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ICES Insight

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Destination Bergen

What to expect at ICES ASC 2012

ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) 2012 will take place 17-21 September at the Scandic City Hotel in Bergen, Norway. The 2012 ASC has an exciting programme of theme sessions, with two particular focal areas: Aquaculture sustainability and the oceanography and ecology of the Arctic in the context of climate change. In addition, there are sessions dealing with ecological theory (e.g. estimating the limits to ecosystem resilience, understanding marine habitat connectivity), ecosystem function and dynamics (e.g. mapping and modelling plankton populations, use of fish otoliths as ecological tools), fisheries assessment (e.g. the importance of survey performance), fisheries management (e.g. the use of science in marine spatial planning, the evolution of management frameworks) and policy implementation (e.g. traceability of fish products, mitigating fish discards). With this mix of topics, there is something for everybody.



ICES ASC 2012 takes place in Bergen, 17-21 September.

Lectures

The opening lecture of this year's ASC will feature Karin Kroon Boxaspen, Head of Aquaculture Programme, Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway. Her talk, which addresses one of the key areas of the Conference, is entitled, "[The challenge of sustainable aquaculture production – Research and advice for a changing world](#)".

The two invited plenary speakers are Carl Folke, Science Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University who will speak about "[Marine social-ecological systems, resilience, and global change](#)" and Trevor A. Branch, Assistant Professor of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, USA, speaking about the "[Historical development and current impact of global fisheries on marine foodwebs](#)".

Poster Session

Posters will be on display for the duration of the conference in the Lower Foyer. The poster session will be held on Tuesday, 18 September, 18:00-20:00. The poster session is a great opportunity to find out more about current marine science research and to network with people from in and around the ICES community.

Awards

The ASC provides a platform for ICES to recognize individuals for the contribution they make to marine science. The Outstanding Achievement Award will be presented at the Opening session Monday 17 September.

The Best Paper and Best Poster Awards, along with the three Early Career Scientist Awards for Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation, and Best Newcomer, will be presented at the Closing ceremony on Friday 21 September. More information about [ICES Awards](#) and the selection criteria can be found [here](#).

Looking forward to seeing you in Bergen!



Winner of last year's Best Poster, Tina K. Kerby (UK), accepts her award.

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Join the discussion

Make your voice heard at the ASC



SCICOM will host a number of topical open sessions at this year's conference, which take place on Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. These sessions are open to all and allow participants to put forward their views on which direction ICES should take in various fields of research.

Among the Monday morning sessions at 10:30, there will be a discussion on "Communicating science and the role of social media in ICES". As millions of people all over the world are constantly connected and sharing a wide range of information in real time through social media, should scientist join in? Social media enables scientists to communicate their research quickly and efficiently to the four corners of the world. But can scientists and scientific organizations benefit from social media? Is it useful to use social media to communicate science? How is ICES using social media? Come along and tweet the outcomes!

On Wednesday afternoon, two sessions take place that all participants are encouraged to attend.

Integrated ecosystem assessments – observation capacities, integration tools, and ICES expert group portfolio

This open session will investigate how close ICES is to providing integrated ecosystem advice. Has ICES developed a framework that can become operational, do we have the ocean observing capabilities to support the framework and how broad should ecosystem assessments be?

Yvonne Walther ([Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#)) and Bill Karp ([NOAA](#)) will chair this session which will be held in Teatergaten from 14:00 until 18:00. Three panel discussions will take place over the course of the afternoon:

- ICES Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs) moving towards advice. (Christian Möllmann, Germany; Steve Cadrin, USA; Myron Peck, UK; Anna Rijndorf, Denmark)
- Observations and monitoring needed to support IEAs. (Dave Reid, Ireland; Jon Hare, USA; Benjamin Planque, France; Ingeborg de Bois, the Netherlands)
- Consideration of the role of contaminants and water pollution in IEAs (Kris Cooreman, Belgium; Matt Gubbins, UK; Lisette Enserink, the Netherlands)

Sustainable aquaculture: Research needs and perspectives for ICES aquaculture science

Aquaculture is a growing maritime economy sector in response to the increasing demand for sea food, resources for producing pharmaceuticals and renewable energy. This creates potential for development and societal benefits in coastal areas. However, compliance with environmental regulations, production of feeds for aquaculture, disease control, and escapees are issues at stake where marine research needs to come in and help develop options for sustainable use. This open session aims to provide a forum for an exchange between the aquaculture and maritime industry. What are their research needs and what can the marine research community, and ICES expert groups in particular, offer?

