

PICES-ICES WG53/WGSPF meeting (May 2026)



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Activity 7: Advanced technologies and methodologies for assessing small pelagic communities

Activity leaders: Maria Manuel Angélico (Portugal), Dave McGowan (USA), Chris Rooper (Canada)





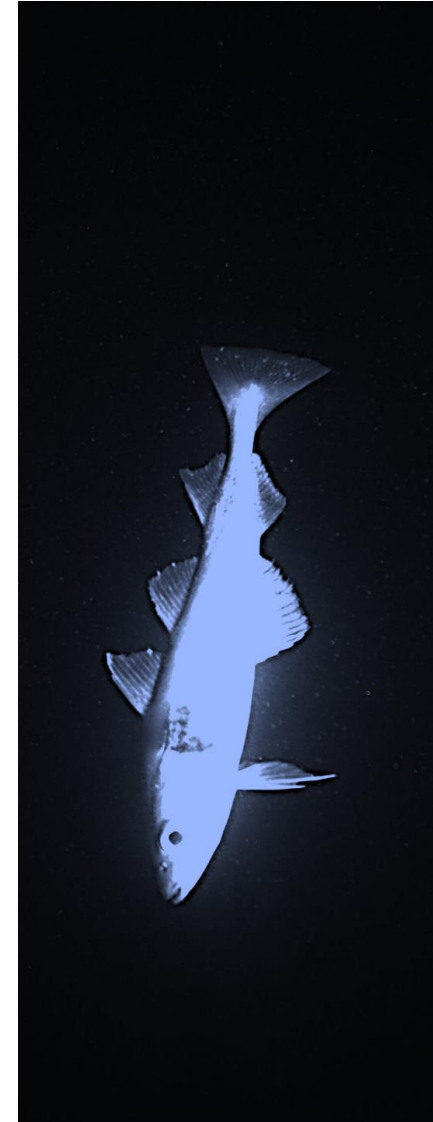
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Activity progress: objectives

- 1) Review of survey methods currently used to assess small pelagics – ToR 2, 3 & 4
- 2) Review methods for improving, measuring or correcting existing sampling methods for potential gear selectivity and sampling bias – ToR 2, 3 & 4
- 3) Review applications of new technologies to complement traditional/existing surveys to provide more efficient, wider or better integrated abundance indices; additionally, review applications of new technologies to better characterize the pelagic ecosystem or habitat. – ToR 2, 3 & 4
- 4) Research new technologies that can be used to develop new surveys or augment existing monitoring efforts, and examine new tools that can provide data to support small pelagic assessment. – ToR 2, 3 & 4
- 5) Review novel data processing and data analysis methods. – ToR 2, 3 & 4
 - a) Data processing for untapping the potential in the large wealth of historical and future data
 - b) Data analysis using new statistical approaches

Manuscript in progress



Activity progress: meetings

- Quarterly meetings starting in 2025
- Summer meeting – September
- Fall meeting – November
- Winter meeting – February
- Spring meeting (workshop) - May

Activity 7
Meeting – Feb
24, 2026

- La Paz workshop schedule
- Survey for workshop participants
- Manuscript progress
- Other business

