

**SCSA Working Group on stock assessment of Small Pelagic species  
Ancona, Italy, 26-30 October 2009**

**INFORMATION FOR THE JOINT STOCK ASSESSMENTS**

**Moderator:** Andrés Uriarte

**Objectives:**

- (i) to undertake stock assessment of anchovy and sardine in different GSAs by compiling all data available from fisheries and direct surveys;
- (ii) to use the suitable models and software to assess the different stocks.
- (iii) to formulate scientific advice for each stock assessed.

**Participants:**

Attendance is open to scientists concerned with the assessments of the target stocks. A “**stock coordinator**”, who will be in charge of compiling the data and have a general knowledge on the stock, and, possibly, an “**assessment coordinator**”, who will be the person responsible for running the assessment, will be identified for each stock before the meeting.

**Methods to be used:**

VPA and/or XSA and/or ICA will be used. The method historically used for each stock will be the *reference method*. Alternative proposed methods (if any) will also be welcomed and considered. For stocks never assessed before, the method selected will depend on data availability and quality.

**Software:**

Darby, C.D., S. Flatman. - 1994. Virtual Population Analysis: version 3.1 (Windows/Dos) user guide. Info. Tech. Ser. MAFF Direct. Fish. Res., Lowestoft, 1, 85 pp.

Patterson K.R. 1998. Integrated catch-at-age analysis, v.1.4. Aberdeen, Marine Laboratory.

FLR framework: <http://flr-project.org/>

TASACS (Dankert W. Skagen and Åsmund Skålevik, IMR, Bergen, Norway: User manual of TASACS A Toolbox for Age-structured Stock Assessment using Catch and Survey data <http://code.google.com/p/tasacs/>

**Exercise contents:**

- (i) to compile and review the data available for assessment in each GSA and species;
- (ii) to develop an assessment by species and GSA using a suitable model and discuss the results;
- (iii) to identify future steps for improving each assessment and management advice.

**Required data:**

Annual time series of catch-at-age data and CPUE and/or biomass and/or Population at age estimates from direct surveys.