

ConC Resolutions 2007

2007/2/CONC01 The **Consultative Committee** [ConC] (Chair: Harald Loeng, Norway) will meet at ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, from 6–8 May 2008, and in connection with the ASC, to:

- a) oversee the scientific interests of the Council and its scientific work;
- b) review progress of 2008 activities of Committees and Expert Groups with a view to identify key scientific issues;
- c) be updated and comment on progress of relevant ICES activities;
- d) develop and agree on ICES Science Strategic Plan based on comments from the Council;
- e) Implement the new science structure and develop guidelines for interaction between science and advice
- f) review status of preparations for ICES Symposia and prepare resolutions;
- g) review and update the arrangements for the 2008 Annual Science Conference;
- h) further develop the plans for the 2009 and 2010 Annual Science Conferences;

ConC will make its report available for consideration at the October 2008 95th 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

2007/2/CONC02 The Working Group on Data and Information Management [WGDIM] (Co-Chairs: H. Sagen, Norway and R. Ayers*, UK) will meet at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 12–14 February 2008 to:

- a) *Work status* - report on the success of fulfilling action points from last year;
- b) *Availability and accessibility* - identify major gaps in data availability or data accessibility in the ICES data management system or needed data not currently held at ICES;
- c) *Quality and transparency* - identify and resolve issues related to transparency, traceability and quality of data in relation to their use at ICES to formulate advice;
- d) *Metadata and dictionaries* - identify and promote relevant standards for metadata, data structures, dictionaries, and the use of data quality indicators in the ICES data management system;
- e) *Products, integration and guidelines* - provide advice on products based on ICES data holdings, data integration, and data management guidelines;
- f) *Interoperability* - develop recommendations for ICES data management interoperability with relevant international data management bodies and programmes like PICES, IOC/IODE, GOOS, SeaDataNet, IPY (International Polar Year) to ensure rational and optimal endeavours;
- g) *Taxonomy* - report on the progress of ITIS and ERMS/WoRMS systems in supporting and updating ICES taxonomy needs of the European community;
- h) *GIS* - investigate Geographical Information Systems, GIS (Open source and commercial), with emphasis on web applications that can be used with ICES data management systems;
- i) *Data users* - prepare a five-year plan describing the engagement of data users to ensure the appropriateness of data products.

WGDIM will report by 15 March 2008 to the attention of the Consultative Committee and all Science and Advisory Committees.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	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.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	<p>a) WGDIM has identified numerous action points during its first meeting in 2007 and will have to encourage its members to work intersessionally on the different tasks identified. A subgroup has been proposed and one of its main tasks will have to be monitoring the success of fulfilling action items in good time before the 2008 meeting.</p> <p>b) 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 are 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>c) 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</p>

	<p>reporting.</p> <p>d) 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> <p>e) 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. 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) 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 4 th International Polar Year is close and is seeking help and guidance on data management.</p> <p>g) 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>h) 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>i) The Working Group has attracted more than 40 experts from both data management and data users side, but slightly more data managers. There is a need to plan workshops on topics that will attract more data users to the group.</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
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	Meeting facilities.
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 ConC and all science and advisory committees
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).