



For and from the Baltic: Navigating the future of fisheries with ecosystem-based management

Official side event of the 2025 ICES Annual Science Conference

18 September 2025, 14:15-17:30 (EEST)

Klaipėda University, Klaipėda, Lithuania

Organized by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

The Baltic is a shared and vital resource for bordering countries and beyond. It faces multifaceted pressures, from climate change to eutrophication to declining fish stocks. A holistic, integrated, and ecosystem-based management approach is key to shaping the future of the Baltic Sea.

Building on four days of exchange of ideas, science, and collaboration at the ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) 2025 in Klaipėda, Lithuania, ICES and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) are co-hosting a **high-level Baltic-focused side event**. The event will bring together many of the world's leading marine scientists—and provide a unique opportunity to place a spotlight on the Baltic Sea and its diverse stakeholders and management challenges.

With a focus on ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM), the event aims to highlight opportunities for cooperation and define concrete steps toward recovery and sustainable use of the Baltic Sea. This event brings together perspectives from across the ICES community and beyond. Speakers will highlight recent scientific advances, reflect on emerging policy demands, and outline opportunities for improving integrated governance. The speakers' contributions will set the foundation for an open dialogue with the audience, helping to shape a shared vision for the Baltic's future.

Agenda

Subject to change

Welcome and opening remarks

14:15-14:30

Speakers

- **Marie-Julie Roux**, ICES Advisory Committee Vice-Chair (Event moderator)
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, Director General at European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- **Alan Haynie**, ICES General Secretary

PANEL 1

Baltic Sea science & advice - Recent advances and evolving needs

14:30-15:10

Speakers will share insights on science advances and actionable opportunities in the Baltic Sea context, reflecting on how science and advice can better align with evolving needs.

Speakers

- **Miriam von Thenen**, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde
- **Dave Reid**, Chair of ICES SCICOM
- **Colm Lordan**, Chair of ICES ACOM
- **Meri Kallasvuori**, Finnish Natural Resources Institute EFARO Vice-President
- **Even Moland**, Institute of Marine Research, Norway

Following the panel discussion, audience participation will be invited via Slido.

PANEL 2

Tools for Baltic recovery - Current and emerging policy instruments

15:10-15:35

The speakers will explore how policies can better translate science into coordinated, operational measures for a resilient Baltic.

Speakers

- **Lena Bergström**, Department of Aquatic Resources at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU Aqua)
- **Claus Reedtz Sparrevohn**, Danish Pelagic Producer Organization
- **Nils Höglund**, advisor to Swedish EU MEP Isabella Lövin
- **Rüdiger Strempe**, HELCOM Executive Secretary
- **Sarah Gaichas**, Hydra Scientific LLC

Following the panel discussion, audience participation will be invited via Slido.

How to join the ICES network: Jo Foden, ICES Head of the Science Department

Coffee break

15:35-15:50

KEYNOTE

Transdisciplinary perspectives on ecosystem-based management - Spatial issues and management

15:50-16:20

Keynote speaker: Anna Rindorf, Director, DTU Aqua

An interactive voting round will be conducted, drawing from themes within previous audience participation.

HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE

How can we better link science with policy?

16:20-17:15

This roundtable convenes key regional and international stakeholders to reflect on the Baltic Sea's governance challenges and opportunities—placing them in the broader context of the Ocean Pact and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

Speakers

- **Ieva Žundienė**, Director of the Fisheries Department, Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, Director General at European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- **Carl O'Brien**, ICES President
- **Piotr Margonski**, EFARO President, ICES Polish Delegate Institute Director
- **Rüdiger Strempel**, HELCOM Executive Secretary

Roundtable participants will discuss a question based on previous audience input and voting results.

CLOSING

Action & Commitment

17:15-17:30

The closing of the side event will synthesize the key insights of the day, and participants will be invited to share reflections.

Announcement: Klaipėda Statement

- **Marie-Julie Roux**, ICES Advisory Committee Vice-Chair (Event moderator)
- **Charlina Vitcheva**, Director General at European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- **Alan Haynie**, ICES General Secretary

CLOSING CEREMONY AND NETWORKING

ASC closing ceremony

17:30-18:00, *in-person only*

Join us for the ASC closing ceremony, taking place in the same location immediately after the side event, marking the conclusion of four days of innovative research, new ideas, and new collaborations.

Networking reception

18:00-19:00, *in-person only*

S. Vaitekūnas hall

Afterwards, join us for an informal networking reception to connect, continue discussions, and celebrate shared progress.

