successful and well attended.
- The Grupio conference app needs to be upgraded or perhaps we need to look into other options to make it more effective, as we intend to phase out some of the printed material.
- Hotel allotments – the hotels offered by the booking agent were quite expensive, and the secretariat had received feedback from some participants that lower rates were found on other booking websites.

ASC Handbook

SCICOM discussed the possibility of providing an online version of the ASC Handbook instead of the printed version. There was overall agreement to keep the printed flier which is very useful for a quick overview, but with wireless connections in all theme session and meeting rooms, and with option of upgrading the information level on the monitors, SCICOM recommended that the ASC Group should give this question careful consideration.

It was mentioned that participants could tick off a field when registering for the conference to indicate whether they would need a printed version of the handbook or not. However, it was noted that the origination costs are the largest costs, not so much the number of printed copies.

It is also possible to provide the online version and ask participants to print the handbook if they want the hardcopy version.

Action: The ASC2014 group will explore whether to print the ASC Handbook or just the flier, and make a proposal to SCICOM.

Action: SCICOM asked the Secretariat to investigate how much printing costs would be saved.

2014 ASC

The SCICOM Chair introduced the incoming conference coordinator, Anna Davies, who presented the logistics of the 2014 ASC to be held in La Coruna, Galicia, Spain.

Next year's event will be located in a conference centre in the harbour area, with many restaurants nearby and thus no need to provide catering at the venue. Block bookings for hotels will be made with a good variety of price ranges.

Warm thanks were extended to Görel Kjeldsen for doing an excellent job during the past 19 years of ASC planning!

17 SCICOM Annual Report to Council

The SCICOM progress report provides a nice and crisp summary of the work of the science structures, which is valued and commented on by ICES structures. This will be the fourth annual progress report and is a very useful report for Bureau and Council to evaluate our strategies. The SCICOM Chair outlined the structure of the document and reminded the contributors of the deadline.

18 SCICOM Chair election

Decision: Yvonne Walther was elected as SCICOM's proposed incoming Chair for the period 2014–2016 (with the possibility of a one-year extension). A recommendation will be made to the Council for her appointment as Chair of SCICOM.

19 Any other business

SCICOM spring dates.

Action: The next midterm meeting will be held in Copenhagen from Monday, 31 March 2014 (starting at 13:00) till Wednesday, 2 April 2014 (ending at 13:00). The Joint ACOM leadership/SCICOM business group will meet on Wednesday, 2 April, from 14:00 till 17:00.

Tribute to Heye Rumohr

Tom Noji paid tribute to Heye Rumohr. During the ASC we received the sad news that Heye passed away on Monday 23 September. Heye began his long-standing involvement with ICES as a scientist when he first submitted a paper to an ICES annual conference in 1973. He organized science symposia, was a member of several Expert Groups, chaired BEWG, served ten years as chair of various committees, received several ICES Service Awards, and chaired quite a few ICES theme sessions. Heye served as one of the alternate German members of the ICES Science Committee. Heye was an excellent colleague and a multi-talented scientist.

One of the beauties of ICES is that we form personal relations and friendships. ICES has lost a great friend. SCICOM expressed its sadness at the news and would like to send condolences to Heye's family.

20 Closing

The SCICOM Chair thanked two outgoing Chairs, Erik Olsen and Helge Sagen, for their important contributions as SSGHIE Chair and DIG co-Chair.

The SCICOM Chair also thanked SCICOM members for their support during his term as Chair of the committee. He had enjoyed the last four years immensely, there had been very positive discussions, and he was very pleased that SCICOM had managed to bring "Science" back to the forefront of ICES, as was intended implementation of SCICOM. The outgoing SCICOM Chair wished good luck to Yvonne Walther as new SCICOM Chair.

Olafur Astthorsson, on behalf of the SCICOM members, thanked the SCICOM Chair for his dedicated and excellent work for the committee and handed him a farewell present.

