



Ref. **Workshop on Biological Input to Eastern Baltic Cod Assessment (WKBEBCA)**,  
HaV, Gothenburg, Sweden, 1–2 March 2017.

Dear colleagues,

with this letter we would like to invite you to the upcoming ICES workshop on Eastern Baltic cod biology. Assessing the status of the Eastern Baltic cod stock and providing management advice are presently challenged by a number of changes in cod biology and the ecological conditions affecting cod.

The biological information that is critical for stock assessment includes estimates on:

i) growth; ii) natural mortality; iii) reproductive capacity of the stock. Thus, the aim and focus of this workshop is to present and discuss progress in quantifying recent changes in these variables/processes for the Eastern Baltic cod. The outcome of the workshop will provide direct input to further work with assessing the status of EB cod in ICES.

Due to a relatively short meeting time, we would like to prioritize contributions where some results are already available that allow quantifying present values or recent relative changes in i) growth, ii) natural mortality, and iii) reproductive capacity of the stock. This information will be most useful in preparation for stock assessment of EB cod in spring 2017. Any ongoing work that will lead to being able to quantify changes in these variables in near future is encouraged to be briefly presented and discussed as well, and will help planning for future work with the assessment of EB cod.

In order to plan for an efficient meeting, and allocate appropriate amount of time for different contributions, please let us know by **February 1**, whether you are coming, and whether you have something to present on any of the three topics mentioned above. Everybody with knowledge in cod biology and/or interest in getting updated with related research on EB cod is welcome to participate. The experts in cod biology normally not involved in stock assessment work in WGBFAS are especially encouraged to participate.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please find enclosed also the Terms of Reference for the workshop, with some additional information on the background and intention of the meeting.

Thank you very much and looking forward to an interesting meeting!

Co-chairs:

Margit Eero (DTU Aqua, Denmark) & Michele Casini (SLU Aqua, Sweden)