MIAC - Annual coordination meeting ICES-ACs

FINAL DRAFT AGENDA

Date: 22 June 2022
Time: 09.30 – 12.00 CET
Location: ICES Headquarters & virtual
Chair: Emiel Brouckaert
Rapporteur: NWWAC Secretariat

09:30 – 09:35	**1. Welcome and introductions** **1.1 Apologies** **1.2 Adoption of the Agenda**	Emiel Brouckaert
09:35 – 09:45	**2. Actions of previous meeting**	NWWAC Secretariat
09:45 – 10:40	**3. AC-specific issues** **3.1 LDAC:** Joint ICES-NAFO Pandalus Working Group and Ecosystem-multispecies approach for NAFO Flemish Cap (3M) cod, redfish and shrimp fisheries **3.2 PELAC:** Background to decision and communication to stakeholders of the change of the F_{msy} reference point for Southern horse mackerel **3.3 CCRUP:** Quota of *Beryx sp*. in area X – Azores **3.4 BSAC:** The issue of seals, parasite infections and the assessment of eastern Baltic cod **3.5 BSAC**: Western Baltic herring **3.6 NWWAC:** Presentation of ICES advice on undulate ray	Emiel Brouckaert / AC representatives
10:40 – 10:50	***Coffee Break***	
10:50 – 11:40	**4. General issues** **4.1 NWWAC:** List of special requests received by ICES from DG MARE	Emiel Brouckaert / AC representatives

	4.2 PELAC: Clarification procedure for using agreed management plan in top-line advice **4.3 LDAC:** Improving science and discard data for deep-water stocks **4.4 NWWAC:** Overview on ICES work supporting the implementation of the EU MSFD **4.5 PELAC**: ICES Workshop on reference points WKREF **4.6 CCRUP:** Interpretation at meetings	
11:40 – 11:50	**5. Action points**	NWWAC Secretariat
11:50 – 11:55	**6. MIAC 2023 - organisation and chairmanship**	Emiel Brouckaert
11:55 – 12:00	**7. Closing of meeting**	Emiel Brouckaert

**See explanatory note below*

Explanatory note

3. AC-specific issues

3.1 LDAC: Joint ICES-NAFO Pandalus Working Group and Ecosystem-multispecies approach for NAFO Flemish Cap (3M) cod, redfish and shrimp fisheries

Action point from MIAC 2021:

ICES to continue to ensure timing of meetings and assessments fits into needs of both ICES and NAFO. ICES noted a strong progress on ecosystem modelling for the Flemish Cap and the inter-relationships between redfish, cod and shrimp, including on multi-species MSE. It was noted that a 'number of pandalus benchmarks' may take place in 2022. LDAC noted this and LDAC members would be interested in supplying data into the model(s) being developed.

This item addressed at last year's MIAC has become more relevant as the fishery has been closed again with immediate effect by decision at the last NAFO annual meeting in September 2021. This is expected to produce again a serious economic impact in certain EU fleets which are members of the LDAC. The LDAC is planning to present some management proposals in relation to this and would appreciate discussing with scientists from ICES its feasibility in accordance with scientific advice. An update on the work on ecosystem modelling for the Flemish Cap and a calendar for future benchmark workshops would also be useful to ensure active participation from the AC.

3.2 PELAC: Background to decision and communication to stakeholders of the change of the F_{msy} reference point for Southern horse mackerel

During the July 2021 meeting, ICES informed the Pelagic AC of its decision to change the Fmsy reference point for the Southern horse mackerel stock (horse mackerel in area 9) from 0.11 to 0.15. This decision came with unfortunate timing, since the PelAC has been working with the SWWAC for over a year on amending the long-term management strategy currently in place for this stock, trying to bring it in closer alignment with the ICES MSY advice. This work was finalized a month before the change in MSY reference point became apparent, thereby having a significant impact, as it brought the plan out of alignment with the MSY approach once more.

Given the uncertainty in the assessment due to the lack of 2019-2020 survey data, the PelAC has difficulties understanding how ICES arrived at this significant upwards revision and the resulting increase in catches from one year to the next. The PelAC was surprised by this sudden change in procedure for re-calibrating MSY reference points based on the new 'FP05' approach, and asks for an explanation on the scientific rationale for it. In addition, the PelAC would appreciate it if in future, ICES would communicate such changes externally to advice recipients and stakeholders in an earlier stage.

Separately, when looking at the 2021 ICES advice on Southern horse mackerel, in addition to the catch advice the headline states: "*Management of southern horse mackerel, blue jack mackerel, and Mediterranean horse mackerel under a combined TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could*

lead to overexploitation of any of these species." Can ICES offer a first reflection on what could be done by managers/stakeholders to address this issue?

3.3 CCRUP: Quota of Beryx sp. in area X – Azores

The *Beryx sp.* (*Beryx decadactylus* and *Beryx splendens*), which are exploited exclusively through hook gear, are part of the 8 most important species for the Azorean fishers, representing about 71% of the total landings of demersal and deep-sea species.

In the Azores, fishing for the *Beryx* is traditionally developed within the scope of an artisanal hook fishery, directed at a group of demersal and deep-sea species, and carried out by an artisanal fleet.
In the Azores, internal measures were introduced, such as the maximum catch limits per vessel, per tide and per year and with an increase in the minimum size of the species, which denotes a concern for a careful management of the fishing effort, to ensure the sustainability of the resources and of the fishing activity.

Taking as a reference the catch trends and the valorisation of these species in the Azores, an eventual proposal to reduce the fishing possibilities, will have negative social economic implications.
In addition, data from the monitoring campaign carried out annually by the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries (University of the Azores) indicates a trend towards the stability in the resource. Also, the history of landings and reports from fishermen indicates a substantial increase in the abundance of these species in the area X - Azores.

Thus, we would like to have a clarification on the recommendation for not to increase the *Beryx* quota for Portugal, and consequently for the Azores.

3.4 BSAC: The issue of seals, parasite infections and the assessment of eastern Baltic cod

This has been raised by one BSAC member and the BSAC ExCom is informed.

At the Joint WG meeting 8th and 9th June 2021[1], a BSAC member asked the ICES representative **whether the impact of parasites from seals has been factored in the assessment of eastern Baltic cod.**

ICES ACOM Vice Chair Colm Lordan referred to the information in the ICES 2021 advice sheet on EBC[2]. The parasite infestations coincide with an increased abundance of grey seals. It is unknown whether the parasite infection is the cause or an effect of the poor condition of cod. These drivers are interrelated, and their cumulative effect on the cod stock is unclear. He referred to an extract from the advice sheet: (page 3):

The low growth, poor condition, and high natural mortality of cod are related to changes in the ecosystem that include:

i) poor oxygen conditions that can affect cod both directly through altering their metabolism and indirectly through a shortage of benthic prey, as well as the survival of offspring;

ii) reduced availability of fish prey in the main distribution area of cod. Sprat and herring have had a more northerly distribution in recent years, and there is less overlap with the

[1] http://www.bsac.dk/getattachment/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-Joint-Working-Group-(3)/WG89062021REPORTFINAL.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB
[2] https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2021/2021/cod.27.24-32.pdf

distribution of the cod stock. It is, however, unclear whether the small remaining cod stock would be impacted by this shift of distribution.

iii) high levels of parasite infestations; these coincide with an increased abundance of grey seals. It is unknown whether the parasite infection is the cause or an effect of the poor condition of cod.

These drivers are interrelated, and their cumulative effect on the cod stock is unclear.

The urgent need to **find out all the effects that have an impact on the cod stock i**n the Baltic Sea shows the current terrible situation we have now. It makes no sense to pick out some points of influence and look at them separately. An overview of the "whole picture" is needed to find an urgently-needed solution.

So this question is raised <u>again</u> with ICES, combined with a request for an investigation into these connections as soon as possible.

There is no need to start from zero, because several studies have already been done (see below). At the WG meeting, the point "influence on reproductive capacity", which must be closely related to the points studied, was not mentioned.

The following articles are provided:[3]

Casini, M., Käll, F., Hansson, M., Plikshs, M., Baranova, T., Karlsson, O., Lundström, K., Neuenfeldt, S., Gårdmark, A., & Hjelm, J. (2016). Hypoxic areas, density-dependence and food limitation drive the body condition of a heavily exploited marine fish predator. Royal Society Open Science, 3(10), 160416. doi:10.1098/rsos.160416
https://orbit.dtu.dk/en/publications/hypoxic-areas-density-dependence-and-food-limitation-drive-the-bo

Gabel, M., Theisen, S., Palm, H. W., Dähne, M., & Unger, P. (2020). Nematode Parasites in Baltic Sea Mammals, Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus* (Fabricius, 1791)) and Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena* (L.)), from the German Coast. *Acta Parasitologica*, (0123456789). doi:10.1007/s11686-020-00246-7
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11686-020-00246-7

Köster, F. W., Huwer, B., Hinrichsen, H.-H., Neumann, V., Makarchouk, A., Eero, M., Dewitz, B. V., Hüssy, K., Tomkiewicz, J., Margonski, P., Temming, A., Hermann, J.-P., Oesterwind, D., Dierking, J., Kotterba, P., & Plikshs, M. (2017). Eastern Baltic cod recruitment revisited—dynamics and impacting factors. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, *74*(1), 3–19. doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsw172
https://academic.oup.com/icesjms/article/74/1/3/2418194