Annex 1: List of participants

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|---|--|---|
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Annex 2: Theme Session package for ASC 2014

| TS | Title | Conveners |
|-----------|---|---|
| 17 | Gelatinous zooplankton on a global perspective: interactions with fisheries and consequences for socio-economics | Cornelia Jaspers (Denmark), Richard Brodeur (PICES), and José Luis Acuña (Spain) |
| 40 and 34 | The science and tools for the management of networks of Marine Protected Areas | Henrique Queiroga (Portugal), Helen Bailey (USA), and Elsa Vázquez Otero (Spain) |
| 20 | One size does not fit all – what does an integrated ecosystem assessment mean to YOU? | Rebecca Shuford (USA), Hein Rune Skjoldal (Norway), and Robin Anderson (Canada) |
| 24 | Fish tales from the past: Using subfossil, fossil, and prehistoric structures to describe past marine populations and oceans | Marta Coll (Spain), Carina Olson (Sweden), and Inge Bødker Enghoff (Denmark) |
| 37 | Stocks in flux: From selection pressures via phenotypic and genetic adaptive responses to impacts on ecosystem services | Ulf Dieckmann (IIASA), Mikko Heino (Norway), and Filip Volckaert (Belgium) |
| 12 | Arctic biodiversity under climate change and other stressors | Sarah Bailey (Canada), Phillipe Archambault (Canada), and Andrea Sneeke (the Netherlands) |
| 31 and 25 | Practical advice for implementing marine policy: combining ecosystem and societal indicators in stock and ecosystem assessments | Gavin Fay (USA), Eva-Lotta Sundblad (Sweden), Scott Large (USA), and David Goldsborough (the Netherlands) |
| 11 | Harmful Algal Blooms in Aquaculture and Fisheries ecosystems: prediction and societal effects | Beatriz Reguera (Spain), Juan Blanco (Spain), and Bengt Karlson (Sweden) |
| 1 | The increasing importance of biofouling for marine invasions: an ecosystem altering mechanism | Andrea Sneeke (the Netherlands), Francis Kerckhof (Belgium), and Thomas Therriault (PICES) |
| 2 | Climate change: Back to the future for marine predators | Tore Haug (Norway), Jim Reid (JNCC), and John Pinnegar (UK) |
| 4 | The application of science for ecosystem-based management of aquaculture | Dave Jackson (Ireland), Heather Moore (UK), and Neil Auchterlonie (UK) |
| 5 | Pelagic ecosystem dynamics from integrated monitoring surveys | Sascha Fässler (the Netherlands), Jeroen van der Kooij (UK), and Pierre Petitgas (France) |
| 6 | Ecological consequences of reduced body size of organisms in the future ocean | Antonio Bode (Spain), Tara Marshall (UNIABDN), and Xosé Anxelu G. Morán (Spain) |
| 33 | Resilience and marine ecosystem services | Sebastian Villasante (Spain), Gonzalo Macho (Spain), and Stephanie Stefanski (USA) |
| 7 and 10 | Landings obligation as a pathway towards the integration of CFP and MSFD – lessons learned and forward look after 2015 | Tom Catchpole (UK), Clara Ulrich (Denmark) and Marie-Joëlle Rochet (France) |
| 9 | Operational solutions for cephalopod fisheries and culture | Marina Santurtun (Spain), Joao Pereira (Portugal), Begoña Santos (Spain), and Jean-Paul Robin (France) |

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| 22 and 35 | Physical and biological consequences of North Atlantic circulation patterns | Ken Drinkwater (Norway), Cesar Gonzalez-Pola (Spain), and Olafur Astthorsson (Iceland) |
| 18 | Analytical approaches to using telemetry data to assess marine survival of Diadromous and other migratory fish species". | Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (Ireland) and Ted Potter (UK) |

