

ConC Resolutions 2006

2006/2/CONC01 The **Consultative Committee** [ConC] (Chair: Harald Loeng, Norway) will meet back-to-back with MCAP-MICC at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, from 9-11 May 2007, and in connection with the ASC, to:

- a) review progress of 2007 activities of Committees and Expert Groups with a view to identify key scientific issues;
- b) be updated and comment on progress of relevant ICES activities, such as the Data Centre and Action Plan Database;
- c) develop and agree on the ICES science plan based on the position paper;
- d) be informed about the outcome of BWGUPDATE and contribute where it is appropriate;
- e) review status of preparations for ICES Symposia and prepare resolutions;
- f) review and update the arrangements for the 2007 Annual Science Conference;
- g) further develop the plans for the 2008 and 2009 Annual Science Conferences;
- h) discuss and revise the science and advisory structure of ICES, including comments from the Bureau and the Council, and develop an implementation plan.

ConC will make its report available for consideration at the October 2007 94th Statutory Meeting.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	High
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	The demands on Consultative in a number of areas (i.a., revise the advisory and science structure, integrated ecosystem-based advice, ASC planning) dictate the need for this meeting.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None.
PARTICIPANTS:	Chairs of Committees
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting room. Secretarial support
FINANCIAL:	Cost of a meeting of 15 persons at Council expense
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Part of Committee
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	All Committees
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	No

2006/2/CONC02 A **Working Group on Data and Information Management** [WGDIM] Co-Chairs: H. Sagen*, Norway, P. Wiebe*, USA, and Christopher Zimmermann*, Germany) will be established to provide ICES with advice on all aspects of data management including technical, data policy, data strategy and user-oriented guidance. The group will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, at ICES Headquarters, from 12 to 14 June 2007 to:

- a) identify major gaps in data availability or data accessibility in the ICES data management system or needed data not currently held at ICES;
- b) identify and resolve issues related to transparency, traceability and quality of data in relation to their use at ICES to formulate advice;
- c) provide advice on products based on ICES data holdings;
- d) develop recommendations for ICES data management interoperability with relevant international data management bodies and programmes like PICES, IOC/IODE, GOOS, SeaDatamet, IPY (International Polar Year) to ensure rational and optimal endeavours;

- e) further development of data management guidelines and data integration strategy;
- f) report on the progress of ITIS and ERMS systems in supporting and updating ICES taxonomy needs of the European community
- g) identify and promote the use of established data management practices in Operational Oceanography to benefit and support ICES work through coordination with EuroGOOS, EC project SeaDataNet, and US and Canadian already established quality assurance
- h) provide ICES with guidance on how to incorporate XML (eXtended Markup Language) and/or other data exchange protocols into data management practices, as appropriate, f.ex., in coordination with the EC project SeaDataNet
- i) investigate Geographical Information Systems, GIS (Open source and commercial), with emphasis on web applications that can be used with ICES data management systems;
- j) identify and promote relevant standards for meta data, data structures, dictionaries and the use of data quality indicators in the ICES data management system.

WGDIM will report by 2 July 2007 for the attention of the Consultative Committee and all Science and Advisory Committees.