Lunneryd, S.-G., Boström, M. K., & Aspholm, P. E. (2015). Sealworm (*Pseudoterranova decipiens*) infection in grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), cod (*Gadus morhua*) and shorthorn sculpin (*Myoxocephalus scorpius*) in the Baltic Sea. *Parasitology Research*, *114*(1), 257–264. doi:10.1007/s00436-014-4187-z
https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Sealworm-(Pseudoterranova-decipiens)-infection-in-Lunneryd-Bostr%C3%B6m/b2f77b78eac6d68861f4ac4d7540d2ad5a37029f

Mehrdana, F., Bahlool, Q. Z., Skov, J., Marana, M.H., Sindberg, D., Mundeling, M., Overgaard, B. C., Korbut, R., Strøm, S. B., Kania, P. W., Buchmann, K. 2014. Occurrence of zoonotic nematodes *Pseudoterranova decipiens*, *Contracaecum osculatum* and *Anisakis simplex* in cod

[3] Links added by Secretariat.

(*Gadus morhua*) from the Baltic Sea. *Veterinary Parasitology, 205*(3-4), 581-7. doi: 10.1016/j.vetpar.2014.08.027.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25224792/

Ryberg, M. P., Skov, P. V., Vendramin, N., Buchmann, K., Nielsen, A., & Behrens, J. W. (2020). Physiological condition of Eastern Baltic cod, Gadus morhua, infected with the parasitic nematode Contracaecum osculatum. *Conservation Physiology*, *8*(1), 1–14. doi:10.1093/conphys/coaa093
https://backend.orbit.dtu.dk/ws/portalfiles/portal/220815613/Ryberg_et_al_Cons_Physiol_2020_.pdf

Zuo, S., Kania, P. W., Mehrdana, F., Marana, M. H., & Buchmann, K. (2018). *Contracaecum osculatum* and other anisakid nematodes in grey seals and cod in the Baltic Sea: molecular and ecological links. *Journal of Helminthology*, *92*(1), 81–89. doi:10.1017/S0022149X17000025
https://ivh.ku.dk/forskning/about_parasitology_and_aquatic_diseases/publikationer/publikationsliste/?pure=da%2Fpublications%2Fcontracaecum-osculatum-and-other-anisakid-nematodes-in-grey-seals-and-cod-in-the-baltic-sea(45d5175e-ad68-432d-8905-bcabf87fd139)%2Fexport.html

3.5 BSAC: Western Baltic herring

Not much progress has been made by the BSAC on the western Baltic herring during its work programme year 2021-22 due to the lack of input from ICES on a recovery plan.

The BSAC Pelagic Working Group met on 24th January 2022[4] and discussed the western Baltic herring in connection with the pelagic quotas set for 2022. At the October Council meeting in 2021, a joint statement was made by the Commission, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Sweden: they recognised the critical state of the western herring stock, the need to set only a bycatch TAC, as well as the need to implement a rebuilding plan. It was underlined that the rebuilding plan for western herring should cover Norway and the UK, as the western spring spawning herring migrates through Division 3A to the North Sea.

The BSAC would like to ask ICES to inform on progress (if any) made with regard to the recommended management measures.

The BSAC will continue to work on the management plan after receiving input from ICES.

In its Work Programme for 2022-2023 the BSAC states that it will investigate further work on management of the western Baltic spring spawning herring with a view to developing a re-building strategy for this stock

3.5 NWWAC: Presentation of ICES advice on undulate ray

On 17 December 2020, following a meeting of the joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates and Rays, NWWAC and NSAC presented a request to DG MARE to change the presentation of the ICES advice on undulate ray. The two ACs proposed to follow the same approach used for Nephrops to improve communication and understanding of the undulate ray advice, especially in regard to survivability of this species. This change in approach should also be considered in future for all other relevant species as soon as sufficient survivability information becomes available.

[4] http://www.bsac.dk/Meetings/BSAC-meetings/BSAC-PelagicWorking-Group

The NWWAC would be grateful if ICES could clarify if this request has been considered yet and whether ICES can take this request into account.

4. General issues

4.1 NWWAC: List of special requests received by ICES from DG MARE

The NWWAC would appreciate if ICES could provide an overview of the special requests received by the European Commission that will be addressed in the coming year, including opportunities for the ACs to provide their contribution.

