

A world-leading marine science organization

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1902 that develops science and advice to support the sustainable use of our seas and oceans.

What we do

Providing evidence for decision-making

As an international marine science organization, ICES connects the science community and decision-makers. Working together with our member countries, partners, advice requesters, and other stakeholders, we create and share knowledge, data, and advice that supports conservation, management, and sustainability goals.

Advancing marine ecosystem understanding

Our interdisciplinary science spans all aspects of marine ecosystem and sustainability science. We support the work of early career scientists and share our knowledge through our publications, conferences, and training courses.

Analysing essential data for science and advice

ICES Data Centre has more than 300 million measurements that are at the foundation of effective management. Our community collects and analyses this information, contributing to the evidence that underpins ICES science and advice.

Working together

ICES provides impartial scientific advice to a wide range of recipients, including our member countries, international organizations and commissions, such as OSPAR, HELCOM, NEAFC, NASCO, and the European Commission. Although primarily focused on the Northeast Atlantic, our work has a global reach both within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

ICES at a glance



20 Member Countries
spanning the North Atlantic and adjacent seas



~5000
experts from **800 institutes** and organizations



~150
expert groups



Broad range of **scientific disciplines**



Contributions from **70+ countries**

Our products and services

- Ecosystem, fisheries, and aquaculture overviews
- Annual recurrent advice on 200–250 fishing opportunities in the Northeast Atlantic and Baltic Sea
- Advice on the trends and top pressures impacting marine ecosystems, methods of monitoring, indicators of the state of the environment, and the evaluation of management plans
- Data services including data portals, data visualization, and assessment tools
- Training
- Science highlights and viewpoints in areas of societal importance
- Publications
- Conferences and symposia

Ecosystem-based management

ICES considers ecosystem-based management (EBM) as the primary way of managing human activities affecting marine ecosystems. Our role is to provide the management of fisheries and other sectors with evidence for ecosystem-based decision-making. This is to support sustainable development aimed at both human and ecosystem well-being, the management system, and the stewardship of marine ecosystems.

Our priorities and plans

Explore ICES commitment to advancing marine science, conservation, and management through our Strategic, Science, and Advisory Plans.




Get involved

Join our community of experts, collaborate on our work, or take part as an observer. We welcome those who contribute to advancing marine science through our activities and meetings.

 www.ices.dk

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