

FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Twelfth Session
Online, 18-21 October 2021
FIRMS RELEVANT ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY ICES DURING THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD (May 2019 – September 2021)
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I. Summary of Activities

(Please describe your relevant activities guided by the following items)

- Developments on inventories of Marine resources, and of fisheries; revision of Annex 2 of the Partnership Arrangement;

ICES continues to develop and populate the Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF). TAF is an online open resource of ICES stock assessments for each assessment year. All data input and output are fully traceable and versioned. TAF assessments are stored and made visible on GitHub (<https://github.com/ices-taf>) and through the TAF online application (<http://taf.ices.dk/>)

ICES continues to populate and improve the [Stock Information Database](#), a database that stores ICES stock metadata such as the ICES stock category, the assessment model used as basis for advice, or the date of the latest benchmark. The database is publicly accessible and its contents updated yearly for each of the stocks. ICES has recently released a new module of SID called “benchmark stock rolling issue lists” that contains, for each stock, the main issues identified by its stock assessor as candidate to be explored at the next benchmark for the stock.

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

ICES has published 10 fisheries overviews (<https://www.ices.dk/advice/Fisheries-overviews/Pages/fisheries-overviews.aspx>) and 10 ecosystem overviews (<https://www.ices.dk/advice/ESD/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. Both types of overviews are annually updated to make sure they remain relevant.

ICES continues to populate and improve the [Stock Assessment Graphs](#), a database that stores stock assessment outputs for each of the stocks assessed by ICES. The database is publicly accessible and results for each updated stock assessment are made public once ICES advice for a given stock is released.

- Development/review of standards;

ICES has recently been [accredited for its data management](#) under the [CoreTrustSeal](#) programme - an international, community based, non-governmental, and non-profit organization promoting sustainable and trustworthy data infrastructures. This accreditation shows that [ICES Data Centre](#) is following recognized best practices within the global community of data centres.

ICES is developing the new *Regional DataBase and Estimation System (RDBES)*. RDBES will store details detailed commercial fisheries sampling data and also details about how the sampling was performed and enable statistical estimations to be made. Some of the aims of the RDBES are to provide a regional estimation system such that statistical estimates of quantities of interest can be produced from sample data in order to deliver data for ICES stock assessments and advice, and to increase the data quality, documentation of data and ensuring of approved estimation methods are used.

ICES continues to develop and compile technical guidelines related with the advisory products. Published guidelines are available following this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/yx748vj8>

ICES has initiated a process to standardize survey referencing and unique identifiers have been assigned to each scientific survey used as input data for stock assessments and advice. These codes have been used in the Tables “Basis of the assessment and advice” in single stock advice sheets.

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

See the description of databases mentioned under the bullet points above.

- Development of case studies/prototypes;

There is no new information available

- Training or skills development;

ICES arranged 8 physical training courses between 2019 and 2020 and 7 online training courses between 2020 and 2021. Most courses had a focus on fishery stock assessments, fisheries management, and new technologies and methods applied to fisheries and marine ecology data.

<https://www.ices.dk/events/Training/Pages/default.aspx>

ICES has also ran workshops on training for the transparent assessment framework among the community as well as one workshop on tools and development of stock assessment models using 4a4 and stock synthesis (WKTADSA) in 2021.

- Promotional / fund raising activities;

ICES organises an Annual Science Conference (ASC) where hundreds of participants present and discuss the latest marine science, develop new ideas, and establish partnerships. The ASC 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19. The ASC 2021 took place online on 6-8 September 2021. For more details see: <https://www.ices.dk/events/asc/ASC2021/Pages/default.aspx>

- Planned activities during the coming intersession period.

To continue developing the points described above. ICES will organise an online 2-day introductory training in stock assessment including mixed-fisheries advice in November 2022.

II. Contribution to strategic directions for the FIRMS Partnership

(Please elaborate on perceived benefits to your organization and any suggested areas of improvements)

III. Revised annex 2 (if applicable)