Resolutions for Operational Groups

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Data and Information Group (DIG)

2025/OG/SCICOM01 The **Data and Information Group** (DIG), chaired by David Currie, Ireland, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

YEAR	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS
2026	17 February	Online	Update to SCICOM March meeting
2026	19–22 May	ICES Secretariat, Copenhagen	DIG will report by 30 June 2026 to the attention of the Science Committee
2026	September	ICES ASC	Update to SCICOM Sept. meeting

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND
a	Provide guidance and feedback to the ICES Data Centre;	Direct interfacing with the ICES Data Centre around priorities and general best practise recommendations enables the Data Centre to receive both solicited and unsolicited advice on solutions and practises from a broader international community. DIG will contribute to the ICES Data Plan that is in development.
b	Advise on data governance within ICES, and identify any changes required and their impact;	It is important for the data users to be engaged in identifying priorities for data governance within ICES. DIG acts as a focal point for the data governance groups as well as the wider ICES community. DIG works with the ICES Data Centre to define and improve the data governance framework within ICES. This includes reviewing the ICES Data Policy, data licenses, and recommending changes where required.
c	Facilitate best practice in data management by providing guidance to expert groups, engaging in dialogue, and supporting the ICES Data Centre CoreTrustSeal accreditation;	DIG will ensure that data governance and best practices in data management are promoted in the ICES community. DIG also supports the CoreTrustSeal accreditation obtained by the ICES Data Centre. As the multi-disciplinary use of data, and the complexity of that data are both increasing this work will become increasingly important in the coming years.

d	Evaluate and monitor challenges and opportunities in data management, technology, artificial intelligence, and cyber-security;	By reviewing and monitoring current and future activities, DIG can proactively advise ICES and specifically DSTSG on emerging issues. Utilising the experience of the group and combining it with the operational knowledge of the ICES Data Centre, the potential benefits and challenges can be identified and their impact presented. In particular, the impact of Artificial Intelligence techniques on ICES work, and supporting ICES to become more cyber-secure are key topics.
e	Engage with the ICES community, and beyond, to encourage knowledge sharing about data management.	Effective data and information management is an essential foundation for digital transformation and DIG acts as a focal point for these topics within the ICES community. DIG aims to build a culture around data – this includes engaging data providers and users, and sharing knowledge.

Supporting information

Priority	The Data and Information 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 operational 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
Resource requirements	Meeting facilities, organization and facilitation of Teams meetings (frequency and participants depending on topics to be discussed). Participation of ICES Data Centre.
Linkages to ICES committees or groups	As Data is an important topic for most groups under SCICOM and ACOM, this group links to a large number of groups, although often indirect.
Linkages to other organizations	There are linkages with relevant international bodies and programmes like SeaDatanet AISBL, EMODNet, IOC and its Working Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), OSPAR, and HELCOM.

Training Group (TG)

2025/OG/SCICOM02   The **Training Group** (TG), chaired by Chris Cahill*, USA, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

YEAR	MEETING dates	VENUE	REPORTING details	COMMENTS
2026	March		Update to SCICOM March meeting	
2026	Sept	ICES ASC	Update to SCICOM Sept. meeting	Side meeting in conjunction with ICES ASC
2026	Ad hoc	Online meetings		

ToR descriptors

ToR	DESCRIPTION
a	Evaluate, develop, and implement a strategy for the ICES Training Programme;
b	Identify priority topics for training courses and potential instructors to provide them;
c	Oversee running of training courses and evaluate cost-effectiveness and feedback from instructors and participants;
d	Appraise opportunities to run training courses, including on-line courses, supported by projects and advise on their relevance to ICES mission