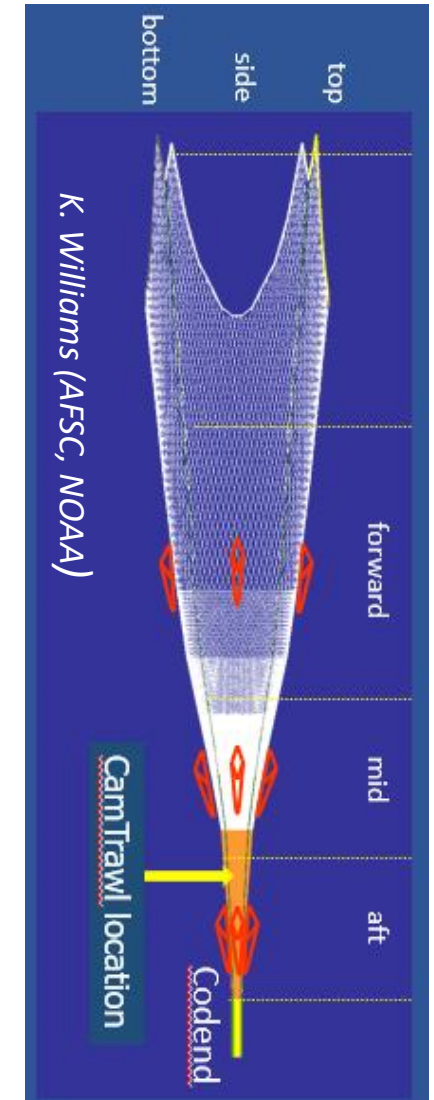
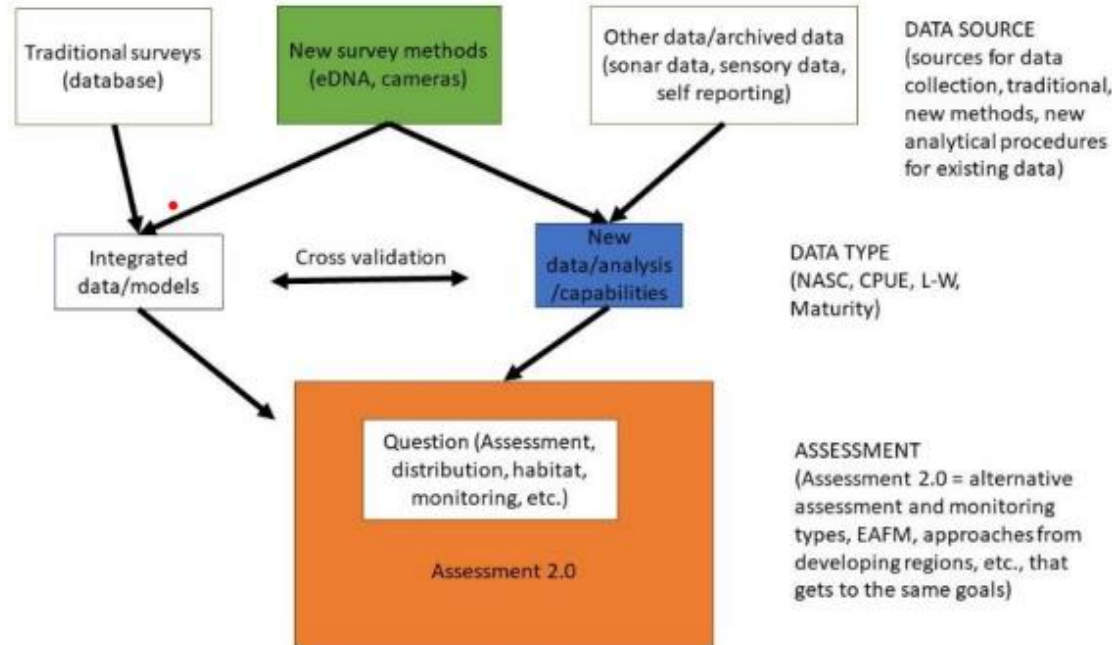


Activity progress: results



Deliverables and anticipated timeline

Deliverable/objective	Timeline
Convene topic session or workshop on advanced technologies in 2026 Symposium (SPF-2026)	May 2026
Review paper on comparative survey design, existing survey methods and modeling methods	May 2026 – present draft at SPF-2026

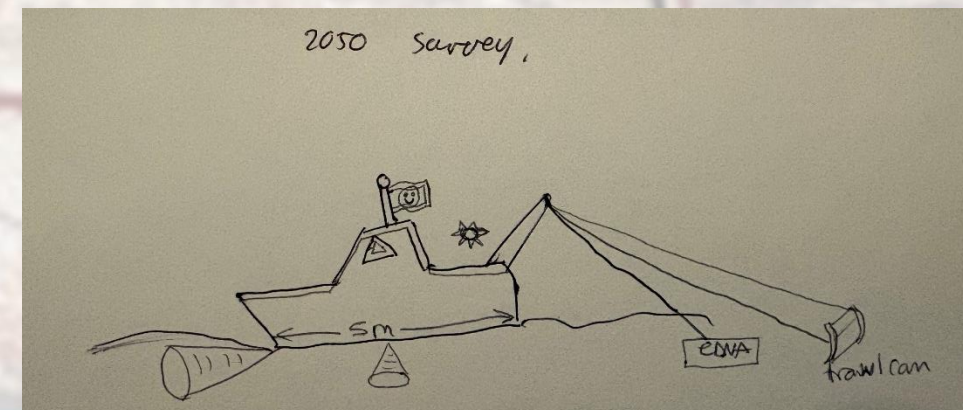


W3. Addressing Knowledge Gaps and Future-proofing Monitoring of SPF Using Novel Methods and Technologies

- **Ecosystem surveys** should be the standard
- **Data integration methods** are key to bringing in new/auxiliary data (eDNA, industry instrumentation, etc)
- **Maintain cost efficiency** (e.g. trade-off between new technology and better data)
- **Observation system simulation experiments** to identify data needs/adaptive sampling

Surveys in 2050

- Same surveys with new auxiliary data or Robots only
- “No fishermen on vessels in 2050”





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Activity progress: results

Community building

- Zotero Group – repository for things survey
- Agenda item – Exciting survey news!
- General discussion forum





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Activity progress: discussion

- Progress is ongoing on the deliverables (anticipated paper for summer 2026)
- Our objectives cover much more ground than our deliverables (aspirational?)
- Room for addition of more ideas and projects from the group



General points for WG meeting

- Always trying to reach out for more survey metadata
- Interested to hear about survey evaluation activities that your organization may have/publish
 - Data/methods gaps or formal assessments
 - New methods
- **Workshop discussion: SPF Surveys in 2050!**

