

**ICES report to the SCOR Annual Meeting
Helsinki, Finland
11–15 September 2011**



ICES

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

ICES Activities 2010/2011

ICES international activities have two dimensions: cooperation among the participating institutes from 20 member countries and cooperation of the ICES community with other international organizations/networks.

Cooperation with other international organizations

The ICES/PICES joint Working Group on Forecasting Climate Change Impacts on Fish and Shellfish (WGFCCIFS) will conclude its successful work by the end of 2011. The ICES Strategic Initiative on Climate Change science has ended already 2010, however, a position paper as the final product will be released around the date of the ASC in September 2011. The ICES Science Committee as well as the PICES Science Board decided to join forces and continue the climate change science related activities of both organizations in a joint structure yet to be defined into 2012 and further.

Other major international cooperation activities in 2011 included symposia and scientific conferences:

- The ICES/PICES 5th International Zooplankton Production Symposium was held in Pucon, Chile, 14–18 March 2011, with conveners Ruben Escribano (Chile), Delphine Bonnet (France), and Julie Keister (USA);
- The ICES/NAFO Symposium on the Variability of the North Atlantic and its Marine Ecosystems during 2000–2009 was held in Santander, Spain, 10–12 May 2011, with conveners Sarah Hughes (UK), Alicia Lavin (Spain), Stephen Dye (UK), Hedinn Valdimarsson (Iceland) and Glenn Nolan (Ireland);
- The ICES/PICES/GLOBEC Symposium on “Comparative studies of climate effects on polar and sub-polar ocean ecosystems: progress in observation and prediction” was held in Seattle, Washington, USA, 22–26 May 2011, with conveners George Hunt (USA), Ólafur Astthórsson (Iceland), and Michio Kishi (Japan);
- The 2nd International Symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, was held 3–7 July 2011, at Arendal, Norway, with Erlend Moksness (Norway) as convener;
- The ICES/NASCO Symposium on 'Salmon at Sea: Scientific Advances and their Implications for Management' will be held in La Rochelle, France, 11–13 October 2011, with conveners Lars Petter Hansen (Norway), David Reddin (Canada), and Malcolm Windsor (UK).

Cooperation with European Marine and Maritime Research Networks

ICES coordinates a consortium of marine and maritime research networks which develops a forum for cooperation and exchange under a Research Framework Programme of the EU: Towards a Marine and Maritime Science and Technology Forum (MARCOM+). The Forum is supposed to create a lasting cooperation between the marine research and the industrial research networks with a view on better integration and generating joint ventures with mutual benefit. The project will end 2011, however, cooperation will continue. A business model is currently being developed.

Strategic Science Initiatives

The ICES Science Committee (SCICOM) has set up another three Strategic Initiatives in addition to the one on climate change science in 2010 which started to unfold and developed during 2011:

- The SCICOM and ACOM Strategic Initiative on Biodiversity Science and Advice (SIBAS) had its kick-off meeting right before the ASC 2010 in Nantes. The objective of SIBAS is to develop a clear niche for ICES that links marine biodiversity science and advice, and positioning of ICES to ensure that it is regarded as an effective and reliable source of biodiversity advice in the ICES Area, with relevance to wider seas. SIBAS is to catalyze new research on marine biodiversity that increases profile and relevance of ICES, and that improves the capacity of ICES to provide rigorous, consistent and legitimate advice relating to biodiversity. SIBAS will ensure that ICES reacts proactively to needs relating to biodiversity through monitoring policy development and coordinating its expert groups. A successful workshop with scientists, stakeholders and convention representatives (including CBD) was held in February 2011 at ICES HQ.
- The SCICOM and ACOM Strategic Initiative on Spatial Planning and Area-based Management (SIASM) emerged during the ASC 2010 and the STIG-MSP workshop under this initiative held in November produced a concrete work programme. SIASM works in close involvement of the ICES Data Centre and of the relevant working groups in ICES already engaged in the topic. The goals of SIASM are to define and quantify viable ecosystem features necessary to deliver ecosystem goods and services, and to define and quantify its vulnerability, cumulative impacts and synergies. SIASM will advance the scientific capacity on the two challenges above, translate and utilise this capacity into advice, and effectively communicate this capacity to clients, Member Countries, stakeholders and the scientific community.
- The ACOM and SCICOM Strategic Initiatives on Stock Assessment Methods (SISAM) carries out a review of state-of-the-art stock assessment methods used around the world. A first workshop was held right after the ASC 2010 in Nantes with invited experts from RFMO's worldwide. There will be follow-up activities 2011. The products may be a number of review publications and/or a conference on the topic with a global scope, and an online repository of codes, manuals and working datasets.

On the project side of ICES business the cooperation with SAHFOS (Sir Alistair Hardy Foundation, Plymouth, UK) on historical ICES plankton survey data digitization deserves mentioning here. The project ended in spring 2011 and covered much of the early surveys from the 1920s. The data set represents a valuable expansion of plankton time series. A publication in a peer reviewed journal is planned, the data will be made available soon through the ICES website.