Annex 3: SCICOM September 2013 – Actions and Decisions

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA ITEM | ACTIONS AND DECISIONS | RESPON-SIBLE | DEADLINE |
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| 4.1 | Preview of SCICOM Open Plenary sessions at ASC 2013 | Action: SCICOM to discuss the format of SSG ASC and WebEx meetings in light of the new science plan at the March 2014 meeting. | Incoming SCICOM Chair | SCICOM Spring |
| 4.1 | Linkage between IEA and contaminants groups | Action: Dave Reid to investigate greater involvement in the WKLINCON process by the IEA group members. | Dave Reid | SCICOM Spring |
| 4.1 | Monday Morning Open Sessions | Action: Next year's ASC Group (to be appointed in March 2014) will be asked for recommendations on how to improve the visibility of the open sessions in the programme. | Incoming SCICOM Chair | SCICOM Spring |
| 4.4 | Awards Committee – SCICOM representative | Decision: Daniel Duplisea volunteered to be a new SCICOM member on the Awards Committee. Action: HoS urged SCICOM members to take a more active role in identifying potential candidates and encouraging nominations from colleagues for the two prestigious awards, the Prix d'Excellence and the Outstanding Achievement Award, to be con-ferred in 2014. | SCICOM | SCICOM Spring |
| 5 | Preview of theme sessions | Action: SCICOM to consider whether to include an ACOM member to the theme sessions subgroup for 2014. | SCICOM | SCICOM Spring |
| 5 | Preview of theme sessions | Action: The call for theme sessions proposals in 2014 should include a request for submitters to group their theme sessions according to the new Science Plan. | Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 6.1 | Training Group | Decision/Action: SCICOM noted that there are advantages and also challenges associated with e-learning, but nevertheless the Training Group should continue to explore the opportunities of e-learning/e-training as a new format within the Training Programme. | Training Group | SCICOM Spring |
| 6.1 | Training Group | Decision/Action: SCICOM asked the Training Group to continue updating the training budget, but requested that the Secretariat cost be removed from the spreadsheet to facilitate the assessment of cost-neutrality. | Training Group | SCICOM Spring |
| 6.1 | Training Group | Decision/Action The Training Group and SCICOM thanked Søren Anker Petersen for his hard work and strong dedication to making the Training Programme a success since it was established in 2009. SCICOM welcomed Anna Davies, who will now support the Training Group. | Training Group | SCICOM Spring |
| 6.2 | ICES Data and | Action: For the new data sets and portals, | Nils Olav | |

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| | Information Group (DIG) | we are looking forward to including more ichthyoplankton data from a larger collection of eggs surveys. SSGESST Chair offered to be the liaison to SSGESST EGs. | Handegaard, Ingeborg de Boois | |
| 6.2 | ICES Data and Information Group (DIG) | Decision: SCICOM supported the reappointment of Ingeborg de Boois unanimously, and expressed its appreciation to Helge Sagen, who co-Chaired the group for a number of years. | | |
| 7.1 | Implementation of multi-annual ToRs | Action: The Secretariat was asked to replace “Year 1, 2 and 3” by date and year to enable easier tracking. | Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 7.1 | Implementation of multi-annual ToRs | Action: SSG Chairs to have conversation on how the tool should work, including possibility of EG Chairs to have access to the tool. | SSG Chairs and Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 7.1 | SSG role and meeting format | Action: SCICOM will allocate time at its spring meeting to look at how the SSGs will operate in the future under the new demands of the Science Plan (including discussion on membership and regular WebEx meetings). | SCICOM | SCICOM Spring |
| 7.1 | Proposal for Science WG Chairs meeting | Action: The SCICOM Chair thanked the committee for these useful views, and asked the incoming SCICOM Chair to add an item on how the SSGs will operate in the future to the midterm SCICOM agenda. This discussion may include a back to back meeting with EG chairs, as part of the implementation of the new Science Plan. | Incoming SCICOM Chair | SCICOM Spring |
| 7.2 | Evaluation of EGs under multi-annual ToR | Action: SCICOM is expected to finalise the processes to request and assess EG extensions at the spring meeting. The Secretariat will prepare and present the draft online evaluation tool. | Incoming SCICOM Chair, Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 7.3 | Delivery of operational oceanographic products to IEA process | Action: The SCICOM Chair requested that four items be addressed in the document: 1) Clarify that the information requested is particularly aimed at supporting ecosystem overviews and providing context to the ICES advice, rather than specifically linked to integrated ecosystem assessments and advice. If this is made clear to the suppliers their product would be more targeted. 2) Clarify the meaning of “operational”, in terms of what processes will be instigated to manage and use the data, 3) Clarify what are the consequences for the data providers in terms of intellectual property? 4) Clarify whether EGs will/ should play a filtering role of providers (e.g. if the WGZE already collates zooplankton data, do they filter what suppliers provide | Mark Dickey-Collas | SCICOM Spring |