Adi Kellermann, Head of ICES Science Programme will chair the discussion along with Erik Olsen, IMR, Bergen) from 14:00 to 18:00 in Sydneshaugen. Invited speakers will address the following



topics:

- Science needs from the European Technology and Innovation Platform perspective (Torgeir Edvardson, [European Aquaculture Innovation & Technology Platform](#))
- Science needs from a European industry perspective (Petter Arnesen, [Marine Harvest](#))
- Science needs from a Latin American industry perspective (Ulf Winther, [AVS Chile](#))
- A new ICES group on sustainability in aquaculture (Erik Olsen, [IMR](#))
- ICES science on integrated aquaculture: Pauline Kamermans ([IMARES](#))
- ICES science on genetic interactions: Dorte Bekkevold ([DTU Aqua](#))
- Customer needs (governments need for advice) ([European Commission](#))

Both sessions promise an interesting afternoon of debate.

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Introducing the ICES ASC mobile app

This year's ASC just got that much easier



Stay up-to-date with the ICES ASC mobile app.

To download:

- search for “Grupio” on your App Store/Android Market.
- once you have downloaded Grupio, search for ICES within events.
- start scheduling!

For smartphones such as Nokia and BlackBerry, you can access the app via a mobile website at: <http://www.grupio.com/ices>.

A free wireless connection will be available to all participants throughout the conference venue.

Send us your feedback

As this is the first time ICES introduce an app for the ASC, we would more than appreciate your feedback. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey you will find included with the ASC app.

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Bringing ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) up to speed with the latest technology, ICES is introducing an ASC mobile app for 2012 which allows you to build your very own personalized conference schedule!

This app enables you to browse the full conference programme on your smartphone or mobile device and create your own schedule. It also includes information about the speakers, exhibitors, and social events as well as a map of the venue. Any updates to the ASC programme will be directly downloaded to your phone so you will remain up-to-date at all times.

The ASC app has been developed by a US company Grupio and is available for iPhones, iPads, and Androids.

All work and no play

Get social with the ASC

Evening events

On Monday evening, the City of Bergen and the county of Hordaland in cooperation with the Institute of Marine Research host a Welcome reception for all conference participants. This takes place at 19:00 in the Grieg Hall of the Scandic Hotel.

The annual Poster Session takes place on Tuesday evening and will begin at 18:00 in the Lower Foyer. This is a great opportunity to find out what your colleagues have been working on, as authors will be available to discuss their research throughout the evening.

This year's **conference dinner** will be held on the Wednesday evening. The impressive venue which hosts the evening will be Håkon's Hall, a 750 year-old royal residence and banqueting hall built by King Håkon Håkonsson when Bergen was Norway's largest and most important town. Entertainment will be provided by the **Bergen Byspill** whose performance will transport all those present back in time to Hanseatic Bryggen. Tickets cost 45 euro and can be booked **online** or purchased at the ASC registration desk.



Bergen Byspil will provide theatrical entertainment at the conference dinner.

Thursday will see the return of last year's popular Pecha-Kucha presentation style, but in a new guise. The organisers of Thursday evening's special event, **Poster Blind Date Competition**, have laid down the challenge of better poster design. For those brave enough to participate, they must create and present a poster based on another person's work while their own work is made into a poster and presented by another participant. A contest of "I could have done that better"? Meet in Dragefjellet at 19:00 for an exciting and entertaining evening.

Excursions

Bergen is a historical city surrounded by natural beauty. ASC participants can easily take some time to experience what the city has to offer. A **free walking tour** will take place on Wednesday 19 September, 10:00–12:30. Let yourself be guided through the historical centre of Bergen as you learn about kings, Hanseatic merchants, and everyday life in this busy harbour city.



Ulriken 643 lifts passengers high above Bergen.

Take the **Fløibanen** from the fish market to the top of Fløyen mountain. The 6-minute ride itself is spectacular and the views of Bergen only improve the closer you get to the top. Once at the top of the funicular, you can choose from a vast number of hikes over the mountain or simply sit with a coffee and enjoy the breathtaking views.

Those looking for a more adventurous way to reach the heights can jump on the **Ulriken 643** cable car which lifts passengers 643 metres to the top of Mount Ulriken, the highest of Bergen's seven mountains.

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Hot off the presses

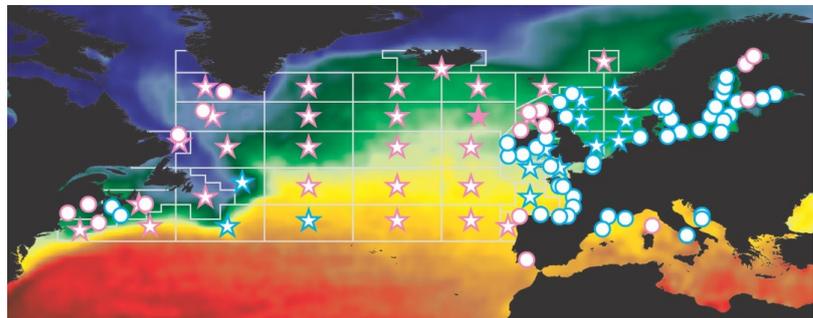
Latest ICES publications

A number of new publications are hot off the presses and available for download from [ICES Publications](#).

