

**FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting**

**Eleventh Session**

**Rome, Italy 13-14 and 18 May 2019**

**ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ICES DURING THE  
INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD (June 2017 – April 2019)**

**Author: ICES Secretariat**

1. Developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries; revision of annex 2

The ICES Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF) was officially launched in December 2018. TAF is an online open resource of ICES stock assessments for each assessment year. All data input and output are fully traceable and versioned. At present, a number of ICES stock assessment groups and workshops started using it in their work. From the more than 100 assessments already created within TAF, around 20 have been used already as the basis of the stock advice.

TAF assessments are stored and made visible on GitHub (<https://github.com/ices-taf>) and through the TAF online application ( <http://taf.ices.dk/>)

TAF presentation at FAO FishForum 2018 has revealed interest from other organisations like GFCM that could make use of TAF for storing stock assessments, data and results

2. Reporting on status/trends of Marine resources, and of fisheries;

There have been developments regarding future online, interactive, and data-linked approaches to communicating ICES advice.

In support of EU request on dissemination of advice beyond pdf files, ICES has prepared four examples, where the single-stock advice web visualizations were created through R markdown documents (see more details at [http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/Special\\_requests/eu.2018.33.pdf](http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2018/Special_requests/eu.2018.33.pdf) and [https://github.com/ices-tools-dev/VISA\\_tool](https://github.com/ices-tools-dev/VISA_tool)). In support of this development, ICES Spatial Facility (<https://gis.ices.dk/sf/>) includes a separate

map widget “Advice Visualisation” referring to the stock assessment outputs (<https://standardgraphs.ices.dk>) and stock information database (<https://sid.ices.dk>) that are also used for the ICES-FIRMS Marine Resource fact sheets.

It is worth mentioning that ICES has developed a Bycatch database to facilitate reporting and data harmonization of national records on bycatch of threatened, endangered and protected marine species. The database holds data describing total fishing effort, monitoring/sampling effort and protected species bycatch incidents.

Since 2018, ICES had publishes 3 Fisheries Overviews (<https://www.ices.dk/community/advisory-process/Pages/fisheries-overviews.aspx>) and 6 ecosystem overviews (<https://www.ices.dk/community/advisory-process/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx>). Both types of overviews are organized by ICES Ecoregion. Fisheries overviews summarize fishing activities while Ecosystem overviews provide a description of the ecosystems, identify the main human pressures, and explain how these affect key ecosystem components.

3. Development/review of standards

ICES is in the process of developing a compilation of technical guidelines related with the advisory products. Published guidelines are available following this link: <http://tinyurl.com/y3o4jqjz>

In collaboration with Regional Coordination Groups, ICES has initiated a process to standardize survey referencing.

4. Development of Applications (e.g. new module at Secretariat level, or enhancements in streamlining workflow at Partner level);

See 1, 2 and 3 above

5. Development of case studies/prototypes;

See point 2 above regarding the EU request on dissemination of advice beyond pdf files.

6. Training or skills development;

Since June 2017, ICES arranged 15 training courses, most of which are focused on fishery stock assessments, fishery management, and applying of R to fisheries and marine ecology data.

<http://ices.dk/news-and-events/Training/Pages/default.aspx>

ICES is also regularly running Workshops on Training for the Transparent Assessment Framework among the community.

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6. Promotional / fund raising activities

ICES organises an Annual Science Conference (ASC) where hundreds of participants gather to present and discuss the latest marine science, develop new ideas, and establish partnerships. The ASC 2019 will take place in Gothenburgh, Sweden, 9-12 September 2019. For more details see: <https://www.ices.dk/news-and-events/asc/asc2019/Pages/default.aspx>

7. Planned activities during the coming intersession period.

Annex: Revised annex 2 (if applicable)