

Working Group on Aquaculture (WGAQUA)

2015/MA2/SSGEPI07 The **Working Group on Aquaculture (WGAQUA)**, chaired by Dave Jackson*, Ireland, Myriam Callier*, France, and Ole Torrison*, Norway, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
Year 2016	4–8 April	Yerseke, The Netherlands	Interim report by 29 April to SSGEPI	
Year 2017			Interim report by	
Year 2018			Final report by	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science Plan priorities addressed	Duraton	Expected Deliverables
a	To develop the scientific and technological basis related to aquaculture that will lead to optimal food production in an environmentally sustainable way.	In the past ICES has performed a lead role in the development of methodologies and best practice for the management and promotion of aquaculture. WGAQUA has just completed an inventory of ICES science advice in support of the development of aquaculture. Aquaculture is one of five sectors in the EU's Blue Growth Strategy, aimed at harnessing untapped potential for food production and jobs whilst focusing on environmental sustainability. In parallel the overarching objective of the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance working group on aquaculture is to help enable and develop sustainable aquaculture in the EU, Canada, and USA by developing concrete products that support efficient and effective permitting and other management decisions, and help producers reduce risk. In order to support this goal, ICES will support member countries to establish a coherent and efficient framework aimed at sustainable growth, taking account of the range of production environments and specificities and emerging approaches such as offshore technologies, integrated multi-trophic aquaculture, and integration with other sectors.	14, 17	3	Report to ICES. Manuscript submitted to peer reviewed scientific journal.
b	i) Compile existing and developing methodologies for predicting and assessing the carrying capacity of the ecosystems at different geographic scales. ii) Provide best practices for the environmental impact	Building on work carried out by WGAQUA on benthic impacts on soft bottoms a review of drivers of ecological impacts, habitat sensitivity, current assessment methodologies is required. This is seen as an important area of advice that requires further refinement and development in order to direct scientific recommendations to improve our ability to establish appropriate	11,12,14,16,17	3	Report to ICES. Manuscript submitted to peer reviewed scientific journal.

	assessment of aquaculture production, in line with the requirements for the allocation of permits for aquaculture businesses.	monitoring programs. These methodologies need to be established for the different habitats types and adapted into a standard format that could be utilised as a platform by ICES member countries and other countries globally for establishing carrying capacities and monitoring programs.			
c	Develop a standardised set of indicators and thresholds for sustainable aquaculture based on current best practice and the outputs of novel research (such as the Horizon 2020 project TAPAS).	An analysis of current monitoring practices used by ICES member states would help to reveal geographic trends in environmental concerns related to local aquaculture activities, would indicate if monitoring objectives are consistent, and would help to identify any commonality in the setting of regulatory thresholds for managing environmental status and impacts. This knowledge would benefit future response to requests for science advice. The innovative methodologies and components emerging from novel research currently underway in ICES member countries complemented by a decision support system will support the development and implementation of appropriate coastal and marine spatial planning for aquaculture which will in turn facilitate less costly, more transparent and more efficient licensing processes.	11,13,16,17,25,26,27,28	3	Report to ICES. Manuscript submitted to peer reviewed scientific journal.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Organize the work of WGAQUA and possibly propose new EGs. Develop workplan for ToRs. Evaluate Outreach/PR activities and develop outreach plan for Year 2. Provide Draft Advice if requested.
Year 2	ToR leaders will prepare an outline of each ToR report (potential publication) intersessionally and will present that at the meeting. WGAQUA members will work on ToRs a)-c). Evaluate Outreach/PR activities and develop outreach plan for Year 3. Provide Draft Advice if requested.
Year 3	ToR leaders prepare outline of publications intersessionally and present that at meeting. During meeting finalize products Discuss future of WGAQUA and propose ways forward. Provide Draft Advice if requested.

Supporting information

Priority	The current activities of WGAQUA will lead ICES into issues and advisory needs related to the environmental dependence, effects and ecosystem services of aquaculture. Consequently, these activities are considered to have a high priority.
Resource requirements	Travel for SCICOM leadership to inform clients about advisory capacity of WGAQUA, travel for WGAQUA Science Advice Chair to participate in meetings where questions requiring advice are drafted. The additional resource required to undertake additional activities in the framework of this group is negligible.
Participants	The Group is normally attended by some 20–30 members and guests.

Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	ACOM – advice on aquaculture, WGITMO (introduced species)
Linkages to other committees or groups	Coordination and cooperation with WGSEDA is of high importance for WGAQUA and an open invitation is in place for the coordination of meeting time and place . Other groups: BEWG, WGPDMO, WGBEC, WGAGFM, WGICZM, WGITMO, WGHABD
Linkages to other organizations	European Aquaculture Society. See also the Aquaculture Dialogue organized on 1-2 June 2015.
