



ICES

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

90 YEARS
OF SEA FISHERIES
RESEARCH IN POLAND



**NATIONAL
MARINE
FISHERIES
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

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For Immediate Release

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ICES Annual Science Conference 2011 in Gdańsk, Poland, focuses on the Baltic Sea

Copenhagen, Denmark – **International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**, the world's largest marine science and advisory body, in cooperation with the **Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development** and the **National Marine Research Fisheries Institute (NMFRI) in Gdynia**, will hold its **Annual Science Conference at the Gdańsk Music and Congress Centre in Gdańsk, Poland, 19–23 September**.

ICES and NMFRI invite representatives of the news media to attend the Conference. All registration fees are waived for qualified journalists.

A media briefing will be held at 10:00 on Monday 19 September, in the **Press Room at the Gdańsk Music and Congress Centre**. Key ICES and Polish scientists and officials will be present.

The Baltic region will be the primary focus at ICES Annual Science Conference 2011, alongside wider topics relating to [ICES Science Plan](#), including interdisciplinary marine research themes. The conference features 19 theme sessions, which include oral presentations and posters highlighting research from the Baltic and the wider ICES network.

In addition to the Baltic, theme sessions will cover topics such as climatic influences on fisheries, upwelling and physical processes in the coastal zone, plankton ecology and foodweb processes, habitat mapping and spatial management, biophysical and fishery modelling, new technologies in the application of the ecosystem approach, integrating top predators in ecosystem management, marine renewable energies, and comparative dynamics of large marine ecosystems.

The Conference will open Monday 19 September at 13:00 with a lecture by Professor Jan Marcin Węśławski, Poland, titled "Practitioners Faster than Scientists – Marine Nature Conservation".

The full programme of ASC 2011, along with daily news updates from the Conference, is available on ICES website <http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2011/index.asp>.

Selected Theme Sessions from ICES Annual Science Conference 2011

Background information and scientific rationale for the theme sessions are summarized below. The letter codes correspond to the various theme sessions on the conference programme. Dates, times, and a list of all theme sessions are available on ICES [ASC website](#). (These examples have been chosen for information, and may not necessarily reflect the views of ICES and/or the National Marine Research Fisheries Institute in Gdynia).

Harmful Algal Blooms in the Baltic Sea (C)

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) affect the entire Baltic Sea ecosystem and influence human activities and economies, including aquaculture, tourism, and fisheries. Observations of known and entirely new types of HABs in the Baltic Sea have inspired studies on the ecology and oceanography of the blooms and their effects on other trophic levels. Research to be presented in this theme session will include reporting on recent blooms and monitoring frameworks with examples from the Curonian lagoon as well as the wider Baltic Sea.

Joint ICES/PICES Theme Session on Recruitment Processes: Early life history dynamics – from eggs to juveniles (H)

Variability in recruitment success remains a significant issue in understanding the reproductive dynamics of marine organisms. Recruitment processes determine how many individuals survive from eggs to the stage at which they join the adult stock. Survival rates vary widely among species, within a species, between stocks, and over temporal and spatial scales. Contributions to this theme session include research that identifies key events and factors that govern year-class strength, and new research on Baltic cod, herring, and sprat stocks.

Climate and fishery-related influences on marine ecosystems at regional and basin scales (J)

North Atlantic nations continue to encounter socio-economic and environmental challenges related to crises in fisheries and clear signals of global climate change, creating the need for an integrated ecosystem approach to the management of marine renewable resources. In order to implement an ecosystem approach to ocean management, there must be a solid scientific basis for decision-making. This session will include research that focuses on the effects of natural climate variability, the potential impacts of global climate change, and the effects of fisheries on the structure, function, and dynamics of marine ecosystems in the North Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent shelves and shelf seas.

Assessment and Management of Large Marine Ecosystems (M)

Since 1995, marine ecosystem research in tropical, subtropical, and upwelling regions has gained momentum in the framework of large marine ecosystem (LME) projects co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by various UN agencies. Research and advances presented at this theme session focus on the LME concept as a science framework based on natural ecosystem units to support political, decision-making processes, examples given in the session are HELCOM, MSFD, the UN regular process. Examples from many LMEs with a focus on the Baltic LME.

Integration of multidisciplinary knowledge in the Baltic Sea to support science-based management (R)

The total number of human driving forces affecting the Baltic Sea is large. These include eutrophication, fisheries, climate change, risk of oil spills, and chemicals, among many others. In one of the most well studied marine areas in the world, the challenge is to integrate the knowledge available to support management actions. Research to be presented at this session uses Baltic examples and considers diverse topics such as evaluating impacts of nutrient abatement, assessing life-cycle changes in eastern Baltic cod, and challenges for stakeholder participation and communication within regional environmental risk governance.

Extracting Energy from Waves and Tides – What are the Consequences for Ecosystems, Physical Processes, and Other Sea Users? (S)

The question of the extent to which marine renewable energy extraction can coexist with healthy ecosystems, and with the human activities that depend on the services provided by these ecosystems, is an urgent one. Progress in answering this question will be underpinned by a sound scientific understanding of two issues: first, the dependence of ecological processes upon exploitable kinetic energy resources; and second, the consequences for physical processes of extracting this marine energy. This theme session considers different facets of these complex issues with marine spatial planning highlighted as a tool for reconciling interests.

Atlantic redfish and Pacific rockfish: Comparing biology, ecology, assessment, and management strategies for *Sebastes* spp joint ICES/PICES theme session (A)

This session brings together researchers from both the Atlantic and the Pacific to compare the current state of knowledge of the commercially important and closely related Atlantic redfish and Pacific rockfish. Despite the similarity of *Sebastes* species, little work has been done to compare the Atlantic and Pacific populations. The evolution of rockfish and its populations plays an important role in management. New genetic tools are being used to discriminate between populations challenging previously held stock assumptions.

Note to editors

The **International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)** coordinates and promotes marine research in the North Atlantic. This includes adjacent seas such as the Baltic Sea and North Sea. ICES acts as a meeting point for a community of more than 1600 marine scientists from 20 countries around the North Atlantic.

Scientists working through ICES gather information about the marine ecosystem. In addition to filling gaps in existing knowledge, this information is also developed into unbiased, non-political advice. The advice is then used by the 20 Member Countries, which fund and support ICES, to help them manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas.

ICES plans and coordinates marine research through a system of committees, more than 100 working groups, symposia, and an Annual Science Conference. Most meetings take place either at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, or in ICES Member Countries.

ICES has been based in Copenhagen since 1902. Today, its Secretariat with a staff of 49 provides scientific, administrative, secretarial, editorial, and data management expertise to the ICES network of marine scientists.

For more information, visit www.ices.dk.

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