

REPORT OF THE
Study Group on Management of Integrated Data

Tallinn, Estonia
27 September 2003

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1 SUMMARY

The Study Group on Management of Integrated Data (SGMID) has had difficulty arranging a functional participants list and has been unable to meet during the past year. At the ICES 2003 Annual Science Conference held in Tallinn, Estonia, the Co-Chairs of SGMID held an *Ad Hoc* session which had the objectives of:

- 1) Reviewing SGMID's ToR and revising them if necessary;
- 2) Determining a date and venue for its first "real" meeting;
- 3) Discussing the current list of participants and proposing additional participants;
- 4) Preparing a short report for the Consultative Committee providing ToR and meeting details.

A group of ten individuals (see Annex 1) met on Saturday afternoon from 17.15 hrs to 18.15 hrs. There was a brief discussion of the overall objectives of the Study Group including the recognition that the emphasis of the working group required membership by users of data systems as opposed to managers of data systems. The current official list of participants was then reviewed and discussion of other possible participants took place. In addition to the originally appointed participants, there is now a list of individuals who have agreed to attend a Study Group meeting and another list of individuals that will be approached to participate. If they all attend the first meeting, the group will have attained the critical expertise needed to address the ToRs.

The group reviewed the ToRs and agreed that all were well posed. The only addition was to ToR b). The group felt that there was a need to consider other physical, biological and human use data that might be needed to address issues of regional assessments and other uses of an integrated data system in the ICES region. A modification of ToR b) was made and presented in Annex 3.

To take advantage of the fact that some members of the proposed group would be attending the WGZE meeting in Hamburg (5–8 April 2004) and the fact that Co-Chair C. Zimmermann was located in Hamburg and could host the meeting, it is proposed that SGMID meet from 31 March to 2 April 2004 in Hamburg.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 2: PROPOSED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SGMID

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* appointed participants; + agreed participants, ° proposed participants

ANNEX 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

The **Study Group on Management of Integrated Data** [SGMID] (Co-Chairs: P. Wiebe, USA, and C. Zimmermann, Germany) will meet in Hamburg, Germany from 31 March to 2 April 2004 to:

- a) review the development within ICES towards integrated databases of oceanographic, environmental, and fisheries data;
- b) identify data sources relevant to a), above, not yet integrated into the ICES databases, and other physical, biological, and human use data sources relevant to the ICES area.
- c) review existing integrated data systems for fisheries/environmental data and review data integration work in existing projects inside and outside of ICES;
- d) propose strategies and technical solutions for integrating available data including the possibility that data are not physically located in one site;
- e) evaluate and recommend the level of integration and aggregation of data in connection with management issues from an ecosystem perspective including the use of GIS systems;
- f) evaluate problems associated with the accessibility of data.

SGMID will report by 26 April 2004 for the attention of ACE, ACME and ACFM.

Supporting Information

Priority:	High
Scientific Justification and relation to Action Plan	The Bureau has decided to work towards integration of the ICES databases to support work on an ecosystem level. This work has been developing only slowly due to resource problems. However, with additional staff at the Secretariat, it is now hoped that the progress can be more rapid. The Secretariat will present its draft plan for such an integration and would like to discuss this in a wider forum before the final decision on how the integration should be implemented is taken. The key discussion point is, therefore, to understand the use to be made of the integrated data and the possibilities such integration will create.
Resource Requirements:	
Participants:	The background for this group is the decision to achieve integration of the ICES databases. This integration is to be implemented at the users' level. The members of the group will provide input to the Secretariat's Database Group on how the databases should be developed, on the required data products and on requests for data that shall be served now and in the future. The Working Group is a users' group and will not deal with the technical implementation of the databases, but take part in the verification that the databases meet users' needs. Members should therefore be users and they do not need particular technical knowledge on computer databases. Members should be interested in integrating data from several disciplines of marine science for use in their research.
Secretariat Facilities:	
Financial:	
Linkages to Advisory Committees:	The Group will report to ACE at its 2004 meeting.
Linkages to other Committees or Groups:	RMC, LRC, OCC, MHC, BLTC, ACFM, ACME, ACE, WGMHM
Linkages to other Organisations:	OSPAR, HELCOM, EC
Secretariat Cost Share	ICES:100%