



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea  
Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

**LETTER OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (IOC) OF  
UNESCO AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF  
THE SEA (ICES)**

*The Letter of Cooperation is made and entered into by and between*

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, with office address at  
1 rue Miollis 75762 Paris CEDEX 15, France, and represented by the  
IOC Chair, Dr. Sang-Kyung Byun, and

The International Council for The Exploration of the Sea, with office address at Andersen  
Boulevard 44-46, DK-1553, Copenhagen, Denmark, and represented by the  
ICES President, Dr. Michael M. Sinclair

**I. BACKGROUND**

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, hereinafter referred to as IOC, is a specialized United Nations body with expertise in ocean science and services. The purpose of the IOC is to promote international co-operation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity building in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment and the decision-making processes of its Member States.

In the effective implementation of its role, the IOC relies on the network of the IOC regional Subsidiary Bodies, agreements on regional co-operative programmes and governmental regional organizations for regional implementation of programmes.

The International Council for The Exploration of the Sea, hereinafter referred to as ICES, is concerned with the North Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas to (a) promote and encourage research and investigations for the study of the sea particularly related to the living resources thereof; (b) draw up programmes required for this purpose and to organize, in agreement with its Contracting Parties, such research and investigations as may appear necessary; (c) publish or otherwise disseminate the results of this work; and (d) provide scientific information and advice to Member State governments and the regulatory commissions which cooperative relationships have been established.

ICES seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other international organizations which have related objectives and co-operate, as far as possible, with them.

*Now therefore, the Participants hereby agree as follows:*

## **II. PRINCIPLES**

The Participants enter into this Letter of Cooperation following the principles that are founded in respect, mutual goodwill, accord each other all reasonable cooperation and assistance as may be expected between institutions committed to the highest standards of scientific research, environmental protection and international cooperation.

## **III. OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this Letter of Cooperation is to exchange experience among both institutions to, *inter alia*,

1. Prepare scientific plans to intensify co-operation, to co-ordinate programmes, and to avoid parallel work, in research and observations of the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas including the Arctic;
2. Develop a common approach to specific issues, for example capacity building and training, knowledge transfer for third parties, or joint workshops, international symposia and conferences on key issue of mutual interest;
3. Assist MS to apply the ecosystem based management approach in the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas, including the Arctic and co-operate on matters related with sustainable development, scientific reporting processes regulated by the UNGA and other international regulations and conventions.

## **IV. SCOPE OF COOPERATION**

Under this Letter of Cooperation, and within available budgets, IOC and ICES intend to cooperate in the following activities:

- Intensify co-operation in the implementation of the coastal and open-ocean observations as a part of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), in particular by facilitating IOC and ICES collaboration, through its Working Groups, in the design, implementation and management of observational systems, including data management and use.
- Further to that, structure and increase co-operation in the field of data and information management, including development of marine information technologies.
- Facilitate IOC and ICES collaboration on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation strategies activities.
- Further develop studies on harmful algal blooms and their mitigation.
- Enhance existing collaboration on matters relating to the transfer of invasive species via ballast of ships and other vectors.
- Co-operate through working groups and task teams on education, training and knowledge transfer for third parties.

- Organize joint workshops, international symposia and conferences on key issues of interest to both organizations.
- Facilitate mutual access to relevant Committees and Expert Groups.
- Keep each other informed of relevant ongoing and planned programs, projects and activities, and invite each other to be represented at relevant meetings
- Facilitate access to non-restricted information and outputs of their respective activities, including working documents, newsletters, yearbooks, conference and workshop proceedings and reports, and other publications.
- Consult each other regularly with a view of reviewing progress of cooperation and identify the most appropriate ways and means of ensuring the highest effective co-operation.

The participants acknowledge that this Letter of Cooperation is non-binding.

#### V. DURATION AND TERMINATION

This Letter of Cooperation is to come into operation on the date of signing and will have a duration of three years.

The Letter of Cooperation may be terminated by either Participant before the expiry date by giving notice in writing to the other Participant. The period of notice shall be fourteen days.

No change to or modification of this Letter of Cooperation shall be made except by prior written agreement between IOC and ICES.

#### VI. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

The Participants will negotiate and cooperate with each other in good faith to resolve any disputes or conflicts that may arise in connection with this Letter of Cooperation.

***In witness whereof, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties, hereto sign two (2) originals of this Agreement, in English, considered identical in Paris and Copenhagen.***

Signed on behalf of IOC-UNESCO

Sang-Kyung Byun  
Dr. Sang-Kyung Byun  
IOC Chair

Date: 26 June 2012

Signed on behalf of ICES

On the name  
of M. Herdal  
Dr. Michael M. Sinclair  
ICES President

Date: 26/6/2012

M. Herdal  
M. HERDAL.