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| | | through the OOPS calls? In relation to this, can WG be providers of data, and if so do we need SLAs with them? | | |
| 7.3 | Delivery of operational oceanographic products to IEA process | Action: Nils Olav Handegard, Dave Reid, Myron Peck volunteered to take part in the group (already consisting of Mark Dickey-Collas, Glenn Nolan, the Chairs of WGOH, WGOOFE, and ICES Data Centre). | Nils Olav Handegard, Dave Reid, Myron Peck | SCICOM Spring |
| 7.3 | Delivery of operational oceanographic products to IEA process | Action: Mark Dickey-Collas to consider the above and provide a new draft for SCICOM to consider in spring 2014. | Mark Dickey-Collas | SCICOM Spring |
| 9.1 | Cooperation with other organisations – Global Environmental Facilities (GEF) and Large Marine Ecosystems (LME network) | Decision: SCICOM values the cooperation with GEF/LME, but still has to understand better how this will work. SCICOM will monitor developments in coming year. | SCICOM, Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 9.1 | Cooperation with other organisations – ERANET/COFASP | Action: an update from ERANET/COFASP should be included in the SCICOM spring agenda. | Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 9.4 | Revision of P/ICES SGSP report | Action: A subgroup will be established with participants from the ICES and PICES side to draft an updated report. Henn Ojaveer volunteered to be part of the process. | Secretariat (HoS), Henn Ojaveer | |
| 9.4 | Theme Sessions proposed for PICES 2014 | Decision/Action: the final list of topical sessions for the 2014 PICES Annual Meeting will be circulated for intersessional decision, once it becomes available. Similarly, ICES 2014 theme sessions will be circulated to PICES once the final list is agreed. | Secretariat, SCICOM | November 2013 |
| 10 | Symposia | Open Science Conference on “Future Oceans - Research for Marine Sustainability: Multiple Stressors, Drivers, Challenges and Solutions Decision: The request for financial support was not approved. However, ICES would offer institutional support by offering the ICES logo and by encouraging ICES co-chairmanship (without funding) of relevant theme sessions. | | |
| 10 | Symposia | Symposium on “Are the eels climbing back up the slippery slope?” – August 2014 Decision: PUBCOM was very supportive of the symposium but did not accept the proposal of the convenors to divide the outputs of the symposium between two journals (AFS and ICES). However, PUBCOM would very much like to see | | |

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| | | the eel symposium published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science (including both North American and European eel papers). With | | |
| 10 | Symposia | Symposium on “Marine Ecosystem Acoustics – observing the ocean interior across scales in support of integrated management – May 2015 Decision: SCICOM supported co-sponsorship and financial support, as well as journal issue. | | |
| 10 | Symposia | “Third International Symposium on the Effects of climate change on the world’s oceans” – 2015 Decision: A resolution was prepared and approved by WebEx on 11 October, including financial support. | | |
| 10 | Symposia | Scientific Symposium on Harmful Algae and Global Climate Change Decision: A resolution was prepared and approved by WebEx on 11 October, including financial support. | | |
| 10 | Symposia | Marine socio-ecological systems: including the human dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments. An initial proposal for a symposium on this topic was presented. A formal draft resolution will be submitted for intersessional approval in 2014. The conveners hope to have broader support by then. The lead from the ICES side will probably be Olivier Thebaud. | Secretariat | Intersessional approval |
| 12.1 | PUBCOM | Decision: A process will be established to nominate a new SCICOM member for PUBCOM. | PUBCOM Chair, Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 12.1 | PUBCOM – phasing out printed publications | Action: SCICOM value the proposal, which is consistent with Secretariat efforts to reduce recurrent science costs to develop innovative science objectives. SCICOM needs to evaluate the consequences of this proposal in the spring 2014 meeting. | Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 12.1 | PUBCOM – publications | Action: the Secretariat, together with the PUBCOM Chair, will check if the current volume is adequate. If there is extra capacity it might be appropriate for PUBCOM to inform EGs that there is extra room for their outcomes. However, SCICOM has expressed support for more peer-reviewed outputs and less outputs in the grey literature. | Secretariat, PUBCOM Chair | SCICOM Spring |
| 12.1 | PUBCOM – repositioning of PUBCOM | Decision: SCICOM sees no reason to change the reporting structure of PUBCOM, but acknowledges that all operational groups do work for ICES as a whole. | | |

