

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW WORKSHOP, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, MONDAY 1 TO FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 2025

Over Monday 1 to Friday 5 December, the customary annual International Stock Assessment Workshop will be taking place at UCT (Mathematics Building, Room M212).

Three international scientists have confirmed acceptance to attend as members of the Review Panel: Jim Ianelli, Andre Punt and Michael Sissenwine.

TOPICS

The primary topics to be covered for various South African marine resources are as follows:

- 1) Sardine and anchovy – Review of progress on developing a new management procedure for setting catch limits in the pelagic fishery for sardine and anchovy
- 2) Consideration of appropriate harvest levels for lower trophic level species (such as sardine and anchovy) that take account of the need of dependent predators (such as seabirds) and the wider ecosystem
- 3) The value of/need for vessel-based surveys for pelagic and demersal resources in circumstances where their future is threatened by Government funding limitations
- 4) Squid – Review of progress on the development of a revised population model to assess this resource, based in particular, on the information provided by monthly commercial catch size structure data.

Furthermore, from 2 pm to 4-30 pm on the afternoon of Wednesday 3 December, there will be a Discussion session on **Improving scientific communication and media-reporting on marine resource management issues**. This will commence with about seven short presentations over the first hour, followed by general discussion and then a panel putting forward specific proposals for improvement. It is planned that the presenters and panel members will be drawn from scientists, lawyers, ENGOs, politicians and environmental reporters.

SCHEDULE

Discussion will commence at 9-30 am on Monday 1 December, and thereafter take place from 9 am to 5-30 pm each day, with two 30-minute breaks for tea at 10-30 am and at 3-30 pm, and a 90-minute lunch break at 12-30 pm – while the Thursday afternoon will be reserved for the Panel to prepare their report. A detailed schedule indicating which topics will be discussed at what times will be circulated in due course.

For the most part, discussions will be at a technical level, however on the final day (Friday 5th at **3-30 pm** in room M304 of the UCT Mathematics Building, the **International Review Panel will provide a summary of their recommendations at a level appropriate for a lay audience, and will be available to respond to questions** from the attending audience.

DOCUMENTATION AND ATTENDANCE

Likely commencing Friday 20 November (possibly before), documents for background and for discussion at the workshop will be posted on the following website for prior download, as they become available: <http://www.maram.uct.ac.za/maram/workshops/2025>.

Attendees are asked to bring their own copies of documents (as found on the website above) to the meeting as they will not be made available in other forms. However, for technical reasons, there may be some documents which cannot be made available in this way; if so, these will be emailed to those who advise attendance as requested below.

Because of the need to maintain a workshop type interaction, Chairs will limit discussion during each session primarily to panel members and selected key contributors who will sit at a central table. However, others are welcome to attend, with members of relevant DFFE scientific working groups especially encouraged to do so. Their interventions will be entertained in the discussions to the extent that time permits.

Inter alia for catering purposes, we need to know likely attendance. **Could those wishing to attend part or all of the event please send an email to Anthea Stain anthea.stain@uct.ac.za copied to doug.butterworth@uct.ac.za**, indicating the topics for which you wish to attend (this is **not** necessary for those who wish to attend the final Friday lay summary session only).