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'Fish and Ships'

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An interview with ICES new General Secretary

Anne Christine Brusendorff

As ICES President Michael Sinclair pointed out at the reception welcoming Anne Christine Brusendorff and bidding farewell to Gerd Hubold, Brusendorff will be the first woman appointed as ICES General Secretary.

Brusendorff brushes aside the issue of gender. She makes it clear that her priorities are to continue the progress towards integrated science and advice, to enhance ICES position on the international stage and to recognize the important part that the secretariat plays in supporting this.

About her administration of the Secretariat she says, “No single person can move the organization alone. We have to continue our move together based on our common vision and common goals”.

Brusendorff supports the idea of ICES being proactive and points to work on [Descriptor 3 of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#), as well as the recently established Council Steering Group, as ways that ICES can support further elements of the directive.

“There is still a perception of ICES as being very much a fishery organization, which is neither correct nor in accordance with the ecosystem approach to marine management. For us to project a broader profile, we have to be better at communicating that we are able to deliver a wide range of information and services, benefitting from an integrated approach. I also believe that doing so will increase the number of requests for advice.

“We saw this in maritime spatial planning last year in Lisbon, where there was a joint workshop with OSPAR/HELCOM and ICES. We need to find more ways to do this. We need to discover how we can join forces and supplement and complement each other’s work. Another example of this occurred last year on the topic of biodiversity. We participated in stakeholder-client workshops where discussions took place about what ICES can provide. With this kind of contact, we can get a better idea of what our clients and stakeholders require; at what point is the science fragile; and where do we want more work done?”

Brusendorff, whose training was in law, with a specialization in international law of the sea, joined [HELCOM](#) (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) in 1998 and spent the last nine years there as Executive Secretary. While representing HELCOM, she contributed to various regional, European, and global fora, dealing with issues of science and policy, both technical and managerial.

She points out that her background in law provides a perspective different from that of a scientist. Describing the difference she says, “I look more into what we need, whereas a scientist might look more into what we have. But I think that these differences can fit together very nicely. It can certainly help me to understand that what we need isn’t possible, based on what we have, but it might also help the scientists understand how to shape what we have into what we need”.

It is certain that her legal background has been useful in achieving a balance when faced with competing interests. “Life always involves trade-offs, but when everybody leaves the room, and they didn’t get everything they wanted, do they at least understand why they couldn’t get the last bit of cake?” She believes that finding this balance and achieving mutual understanding has been one her driving motives.



ICES General Secretary
Anne Christine Brusendorff.

She supposes that her interest in the sea was the result of having spent the first three years of her life in Greenland, where her father was stationed in the Royal Danish Navy. “I always had an interest in maritime issues, as well as environmental issues. I did my PhD at the University of Copenhagen, and during that time, I attended the London School of Economics and Political Science and very much enjoyed the international milieu.

“I continued my interest in maritime law in the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy, where I worked with maritime matters. I then went to HELCOM, and I could try it on a regional scale. Now, it’s fantastic that I come to ICES and can try it on a global scale”.

Brusendorff was recognized recently by the [Baltic Sea Fund](#) for her work as Executive Secretary of HELCOM.

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And the winner is...

Nominations are being accepted for ICES Outstanding Achievement Award

ICES has much to celebrate. For more than 100 years, we have continuously advanced marine research in the North Atlantic. Such progress could only have been achieved through the outstanding contributions and ideas of the members of the ICES family, whose continuing professionalism and consistently high level of performance and commitment define our community.

ICES counts many dedicated and talented individuals among its ranks, and each year ICES Awards recognize those among us who have made especially notable contributions to the institution and the wider marine science world. The recipients of ICES awards are some of the most deserving and distinguished people in their fields, proud in the knowledge that an ICES award is a sign of appreciation and respect from their colleagues. It is an estimable honour to receive one these awards, but to be nominated in the first place is a distinct honour, because in order to receive an ICES Outstanding Achievement Award or Prix d'Excellence, a peer nomination must be made.

The one thing everyone recognizes the ICES family for, is their commitment to the goals of the institution. To be honoured by the ICES community is to be seen to encapsulate the ICES ethos of independent, collaborative science for a sustainable ocean.