Supporting information

Priority	ICES Training Programme has high priority. The objective is to help build capacity and skills in ICES and to support the scientists. ICES offers training courses by high-profile scientists and instructors.
	ICES needs to ensure that scientists, including those who do work related to the advisory process, have the necessary skills. ICES has an obligation to ensure that training is available as needed. The Training Programme offers tactical courses meeting immediate needs and strategic courses which may be more aligned with anticipated future needs of ICES science advancing knowledge of marine ecosystems and the advisory process. Specifically the training program should:
	• Provide opportunity to participants in WGs and the advisory process to develop skills needed to deliver high quality science and advice,
	• Support a common understanding of ICES advisory practise,
	• Disseminate insight throughout and outside the ICES community,
	• Intensify cooperation with expertise from other organizations to bring in new disciplines and perspectives in ICES science and advice.
	The Training Group is tasked to evaluate, develop, and implement a strategy for the ICES Training Programme, including assessment of training needs, online training courses, considerations of alternative training initiatives (courses arranged by Ph.D/Post.doc), and exploring options for accreditation of the training course.
Resource requirements	Requires significant input from the Secretariat. Secretariat support from ICES Conference and Training Coordinator
Linkages to ICES committees or groups	All Steering Groups.

| Linkages to other organizations | Some courses have been offered in coordination with other organizations. |

Science Impact and Publication Group (SIPG)

2025/OG/SCICOM03   The **Science Impact and Publication Group (SIPG)**, chaired by Silvana Birchenough, United Kingdom, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

YEAR	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS
2026	February	Online	Update to SCICOM March meeting
2026	May	Online	
2026	September	Online	Update to SCICOM September meeting
2026	November	Online	

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND
a	Monitor publication output and provide advice to SCICOM, ACOM, ICES Secretariat, and ICES network on ICES publications. i) Develop and recommend policies governing scientific publications as requested by SCICOM. ii) Review and provide guidance (to SCICOM, ACOM, ICES Secretariat, and ICES network) on the evolution of science publication, and potential risks and opportunities.	Support the science plan commitment to increase the visibility of, and access to, our science, data and advice and recognise, promote and use the science outputs from expert groups- while also ensuring that efforts to promote ICES science do not result in risks to our organisation. Allows ICES to develop its approaches to scientific publication and meet the evolving needs of our network Ensures alignment of ICES publications with ICES objectives as outlined in the strategic plan and science plan
b	Catalogue and report on the types and quantity of published outputs facilitated by the ICES network. i) Assess the impact of ICES publications and relevant scientific outputs generated by the ICES network. ii) Use existing descriptions of the societal impact of ICES science for reporting and outreach. iii) Oversee the process of cataloguing ICES historical publications in the ICES library. iv) Continue to update on recent and relevant developments concerning publications (e.g. AI standards and protocols)	Increases the visibility of, and access to, our science, data and advice. Recognises, promotes, and uses past and current science outputs from expert groups.

c	Propose approaches for increasing the impact of ICES publications and ICES library, and identify target audiences for communicating science, advice, data, and training products, both within and beyond the ICES community.	Increases the visibility of, and access to, our science, data and advice and recognises, promotes and uses the science outputs from expert groups
	i) Explore targeted opportunities to publish relevant material (e.g. opinion papers, posters and presentations) to increase the profile and the impact of SIPG outputs over the wider ICES network.	
	ii) Continue to disseminate SIPG outputs to EGs, helping to cascade and the continuous use of the ICES library, new data sources and relevant ICES materials.	
d	Review and provide recommendations on Publication resolutions prior to SCICOM meetings and intersessionally.	

Supporting information

Priority	A good publication strategy is essential to projecting the scope, scale and impact of ICES science.
Resource requirements	Support from ICES Secretariat - engagement of ICES Lead Editor and ICES Digital Librarian in SIPG, and use of ICES editorial office for data collection, handling, and processing. SIPG is attended by members appointed by SCICOM and members from the ICES Secreteriat, including ICES Lead Editors and Digital Librarian.
Linkages to ICES committees or groups	ACOM, SCICOM and associated Steering Groups, DIG, Data Centre
Linkages to other organizations	Ocean Practice Federated Network (under development)

Science Programming Operational Group (SCIPROG)

