

2014/2/SSGIEOM08 The Workshop on Age reading of Chub Mackerel (*Scomber Colias*) (WKARCM), chaired by Andreia Silva*, Portugal, and Maria Rosario Navarro*, Spain, will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, 2–6, November, 2015, to:

- a) Review information on age determination, otolith exchanges and validation techniques on this species;
- b) Estimate (relative) accuracy and precision of chub mackerel age determination in the main fishing areas of the European region;
- c) Identify causes of age determination error and provide specific guide-lines for the improvement of precision and reduction of bias between readers and laboratories;
- d) Elaborate an age reading protocol;
- e) Create a reference collection of otoliths and a data base of images of otoliths;
- f) Address the generic ToR's adopted for workshops on age calibration (see 'PGCCDBS Guidelines for Workshops on Age Calibration').

WKARCM will report by 20 November 2015 for the attention of SSGIEOM, WGBIOP, SCICOM and ACOM.

Supporting information

Priority	Essential. Age determination is an essential feature in fish stock assessment to estimate the rates of mortalities and growth. Age data is provided by different countries and are estimated using international ageing criteria which have not been validated. There is necessary to continue to clarify this guideline of age interpretation especially Chub Mackerel (<i>Scomber colias</i>). Therefore, an appropriate otolith exchange programme was carried out in 2013 for the purpose of inter-calibration between ageing labs. Results of this otolith exchange will discuss during WKARCM.
Scientific justification	The aim of the workshop is to identify the current ageing problems between readers and standardize the age reading procedures in order to improve the accuracy and precision in the age reading of this species.
Resource requirements	No specific resource requirement beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting.
Participants	The Group is normally constituted by Spanish and Portuguese members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to advisory committees	ACOM
Linkages to other committees or groups	SCICOM, SSGIEOM, WGBIOP
Linkages to other organizations	There is a direct link with the EU DCF.