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| 12.1.2 | Review and approval of Category 1 resolutions | Action: Authors should be made aware that PUBCOM is recommending an enhancement in digital publication facilities and a reduction in hard copy production within this five-year resolution period. With this comment PUBCOM recommends support for this resolution. | Secretariat | October/November 2013 |
| 12.1.2 | Review and approval of Category 1 resolutions | Decision: SCICOM approved the above category 1 resolutions | | |
| 12.1.2 | Review and approval of Category 1 resolutions | Decision: SCICOM agreed not to approve the resolutions above, consistent with PUBCOM recommendations. | | |
| 12.1.2 | Review and approval of Category 1 resolutions | Decision: SCICOM agreed to cancel the above resolutions, consistent with PUBCOM recommendations. | | |
| 13.1 | SSGEF meeting – feedback and report | Action: The SCICOM Chair will remind EG Chairs about reporting format and the reasons for the different formats. | SCICOM Chair | December 2013 |
| 13.1 | SSGEF meeting – feedback and report | Action: The Secretariat and incoming SCICOM Chair will explore the possibilities for a back-to-back WGCHAIRS/SCICOM meeting in March. Action: The SCICOM Chair recommended that the SSG chairs meet to explore how SSGs can provide the elements needed for the successful implementation of Science Plan. | Secretariat, incoming SCICOM Chair | End 2013/Start 2014 |
| 13.1 | SSGEF meeting – feedback and report | Decision: SCICOM agreed that the Science Plan needs an annex with the names of all the EGs. We currently try to limit the size, but an overview would be useful. | Secretariat | End 2013 |
| 13.2 | SSGSUE - SSGHIE meeting – feedback and report | Action: A Co-Chair from SCICOM would be advisable to help Daniel Duplisea manage processes from the European side. DD to explore options and propose a co-Chair at the spring meeting of SCICOM | Daniel Duplisea | SCICOM Spring |
| 13.3 | SSGRSP – feedback and report | Action: SSG membership to be formalised at the SCICOM spring meeting, where the ToR and activity of SSGs under the new science plan is to be discussed. | SCICOM, SSG Chairs, Incoming SCICOM Chair | SCICOM Spring |
| 13.3 | SSGRSP – feedback and report | Decision: SCICOM appreciated the frank exchange of views that show the need to explore how SSGs will work in the implementation of the new science plan, and how EG will interact with the plan's objectives. This is a fundamental discussion that may justify a meeting of EG Chairs. The incoming SCICOM Chair and SSG Chairs are to progress this for | SCICOM Chair and SSG Chairs | SCICOM Spring |