2025/OG/SCICOM04 The **Science Programming Operational Group (SCIPROG),** chaired by Fritz Köster*, Denmark, will work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	MEETING DATES	VENUE	REPORTING DETAILS	COMMENTS (CHANGE IN CHAIR, ETC.)
2026	March		Update to SCICOM March meeting	
2026	September	ICES ASC	Update to SCICOM September meeting	Side meeting in conjunction with ICES ASC

ToR descriptors

TOR	DESCRIPTION	BACKGROUND	EXPECTED DELIVERABLES
a	Identify and engage with national actors responsible for input to EU research programming. SCIPROG should recognise constraints around coordination of nationally co-funded programmes (e.g., EMFAF) and previous challenges in synchronising timing across countries	Contact has been ad hoc to date and this ToR will improve that	Establish contact with the relevant people and authorities in member countries
b	Identify future funding possibilities / calls – through network contacts	A similar ad hoc and opportunistic approach has been used for this in the past, and the aim is to regularise that	Regularly updated list of calls and their requirements
c	Identify synergies between multiple funding bodies' calls, i.e where an FTE could be funded via several projects.	It is possible to fund an individual post using two or more funding sources, e.g. two different EU calls	Identification of where this multiple source approach could support an individual post
d	Where possible, influence funders' programmes to align with ICES member countries (MC)' needs. e.g. through Scarfish or other groups	ICES and MC are regularly asked to assist in specifying new calls	Active engagement in helping develop new calls
e	With reference to the Rules of Engagement (RoE), determine the appropriateness of project opportunities and make recommendations to Coordination Group.	Decisions on which consortia and calls to join has been ad hoc until recently. The RoE are intended as a checklist where most or all of the condition included can be satisfies.	Provide the RoE to CG, and other interested groups e.g. Bureau and SCICOM. Updated as circumstances require

Supporting information

Priority	SCIPROG should have a high priority as its aim is to help secure a coherent and forward looking approach to supporting ICES and Member Countries research programmes in areas highlighted by Council. To that end the obejctives of the Operational Group are outlined below.

SCIPROG Objectives – key aspects are highlighted in bold

- Strengthen the scientific coordination of future funding for marine research/research programme. **Where possible, work with MC to collaborate on proposing calls that are appropriate to all ICES and MC.**
  - ICES should act as a facilitator and a neutral forum bringing together member countries (National Contact Points and experts) to discuss and align their priorities for and input to, European Commission research programming.
    - Initial focus should be on Horizon Europe/Mission Ocean and similar programmes, with potential later expansion to other EU and international funding instruments (e.g., EMFAF, LIFE, infrastructure calls).
    - ICES should remain aware of the complexity and diversity of EU funding mechanisms, and the need to assess where ICES' participation would be best aligned with our Strategy
  - ICES recognises that this would only be facilitating, national authorities would be responsible for their own decisions.
  - This approach has been reported as working well in agriculture calls
- Amplify the strategic benefits of project participation by ICES, member countries, and other partners. Ensure that the projects we participate in are good for ICES and its MC.
  - There remains a need to ensure complementarity with national processes and to avoid conflicts of interest
- Strategic choice of projects to engage with and at what scale
  - **ICES should focus on areas where it has unique convening power and can provide added value**, such as transnational data coordination at basin and regional scales, structured stakeholder engagement at an international level and in particular, synthesis of knowledge for advice.
    - **ICES skills in synthesising science into policy-relevant outputs** (including prototype advice) are highly relevant for project "impact" work packages
- ICES contribution to projects should be designed from the outset to produce outputs that are compatible with policy uptake, not only at the end stage.
- A key element lies in ICES ability to **link projects with relevant expert groups** for continuity post-project.

Resource requirements	The main Secretariat support will be through the Secretariat Projects Office. Support also from the heads of science and advice, and the SCICOM and ACOM chairs. It should be noted that these personnel are currently already working in this area, and would not be expected to need to increase their commitment.

Linkages to ICES committees or groups	Science Committee (SCICOM), Council, Bureau
Linkages to other organizations	All ICES delegates and the Member Countries