

International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

General Secretary:
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Our Ref: C.24.h/CM/lc

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Subject: Review of the MSFD Decision Descriptors 3, 4 and 6

Dear Madam/Sir,

The European Commission (DG Environment) requested ICES to provide further scientific advice in support of the review of the Decision on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters (2010/477/EU) on the following descriptors:

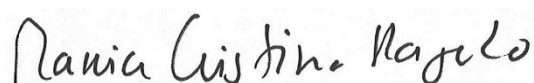
- Descriptor 3 Commercially exploited fish and shellfish
- Descriptor 4 Foodwebs
- Descriptor 6 Seafloor integrity.

For each Descriptor, ICES is going to arrange a focused workshop on specific challenges that arose during the 2014 scientific review of the MSFD descriptors. Thus the workshops will build on the previous work. These workshops will also be open for researchers from EU member states that are not ICES member countries. The workshops will take place in ICES HQ, Copenhagen, from 10–12 February (D3), 16–19 February (D6), and 24–25 February (D4). The Terms of Reference for the Workshops are attached.

Experts in MSFD implementations or scientific issues regarding the descriptors are invited to participate. Each country can send 1–2 participants. If nominations exceed the meeting space available ICES reserves the right to reject participants. This will be done based on the experts' relevant qualifications for the Workshop and geographical coverage. Participants join the workshop at national expense. Please note that participants are not limited to those nominated by ICES Delegates and ACOM.

Please inform the ICES Secretariat (lise.cronne@ices.dk) before 30 January 2015 about experts relevant to the process that are available and would like to attend one of the three Workshops. ICES will confirm participation by 3 February 2015.

Sincerely,



Cristina Morgado
Head of ACOM support