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| | | discussion at the spring 2014 SCICOM meeting. | | |
| 13.4 | SSGESST feedback and update | <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat to consider ranking theme session proposals by science plan topic - DIG and SSGESST Chair to consider a database for hydro-acoustic surveys' data - PUBCOM and SSGESST Chair to explore mechanisms for a permanent reference for survey reports | <p>Secretariat</p> <p>DIG and SSGEST Chairs</p> <p>PUBCOM and SSGEST Chair</p> | SCICOM Spring |
| 13.4 | SSGESST feedback and update - Animal welfare permits | Action: DIG and ICES Data Centre were asked to look into the question of animal welfare permits. | DIG Chair, ICES Data Centre | SCICOM Spring |
| 13.4 | SSGESST feedback and update - Animal welfare permits | <p>Action: SSG Chairs were encouraged to develop diagrams and road maps with focus points (like the SSGRSP herring bone and the SSGESST EG map), illustrating how the SSGs operate and what ACOM groups connect.</p> <p>Action: A Co-Chair for SSGESST (preferably with knowledge on the catch side) will be found inter-sessionally .</p> <p>Action: Approval of SSG resolutions should be postponed for SCICOM approval at the March meeting.</p> | <p>SSG Chairs</p> <p>Done</p> <p>SCICOM</p> | <p>SCICOM Spring</p> <p>SCICOM Spring</p> |
| 13.6 | ICES Science Fund | <p>Decision: SCICOM supported the proposal unanimously.</p> <p>Action: SCICOM Chair will include the SF in his presentation at Council, for final approval</p> | SCICOM Chair | October 2013 |
| 13.7 | Final discussion ICES SP review | <p>Action: Based on the feedback received from EG Chairs and SCICOM members, the SCICOM chair requested that SSG Chairs incorporate the feedback relevant to their sections of the Science Plan by 30 November.</p> <p>Action: SCICOM Chair to incorporate generic/overall comments.</p> | SSG Chairs, SCICOM Chair, Secretariat | 30 November |
| 13.7.3 | Mapping EGs to the new SP | <p>Action: It was agreed that the MCWG would fit better under Pressures and Impacts</p> <p>Action: It was decided that the document should include WGs but not workshops.</p> <p>Action: The SCICOM Chair requested additional comment from SSG chairs to be sent to the Secretariat by 30 November.</p> | SSG Chairs | 30 November |
| 14.1 | SIBAS - IPBES | Decision: SCICOM will be represented by the SCICOM-nominated SIBAS co-chair, Henn Ojaveer to ensure a continued dialogue with IPBES. It was agreed that if funding was required for this meeting the SIBAS Chair will discuss needs directly with the HoS. | | |
| 14.1 | SIBAS – World Conference on | Action: SCICOM will return to the issue at their meeting in March to explore if | SCICOM | SCICOM Spring |

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| | Marine Biodiversity | there is a particular session to support. | | |
| 14.1 | SIBAS – EUR-OCEANS | Decision: ICES will be represented by HoS. | | |
| 14.1 | SIBAS – CBD | Action: ICES HoS to ensure the CBD MoU is signed as soon as possible. | Secretariat (HoS) | asap |
| 14.1 | SIBAS – bioinvasions work within PICES and CIESM | Action: The issue of bioinvasions will be taken on in connection with the redrafting/revisiting the PICES and ICES document listing areas of science that we are interested in fostering together. | Secretariat | SCICOM Spring |
| 14.1 | SIBAS – membership | Decision: Herman Hummel was accepted as member of the SIBAS core group | | |
| 14.2 | SISAM | Decision: There was agreement in SCICOM that SISAM has not completed its work and should not close down without a clear exit plan. SISAM should ensure the establishment of GAME and also establish a good connection with WGMG for continuation. Action: SISAM was asked to continue discussing/exploring the next steps, and was asked to report back to SCICOM in March. | | |
| 14.2 | SISAM | Decision: After the SCICOM meeting Ciaran Kelly accepted to take on the job as new SISAM co-Chair together with Steve Cadrin. | | |
| 15 | ASC Theme Sessions | Decision: SCICOM approved the Big Data Journey for an Open Session for one of the open business slots at the 2014 ASC and the conveners will be asked to prepare an agenda for this session to be approved at the SCICOM spring meeting. Decision: The final list of Theme Sessions approved by SCICOM is given in Annex 2. The SCICOM Chair thanked the ASC group and Chair for their work. | | |
| 16 | Evaluation of ASC 2013 and recommendations for future ASCs | Action: The ASC2014 group will explore whether to print the ASC Handbook or just the flier, and make a proposal to SCICOM. Action: SCICOM asked the Secretariat to investigate how much printing costs would be saved. | | |
| 16 | Evaluation of ASC 2013 and recommendations for future ASCs – ASC Handbook | Action: The ASC2014 group will explore whether to print the ASC Handbook or just the flier, and make a proposal to SCICOM. Action: SCICOM asked the Secretariat to investigate how much printing costs would be saved. | | |
| 18 | SCICOM Chair election | Decision: Yvonne Walther was elected as SCICOM's proposed incoming Chair for the period 2014–2016 (with the possibility of a one-year extension). A recommendation will be made to the | | |

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| | | Council for her appointment as Chair of SCICOM. |
| 19 | AOB | Action: The next midterm meeting will be held in Copenhagen from Monday, 31 March 2014 (starting at 13:00) till Wednesday, 2 April 2014 (ending at 13:00). The Joint ACOM leadership/SCICOM business group will meet on Wednesday, 2 April, from 14:00 till 17:00. |
