

ICES request form	
Request from	NEAFC
Committee making the request	
Request announced	4 January 2024
Request received	
Outcome of request required by client	<i>A narrative description of three or more approaches¹ to define operational biodiversity and ecosystem objectives and to monitor and assess progress towards meeting these objectives. This will be accompanied by a tabulation of the properties and application of the approaches, including an assessment of the extent to which they contribute to the implementation of an ecosystem approach, and a comparative analysis highlighting their benefits and drawbacks.</i>
Request code (client)	Ecosystem approach to fisheries management
Request code (ICES)	
Details of request	<p>For the given higher-level biodiversity and ecosystem objectives in the NEAFC Convention² (Article 4: 2 'c' and 'd'), ICES is requested to describe available approaches to define related operational objectives and to monitor and assess progress towards meeting these operational objectives. ICES is requested to consider at least three approaches (options), ranging from a risk assessment approach suitable for application in data-limited circumstances through to an approach reliant on the collection and processing of a wide range of data on ecosystem structure and function.</p> <p>For each option, describe the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the approach, b) the range and scope of operational objectives that could be identified, c) how targets, limits and other reference points would be defined, d) the associated monitoring and assessment requirements, and the extent to which they are met by available data, e) timelines and resources for development of the approach (e.g. provision of technical guideline), f) timelines and resources for implementation of the approach, g) the maturity of science underpinning the approach, h) whether there are applications of the approach in other jurisdictions, i) assumptions and caveats, j) gaps in scope in relation to higher-level objectives, k) consequences of uncertainty, l) the extent to which progress towards objectives will be determined by fisheries management actions, m) the extent to which the approach contributes to implementation of an ecosystem approach, n) comparative analysis of the suggested approaches with the description of benefits and drawbacks of each.
Intended use of the request output	

¹ This sentence should be interpreted as "What are the approaches, and what would be needed to monitor and assess progress?"

² NEAFC Convention <https://www.neafc.org/system/files/Text-of-NEAFC-Convention-04.pdf>

Planning ICES	<p>This request will be treated as a review service³.</p> <p>ICES will describe 3 approaches to define operational objectives from higher-level biodiversity and ecosystem objectives, and to monitor and assess progress towards meeting these operational objectives, following the elements listed in the 'details of the request'.</p> <p>The description of the approaches will be peer-reviewed.</p> <p>Advice Drafting Group (ADGEAFM) by correspondence: 1-2 July.</p> <p>Web conference (WCEAFM): 2 September.</p> <p>Release: 27 September 2024.</p>
ICES contact person	
WG(s) involved	
Preparation timing	
Review group	RGEAFM
Advice drafting group	ADGEAFM 1-2 July
ACOM WebEx	WCEAFM 2 September
Release date	27 September 2024

³ ICES Advice 2020 – <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7648>