

The ICES Mission

To advance the scientific capacity to give advice on human activities affecting, and affected by, marine ecosystems



ICES
CIEM

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

The Secretariat

ICES has been based in Copenhagen, Denmark, since 1902. Today its secretariat staff numbers 42, providing scientific, data handling, administrative, and secretarial support to the ICES community.

ICES 20 member countries

Belgium	Lithuania
Canada	the Netherlands
Denmark	Norway
Estonia	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	Russia
Germany	Spain
Iceland	Sweden
Ireland	United Kingdom
Latvia	United States of America

Affiliate countries

Australia, Chile, Greece, New Zealand, Peru, and South Africa

Non-governmental organizations with formal observer status: Worldwide Fund for Nature and Birdlife International.



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

An international scientific community that is relevant, responsive, sound, and credible, concerning marine ecosystems and their relation to humanity



ICES
H.C. Andersens Blvd. 44-46
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
Denmark

Tel. +45 33 38 67 00
Fax: +45 33 93 42 15
Email: info@ices.dk
www.ices.dk



WHAT IS ICES?

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) coordinates and promotes marine research on oceanography, the marine environment, the marine ecosystem, and on living marine resources in the North Atlantic. Members of the ICES community now include all coastal states bordering the North Atlantic and the Baltic Sea, with affiliate members in the Mediterranean Sea and southern hemisphere.

ICES is a network of more than 1600 scientists from 200 institutes linked by an intergovernmental agreement (the ICES Convention) to add value to national research efforts.

Scientists working through ICES gather information about the marine ecosystem. Besides filling gaps in existing knowledge, this information is developed into unbiased, non-political advice.

The 20 member countries that fund and support ICES use this advice to help them manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

WHAT DOES ICES DO?

Marine Data

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.

Science

ICES plans and coordinates marine research through its national delegates and a system of committees, with more than 100 working groups, symposia, and an Annual Science Conference. Most meetings take place at the ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark or in the member countries.

Advice

ICES is the prime source of scientific advice on the marine ecosystem to governments and international regulatory bodies that manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

Publication

ICES publishes its scientific information and advice in reports, publications (including the *ICES Journal of Marine Science*), electronic media, and on the ICES Website at www.ices.dk.

STUDYING THE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Until recently, marine research was often seen as a series of separate subjects. Now, the emphasis is on a holistic understanding of the marine ecosystem: its sustainable use, protection, and changes in a changing world.

ICES is in a unique position to provide this information with its traditional strengths in fisheries, oceanography, and the marine environment. ICES expert groups discuss all aspects of the marine ecosystem: from physical processes, water chemistry, and pollutants up to top-level predators such as fishes, seabirds, and marine mammals.

On a practical level, ICES already helps to run large ecosystem-based projects, for example, the Baltic Sea Regional Project, whose goal is to enhance the management of the Baltic Sea ecosystem as a whole.