Supporting Information

<p>PRIORITY:</p>	<p>The group provides ICES with solicited and unsolicited advice on all aspects of data management including technical, data policy and data strategy and user oriented guidance. This Group flies the flag for ICES in setting standards for global databases. It also provides an important interface for oceanographic, environmental and fisheries data management in ICES, and promotes good data management practice.</p>
<p>SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:</p>	<p>a) Action Plan 6.1, 6.4; b) Action Plan; c) Action Plan; d) Action Plan; e) Action Plan; f) Action Plan 1.7, 4.12, 5.10, 6.4; g) Action Plan 6.4; h) Action Plan 1.7, 5.13.4, 6.4 ; i) Action Plan 5.13.4, 6.1; j) Action Plan 1.10, 6.1, 6.2.</p> <p>a) There are major gaps in the ecosystem assessments apparently caused by lack of data. However, more data are likely available for use than currently perceived either inside the ICES system or externally. Thus, groups developing the advice may not be aware of the existence of relevant data sets either because of a lack of communication or the fact that data not being delivered on a timely basis. In addition, those environmental assessments that are now being produced by some ICES working groups are not being effectively utilized by other groups making assessments where environmental data should be considered (NORSEPP, WGRED) Conclusions: i) Communication between ICES expert groups needs to be improved. ii) Data contributors need to be encouraged to submit data when they are useful, not when they are completely quality controlled.</p> <p>b) Much of the data that are being used to make the environmental assessments do not reside within the ICES and little effort is being expended to track the data used to make the assessments. If the external data are being used to formulate advice, it is often difficult to later re-establish the data sets and thus the basis for the advice. Thus the group should provide advice as to how improve this reporting</p> <p>c) Trend plots and gridded data products are desired by ICES Annual meeting attendees. These would serve as an incentive to the data contributors. The group should provide specific examples of the kinds of products needed and the means of this distribution.</p>

	<p>d) It is vital to avoid duplicate work on data management. It is important to seek contact and collaboration with international bodies and programmes specially when the 4th International Polar Year is close and is seeking help and guidance on data management.</p> <p>e) Establishing data integration is a step in developing the scientific basis for an ecosystem based approach to management. This is of high priority to ICES. Good data management practice is required to ensure the underpinning databases are as complete and ultimately as high quality as possible. Identify areas of concern and give guidance to the ICES Data Centre for scientific approaches and technical solutions. The data centre needs to develop strategies that enable it to be a focal point for data storage and distribution to the ICES community. The strategy should be user driven. Ultimately want to develop means for user feedback about the ICES data centre and its effectiveness for example by conducting user surveys. This will encourage standardization of approach in management and quality control across a broad spectrum of data types and to promote best practice in data management. It will include promoting and developing the WGMDM guidelines and also development of recommended practices for merging CTD and water bottle data.</p> <p>f) The International Taxonomy Information System (ITIS) can play a major role in standardization and improving the ease of data exchange. It is an evolving partnership that requires input from (new) collaborators whilst maintaining community standards. In particular, this will seek to improve coverage of non-North American marine species, encourage the development of remote data entry and implementation of a mirror site. The ITIS should be actively promoted with the communities and groups encouraged to feed in their information.</p> <p>g) As GOOS activities develop it is essential that the modern marine data management systems are in place and utilized effectively. This will serve to assess established systems and recommend best practice for data management for operational oceanography. This item will examine various issues including metadata directories, developments for quality control, referral mechanisms, products (climatologies), data stewardship, etc.</p> <p>h) The data management community must evaluate the use of new technologies, such as XML, in a broader context. The WGMDM will attempt to integrate the efforts of SGXML into this broader context and develop possible directions for ocean data management in a distributed environment. The efforts of SGXML have potential implications and application to general data exchange procedures. These efforts should be followed within the broader context of general oceanographic data flow. The group should also review the evolution of other relevant protocols.</p> <p>i) The use of GIS is becoming increasingly important for the marine community. The potential benefits (and problems) of this technology will be examined and recommendations made on best practice and use of GIS. Open Source solutions will have to be investigated, but with emphasis on web applications.</p> <p>j) To maximize interoperability data quality must be known. It is important to evaluate the appropriateness of use of data for specific applications on the basis on data quality. Coordinate work with relevant working groups or projects like EDMED, European Directory of Marine Environmental Datasets</p>
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	None
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is expected to be attended by some 30–35 members and guests with half of the members from each of the two categories , data managers and data users
FINANCIAL:	The Data Centre Manager should attend these meetings and if possible also other employees at the data centre.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	Report is seen by all advisory committees and OCC.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	Oceanography and Advisory Committees.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	There are linkages with relevant international bodies and programmes like PICES, IOC/IODE, GOOS, SeaDatanet, IPY with emphasis on IOC and its Working Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE).