

**ICES**International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea**CIEM**Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

ICES SCIENCE NETWORK

The **International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)** is the science organization that coordinates and promotes marine research in the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas, the Baltic and North seas. The **ICES** network unites a community of more than 1600 marine scientists from 20 countries around the **ICES** area, which fund and support **ICES** activities. Scientists, working through **ICES**, gather information about marine ecosystems, filling gaps in existing knowledge. This information is developed into unbiased, non-political advice that supports the management of the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas by **ICES** 20 Member Countries. Advice is also delivered to the European Commission and the Regional Conventions in the North Atlantic.

ICES plans and coordinates marine research through a system of committees, more than 100 expert groups, science symposia, and an Annual Science Conference. **ICES** is the prime source of advice on marine ecosystems to governments and international regulatory bodies that manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

Top-down demands meet bottom-up science

With its unique combination of demand driven and bottom-up generation of knowledge of the marine environment, **ICES** contributes significantly to the scientific support for an **Integrated Maritime Policy** for the European Union. In order to build a foundation of excellence in marine and maritime research for the **Integrated Maritime Policy**, **ICES** is prepared to contribute through:

- **Science integration.** Providing an integrated scientific basis to deal with the complexity of sea-based issues from climate change through marine spatial planning, integrated coastal-zone management to sustainable use of oceanic and sea resources. This is consistent with **ICES** mission to advance the capacity to provide scientific advice on human activities affecting, and affected by, marine ecosystems.
- **Across-boundary integration.** Discovering opportunities to integrate international efforts with the emerging requirement for spatial planning and designation of marine protected areas, implementation of NATURA 2000, and observation and assessment ecosystems.
- **Maximized synergies.** Taking full advantage of the scientific effort shared by **ICES** Member States and the Commission by coordinating efforts with non-EU countries (Iceland, Norway, and Russia being **ICES Member Countries**, and Australia, Chile, Greece, Peru, and South Africa being **ICES** affiliate countries) and with shared-seas partners such as Canada and the US.
- **Further discourse.** Continued cooperation and dialogue with the EC's **RACs** and **STECF**; for example, the current combined development by **ICES** and the EC **Joint Research Centre** of indicators for good environmental status within the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**.



- **Marine data integration.** ICES maintains some of the world's largest databases on marine fisheries, oceanography, and the marine environment, and its Data Centre is part of a global network of distributed data centres.
- **Structural integration.** Through ICES leadership of the "Towards an Integrated Marine and Maritime Science Community" action within EC FP7, a coherent voice representing the major scientific networks in Europe is emerging. The primary goal of the initiative is a forum for a new integrated governance and consultancy model (the European Marine and Maritime Science and Technology Forum). It is ready to guide implementation of the **European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research** and to facilitate development and implementation of the **Integrated EU Maritime Policy**. It will strengthen the interdisciplinary approach to sea-based sciences in support of an integrated approach to maritime governance. Finally, it will be an effective communication tool for integrated European policy consultancy.
- **ICES Advice.** Based on a Memorandum of Understanding between ICES and the **European Commission**, ICES provides scientific advice on myriad issues, such as the **Common Fisheries Policy**, **Water Framework Directive**, and the **Marine Framework Directive**, for the purpose of policies and legislation. ICES has also provided the **Commission** with fisheries and environmental data.

Gerd Hubold
ICES General Secretary

Mike Sinclair
ICES President