ICES Phytoplankton and Microbial Plankton Status Report 2009/2010

ICES Working Group on Phytoplankton and Microbial Plankton Ecology (WGPME) has published its first ICES Cooperative Research Report, [CRR No. 313 ICES Phytoplankton and Microbial Plankton Status Report 2009/2010](#), which details the ecological status of phytoplankton and microbial plankton in the North Atlantic and adjacent seas. The report summarizes the biological and environmental seasonal cycles and long-term trends observed at 61 monitoring sites stretching from the subpolar waters of the Labrador Sea to the subtropical waters of southwestern Iberia, and extending into the Mediterranean Sea.

Broad scale, trans-basin studies are also featured, which, through inclusion of data from the Continuous Plankton Recorder survey, highlight long-term trends in select major phytoplankton and microbial plankton taxa groups and their environment. This Phytoplankton and Microbial Plankton Status Report serves as a useful tool to both researchers and policy makers, showing where monitoring currently exists and which areas are currently experiencing the strongest trends and/or variability.

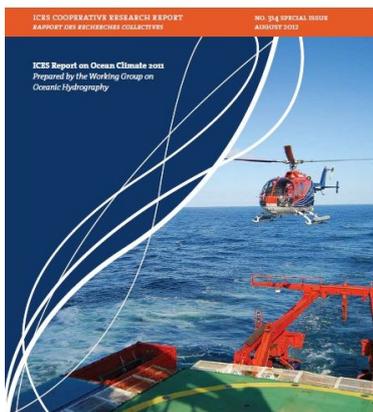


Example of a spatio-temporal map from the report, showing 10-year sea surface temperature trends at the plankton monitoring sites. Pink symbols indicate warming, cyan symbols indicate cooling.

This report represents the start of a new series that forms a link between oceanic hydrography (WGOH) and marine zooplankton (WGZE). As more sites and more years of data are added to this report series, the subset of questions that can be answered grows, and exciting new questions and discoveries will continue to develop.

Read [CRR 313 ICES Phytoplankton and Microbial Plankton Status Report 2009/2010](#) online.

CRR No. 314 ICES Report on Ocean Climate (IROC) 2011



A much observed and prominent product of ICES work, the [ICES Report on Ocean Climate \(IROC\)](#) is produced annually by the Working Group on Oceanic Hydrography (WGOH) in order to circulate information on sea temperature, salinity, and atmosphere from sustained observations at standard sections and stations throughout the North Atlantic.

The North Atlantic region is unusual in having a relatively large number of locations at which oceanographic data have been collected repeatedly for many years or decades; the longest records go back more than a century. The data presented represent an accumulation of knowledge collected by many individuals and institutions through decades of observations.

The report's primary focus is observed variability in the upper ocean (the upper 1000 m), with a shorter section summarizing the variability of the intermediate and deep waters of the North Atlantic.

More detailed analysis of the datasets that form the time-series presented in this report can be found in the [annual meeting reports of WGOH](#).

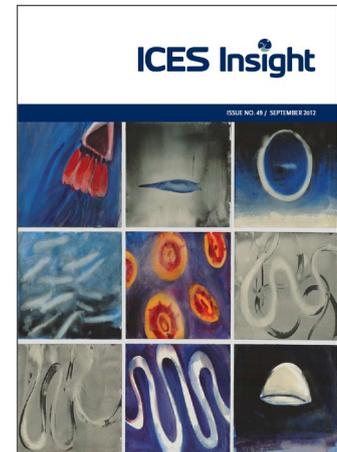
Read [CRR 314 ICES Report on Ocean Climate 2011](#) online.

ICES Insight

The 2012 edition of *ICES Insight* is now available online and in print. This year's edition features Kenneth Sherman who explains the origins of the Large Marine Ecosystems programme and how it is transforming the Yellow Sea, some of the worlds leading experts on end-to-end ecosystem modelling discuss its development, and ICES role in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is explained.

Read *ICES Insight* online.

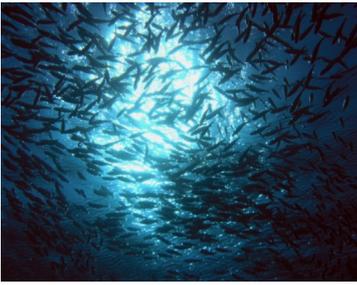
All new ICES publications will be available at ICES 2012 Annual Science Conference in Bergen, Norway.



