



**ICES**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea

**CIEM**

Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

**For Immediate Release**

Contact:

Louise Scharff, Coordinating Secretary  
International Council for the Exploration  
of the Sea

Direct: (0045) 33 38 67 02

Mobile: (0045) 20 85 45 82

E-mail: [louise@ices.dk](mailto:louise@ices.dk)

Carl Myers, Communications Manager  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Bedford Institute of Oceanography

Tel: (01) 902 426 3550

E-mail [MyersWLC@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:MyersWLC@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

15 September 2008

**Global scientists to discuss challenging science issues for  
future management of the world's seas.**

**Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada - ICES, the world's largest marine science and advisory body, will hold its 2008 Annual Science Conference (ASC), at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 22 to 26 September 2008.**

**A media briefing is scheduled prior to the opening of the Conference. Key ICES scientists and officials will be present. It will be held at 10:30 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Atrium Room at the World Trade and Convention Centre on Monday, 22 September.**

Throughout the four day session, over 400 world renowned researchers, from some 30 countries, will present outstanding scientific research under eighteen science themes. Themes include comparative ecosystem studies, ecosystem health, climate and ocean change and signals from the ecosystem at different levels, modelling and new technologies, conservation issues and new concepts of valuing nature and ecosystem structure.

**The conference will open Monday, September 22 at 13:00 with a lecture by Jake Rice, National Senior Advisor, DFO, Canada on "Size in the seas: A new perspective raises questions, but does it yield answers?". Dignitaries to attend the Opening Ceremony include Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, and Deputy Premier of Nova Scotia, Mr Angus MacIsaac.**

Reporters are welcome to attend any session of the Conference. Registration fees will be waived for journalists.

The full programme of the 2008 Annual Science Conference and research papers to be presented, is available on the ICES website:

<http://www.ices.dk/iceswork/asc/2008/programme/2008ascprogramme.pdf>

## **Selected themes from the ICES 2008 Annual Science Conference**

The codes used below refer to the codes of the various theme session papers in the conference programme. Dates and times listed are on the ICES web site. (These examples have been chosen for information, and do not in any way reflect the views of ICES).

### **Climate Change and Polar Ecosystems (B)**

The ICES ASC is organized each year by one of the 20 ICES Member States around the North Atlantic and its focus changes accordingly to cover both general scientific items and regional developments. 2007/8 is the period of the International Polar Year (IPY) and theme session B hopes to facilitate interaction between the ICES and IPY communities. Current climate models (and observations) indicate that polar ecosystems will change significantly in coming decades. With the current concerns about climate changes it is important to understand the significance of sea ice in polar ecosystems.

### **Diseases of marine organisms (D)**

There is considerable scientific and public interest in ICES Member Countries related to diseases and parasites of wild and farmed marine fish and shellfish, both in the context of ecosystem health monitoring and assessment and in the context of the expansion and growing importance of mariculture activities. Furthermore, efforts initiated for an assessment of the health status of marine mammals have increased over the past years. The Theme Session aims to gather scientists on the aspects of causes and effects of new diseases (incl. parasites) in farmed fish and shellfish; the use of diseases and parasites of wild marine organisms as indicators in integrated ecosystem health monitoring and assessment; new trends in the disease interactions between wild and farmed fish and shellfish; and effects of introduced species on the health status of native fish and shellfish stocks.

### **Marine Spatial Planning (E)**

Marine spatial planning is receiving support from a growing number of ICES member countries as a means to develop a strategic approach to offshore ocean usage and resolve spatial conflict issues. While the concepts of integrated management (IM) and supporting marine spatial planning (MSP) are now often referred to at the policy level, there is generally only a vague and patchy understanding of how they might be practically implemented. The most obvious elements of MSP include marine protected or spatially regulated areas designed to meet one or more objectives of IM. This requires identifying and mapping marine features and processes, along with human activities and associated pressures and impacts. The theme session aims to explore the latest thinking and developments in MSP.

### **Tracking fish, mammal, and seabird behaviour (P)**

To be more consistent with the ecosystem approach to management, fishery stock assessment models are increasingly becoming spatially explicit in terms of growth, reproduction and fishing mortality. An important element of such modelling efforts is the correct specification of the biomass flow between spatial compartments due to the seasonal migration of fish, marine mammals and birds. Recently, a variety of electronic tagging methods have allowed the determination of detailed migration routes of individual animals in ways that are independent of the tag recovery pattern. Collectively these methods are providing individual-based migration information that will not only allow better parameterization of fishery management models but also provide the data needed to better understand the influence of environmental factors on the timing and extent of marine animal migration.

## 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 1 600 marine scientists from 20 countries around the North Atlantic.

Scientists working through ICES gather information about the marine ecosystem. Besides 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. The annual budget is DKK 30 million/EUR 4 million.

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 the ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark or in the member countries.

ICES has been based in Copenhagen, Denmark since 1902. Today, its Secretariat with 46 staff members provides scientific, administrative, secretarial support and data management expertise to the ICES network of marine scientists.

For further information contact:

Louise Scharff, Coordinating Secretary  
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea  
Tel Direct (0045) 33 38 67 02  
Mobile (0045) 20 85 45 82  
E-mail [louise@ices.dk](mailto:louise@ices.dk)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Communications Branch  
Bedford Institute of Oceanography  
Tel (902) 426 3550  
E-mail [MyersWLC@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:MyersWLC@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)