

## **Flying outside the ICES Assessment WG paradigm – Alternative approaches to providing fisheries management advice (O)**

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**Conveners: Julian Addison (UK), João Pereira (Portugal), and Verena Trenkel (France)**

Most ICES Assessment Working Groups see analytical assessments using fishery-dependent catch at age and fishery independent stock size indices at age as the standard they are trying to achieve for all the stocks in their mandate. The cost effectiveness, reliability, and usefulness of such assessments have been questioned, particularly in the context of providing ecosystem/community advice. In addition, for a number of resources analytical assessments are not available and in these circumstances (e.g., cephalopods, elasmobranchs, crustaceans, and deep-sea fish) alternative approaches to the provision of advice must be sought. Fishery-independent information (basic biological information, research and cooperative surveys, etc.) and stakeholder involvement could provide effective avenues to diagnosing the status of marine resources and communities and identifying management alternatives.

The session is intended to review the state of the art in methods for diagnostics for exploited marine resources and communities based on research survey information, fishers' knowledge, and other sources of information. The stocks considered could include those currently assessed within the paradigm but where viable alternatives exist, as well as others for which results may only be achieved under new perspectives.

Topics include indicator-based diagnostics (e.g. area occupation, fecundity, size spectra, length–weight indices) as well as alternative assessment techniques (e.g. video surveys, catch-free and life history models, methods for integrating indicators, indicator-based alarm systems, simulation techniques). The session welcomes methodological developments as well as case studies and experience with implementing alternative management systems.

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