4.2 PELAC: Clarification procedure for using agreed management plan in top-line advice

The Pelagic AC asks for an update from ICES regarding the procedure for adopting an agreed management/rebuilding plan as the headline advice for ICES advice sheets (rather than including this advice in the catch options table). During the PelAC July meetings in 2021, a discussion was held suggesting that there was a difference in opinion between ICES and the EU Commission on this procedure, and that this issue was still under bilateral discussion. For sake of clarity, the PelAC would appreciate an update on the latest status of this discussion and if possible, what the exact procedure is as followed by ICES.

4.3 LDAC: Improving science and discard data for deep-water stocks

Action point from MIAC 2021:

LDAC, NWWAC, NSAC (and potentially SWWAC) to organise a Task Force to look into the needs and gaps of commercial data on (by)catch and discards. Explore avenues of collaboration with ICES WGDEEP to try to integrate commercial data into the advisory process in time for next biannual advice on fishing opportunities for 2021/2022.

The LDAC proposes to follow up on this item to establish next steps.

4.4 NWWAC: Overview on ICES work supporting the implementation of the EU MSFD

The EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) aims at protecting and restoring marine ecosystems and biodiversity through reaching the 'good environmental status' (GES) by 2020 using 11 'descriptors' as indicators. The process of defining GES for each of these 11 descriptors is not fully finalised. The EC adopted detailed criteria and methodology standards for each descriptor to help MS implement the MSFD, however an EC report from June 2020 indicated that a strengthened framework is needed. Article 23 of the MSFD stipulates that "the Commission shall review this Directive by 15 July 2023 and shall, where appropriate, propose any necessary amendments." The NSAC and NWWAC have established a Focus Group on this topic aiming to contribute to this review with knowledge and experience of their members, keeping in mind the ambitions of the EU Green Deal and keeping aligned with the provisions of CFP and objectives of the EU

Biodiversity Strategy. In light of this, the NWWAC would appreciate hearing an overview of ICES work related to the MSFD implementation, to strengthen and promote scientific approach to review.

4.5 PELAC: ICES Workshop on reference points WKREF

The PelAC wishes to raise some questions and concerns relating to the ICES workshop WKREF held online between the 2nd and 4th of November 2021.

WKREF is a series of two workshops that intends to examine the basis for setting reference points, with a particular focus on target and limit reference points. This is an important topic as the methods for deriving reference points have been criticized for being in-transparent and subjective. Correct reference points are important as it relates directly to the catch-advice given by ICES.

Concretely, the PelAC wishes to bring two concerns relating to the workshop(s) to the attention of ICES:

- The first issue relates to the procedural aspects of the workshops. The registration for first workshop (WKREF1), which was open for all participants with ICES observer status, was closed for registration on basis that "*This workshop is now full.*". To that end, it should be noted that the registration deadline for meeting number two (WKREF2) the 11-13 of January 2022 was set to the 31st of August 2021. Having such early registrations and limited the number of participants is not facilitating collaboration and stakeholder engagement. The reason for limiting participation to this particular workshop is unclear, especially considering that it was an on-line meeting. The PelAC asks why and on what basis workshops are closed for participation: when, where and on which basis is the selection of participants carried out. Closing workshops for participation also raises the question who is allowed to participate and who is not. The PelAC would appreciate clarity on this.

- The second issue relates to the 2020 MIACO meeting, where concerns about ICES's ability to include ecosystem effects into the catch advice was raised (section 7.6 in ICES 2020). The concern partly results from the "F_{msy} project", the results from which indicate that including ecosystem aspects through density dependent effects in growth, maturation and mortality, will produce different F_{msy} values (Sparholt et al., 2020). In response to this, ICES stated "*ICES proposes to collaborate on a workshop for reference points in a changing environment. ICES is working to schedule this workshop for the end of 2020.*". However, at the WKREF, several participants were not allowed to present their work, including Henrik Sparholt and his work during the F_{msy} project. This restriction does not facilitate the proposed collaboration. The PelAC would appreciate clarity on this.

ICES 2020: https://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Committee%20report/ACOM/2020/MIACO_2020.pdf

Sparholt et al., 2020: Estimating Fmsy from an ensemble of data sources to account for density dependence in Northeast Atlantic fish stocks. ICES Journal of Marine Science, Volume 78, Issue 1, January-February 2021, Pages 55–69, https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsaa175

4.6 CCRUP: Interpretation at meetings

Considering that most of the small-scale fisheries representatives only speak their native language and in order to ensure that they can attend ICES meetings, we would like to know if you are considering having interpretation at your meetings with stakeholders (at least in Portuguese, Spanish and French), so not only the secretariat, but also our president and vice-presidents could attend and fully understand the discussion.