

2014/2/SSGIEOM20 The **Workshop to Plan and Integrate Monitoring Program in the North Sea in the 3rd quarter** (WKPIMP), chaired by Andrew Kenny* (UK) and Ingeborg de Boois* (Netherlands), will meet at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22-26 February 2016.

The aim of the workshop is integrating monitoring for fisheries management including the monitoring of changes in productivity of the ecosystem and the impact of fisheries on the ecosystem. The final survey objectives should represent ecosystem function as well as the regulatory needs and the prioritization follows from both ecosystem function and societal relevance.

The workshop will create a framework for an integrated monitoring program in the North Sea in the 3rd quarter to address the monitoring and assessment requirements for fisheries, changes in ecosystem productivity and the impact of fisheries on the environment by:

- a) Using the current NS-IBTS conditions as a starting point (ship time, temporal and spatial coverage);
- b) Taking the current NS-IBTS 3rd quarter obligations (provide information for fish stock assessment) into account;
- c) Taking the needs as defined by other bodies (EU, ICES groups, OSPAR) into account;
- d) Following stepwise approach as described in Annex 5 of WGISUR report 2015
- e) Highlight the important principles that have been discovered through this process as guidance for other areas and surveys.

Representation:

The following ICES groups should be represented in the workshop: WGISUR, IBTSWG, WGINOSE, HAWG, WGNSSK, WGEF, WGISDAA.

It is furthermore relevant that a variety of ecological expertise fields is represented, such as acoustic data collection, (ichthyo-, zoo-, phyto-) plankton, benthic data collection, hydrographical data collection including water samples, North Sea ecosystem understanding, and others if needed.

The **preparation** that should take place before WKPIMP is:

- Overview of current sampling in North Sea during Q3 –may be based on outcomes EU Project ‘Towards a Joint Monitoring Program in the North Sea and Celtic Sea’ (JMP NS/CS)
- Define the important ecosystem components/processes that should be taken into account in the ecosystem survey, characterize the important habitats, and describe important trophic interactions in the North Sea in Q3 (WGINOSE)
- Provide information on the current output needed from NS-IBTS Q3, and the constraints (WGNSSK, HAWG, WGEF)
- Overview of all current sampling activities undertaken during NS-IBTS Q3 (IBTSWG)
- Evaluate if current sampling can be made more efficient without affecting the current output (=indices for stock assessment; WGISDAA)
- Investigate if there is a ship effect in the current IBTS (WGISDAA)

WKPIMP will report by 21 March 2016 (via SSGIEOM) for the attention of WGISUR, WGINOSE, ACOM and SCICOM.

Supporting Information

Priority	Integrated monitoring and ecosystem assessment is one of the priorities in the ICES Strategic Plan. The EU needs information for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
Scientific justification	Integrated monitoring plans will not be developed spontaneously. It will only happen when
Resource requirements	None
Participants	The workshop can be attended by 25-30 members and guests.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial implications	None
Linkages to advisory committees	There are linkages to both SCICOM and ACOM.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There are linkages to all groups currently using survey information from the North Sea like WGISUR, WGINOSE, WGNSSK, HAWG, and to other groups like BEWG, WGZE, WGOOFE, MCWG, WGSPEC
Linkages to other organizations	EU DGMARE, EU DGENV, OSPAR