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ICES hosts a database for regional fisheries assessments

Increased transparency and enhanced data quality



The RDB-FishFrame facilitates a transparent approach to catch and landings data.

ICES is now hosting the [Regional Database FishFrame](#) (RDB-FishFrame), a regionally coordinated database platform for fisheries assessments. The database, which covers fisheries in the North Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, and the Baltic Sea, addresses fishery management needs related to the European Union Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). RDB-FishFrame will ensure a standardized and regional approach to fisheries assessments, increase transparency and documentation of data processing and allow for more standardized statistical analyses of stock assessment input data. The database will also make it easier for countries to share data and results, and provide information to decision makers in a streamlined way.

“The establishment of RDB-FishFrame at ICES will facilitate a transparent and regional approach to the collection and processing of catch and landings data, resulting in significant improvements in the quality of the fishery-dependent data used in stock assessments, and more cost efficient data collection”, says Katja Ringdahl, Chair of the RDB-FishFrame steering group.

About RDB-FishFrame

The RDB-FishFrame platform was developed by the [National Institute of Aquatic Resources](#) at the Technical University of Denmark ([DTU-Aqua](#)) to improve data handling on an international level. It has been used in Denmark and many other countries bordering the Baltic Sea since 1995 to prepare and analyze fisheries assessments for the Baltic fisheries management area. RDB-FishFrame is now hosted and maintained by ICES for the preparation and analysis of commercial catch and landing data received from the cooperating countries. The platform is managed and steered by a group comprising Regional Fisheries managers, ICES, and European Commission representatives. Funding is provided by the European Commission. Currently, access to the database is only by login based on the Data Collection Framework regulation.

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Its only happy when it rains

A sprinkle of Bergen

As the host of this year's Annual Science Conference, Bergen, the second largest Norwegian city is set to welcome hundreds of marine scientists to its shores. This is nothing new for Bergen, a city whose lifeblood is the sea and which plays host to many marine research facilities, but what can ASC participants expect?

Rain, rain, go away!

It is no secret that Bergen has more than its fair share of rain. One of the more famous European rain cities, it has an average of 200 rainy days each year thanks to the influence of the Gulf Stream. But with a mere 2250 mm of annual rainfall, Bergen is not even close to being the wettest place in Europe (that privilege goes to Crkvice, Montenegro with its annual rainfall often surpassing 7000 mm). At one point, a sharp entrepreneur posted umbrella vending machines in the city streets. On the bright side, the frequent showers keep the streets clean and the city green while the frequent changes in cloud covers the city in magical light.

Be prepared: experienced Bergeners don't leave home without an umbrella.

Burning Bergen

All that rain didn't stop Bergen's greatest enemy in the past – fire. Parts of the city have been destroyed by no less than fifteen great fires. In 1198, the city was set fire to by warring factions during the civil war. In 1248, Holmen and Sverresborg burned, and 11 churches were destroyed. In 1428 the city was plundered by pirates on a mission for the Hanseatic League. In 1476, Bryggen burned down in a fire started by a drunk trader. The greatest fire to date happened in 1702 when 90 percent of the city was burned to ashes. More recently, 300 buildings burned down in the city centre in 1916 and in 1955, parts of Bryggen burned again. However, Bergen remains a wooden city and those buildings damaged have been carefully restored.

Hanseatic history

Bergen was once one of the Hansa's main trading stations, a so-called "kontor", along with London, Bruges, and Novogorod. From 1360, the time of the black plague, until 1775, when the Hanseatic Kontor was abolished, Bryggen played a principal role for the League. Remnants of the Hanseatic period can be seen today in merchant houses of the old wharf area, Bryggen (a UNESCO Heritage site) and the local beer which is called Hansa.

Famous inhabitants

Den Nationale Scene is Bergen's main theatre. Founded in 1850, it employed no less than [Henrik Ibsen](#) as one of its first in-house playwrights and art directors. Ibsen, along with [Edvard Grieg](#), were both discovered by another famous son of Bergen – [Ole Bull](#), famous violinist and contributor to the Norwegian national identity.



A town of many names

Set amidst seven mountains, Bergen is true to its name. It has however earned a few more monikers throughout its long history: Fjordbyen (city of the fjords) because of its vicinity to the UNESCO listed West Norwegian Fjords of Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord; Regnbyen (city of rain) or Umbrella city; and Trebyen (wooden city) due to the many wooden buildings that populate the cityscape.

2012 sees a new title for the old Hanseatic city, World Marine Capital. A fitting spot for ICES ASC.

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