— Manuel Barange, SCICOM Chair, on the people working in the ICES community



2011 Prix d'Excellence recipient Carlos Duarte, Spain (left), with Ed Houde.

ICES Awards

ICES presents two peer-nominated awards: the Outstanding Achievement Award and the Prix d'Excellence. The Outstanding Achievement Award may be presented every year. Except under extraordinary circumstances, the Prix d'Excellence will be presented only in every third year. The next anticipated Prix d'Excellence is in 2014. **Nominations for both awards are now open.**

Outstanding Achievement Award

The Outstanding Achievement Award is presented annually at ICES Annual Science Conference and recognizes a member of the ICES community whose career has been distinguished by a sustained commitment to excellence in endeavours of science, management, research, and leadership, and as such is the highest expression of recognition for a colleague.

Beginning this year, the nomination procedure for the Outstanding Achievement Award has changed and is now as simple as following this [link](#). Nominations simply require a name and a few sentences about the person you are nominating. Nominations are acted upon by the Awards Committee. According to Ed Houde, Chair of ICES Awards Committee, "the nomination form we had in place was a little tedious, and it required persons to spend a lot of time and gather information from their nominated candidate". The Committee has simplified the nomination process to facilitate and encourage broad participation in the awards process.



2011 Outstanding Achievement Award winner Michael Sissenwine, USA.

The deadline for nominations for the [2012 Outstanding Achievement Award](#) is 1 June.

Previous Outstanding Achievement Award winners:Lifetime Achievement Award (forerunner to the Outstanding Achievement Award)

2005 [David de G. Griffith](#), Ireland

Outstanding Achievement Award

2008 [Niels Daan](#), the Netherlands

2009 [Jake Rice](#), Canada

2010 [Harold Loeng](#), Norway

2011 [Michael Sissenwine](#), USA

Prix d'Excellence

This award is presented in recognition of extraordinary contributions, fulfilling the ICES vision of scientific discovery and leadership. Candidates for this award need not have been associated with ICES, although their work and achievements would have been relevant and influential. Innovation, excellence, teamwork, mentoring, and objective communication exemplify the career of the recipient of this award. For this award, the nomination process must be more formal.

The Prix d'Excellence may be awarded every third year at ICES Annual Science Conference. Under exceptional circumstances, the Award can be conferred outside the usual cycle with approval of the Council.

It is not too early to begin thinking about worthy nominees for the Prix d'Excellence. Nominations are now being taken for the [2014 Prix d'Excellence](#) and will close on 1 June 2014.

Previous Prix d'Excellence winners:

2008 [Dale Van Holliday](#), USA

2011 [Carlos M. Duarte](#), Spain

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Advisory expert group chairs meet in Copenhagen

Integration is high on the agenda

In preparation for a new year of advice, the Annual Meeting of Advisory Working Group Chairs (WGCHAIRS) took place in Copenhagen from 17 to 19 January. Advisory Committee (ACOM) Chair Jean-Jacques Maguire presided over the three-day operational meeting, during which 47 participants discussed the year ahead.

In response to comments by the recipients of ICES advice urging ICES to move actively towards a stronger integration of ecosystem considerations in its advice, both on fishery and on environmental matters, ICES will intensify its work on integrated assessments of the ICES ecoregions and produce ecosystem overviews as integral parts of the annual advisory report.

Following links

How does ICES “do” marine ecosystem science? How does ICES give marine ecosystem advice based on this science? Do individuals in ICES working groups feel that their scientific competency is being used toward ecosystem advice?

Using social networks within the ICES community as a base Dorothy Dankel, Chair of the Working Group on Maritime Systems (WGMARS), presented a mapping exercise (social network analysis) that takes an in-depth look at the ICES expert group landscape. WGMARS wonders whether recommendations for strengthening the integration of ecosystem aspects can be derived from sociological inquiry into how ICES is organized as an institution.

Integrating ecosystem science and advice requires cooperation through communication, knowledge exchange, and integration between different disciplines and experts. The creation of such synergies requires attention not only to the processes but also to the people involved. As the social theory says “you collaborate with those you eat lunch with!” In a preliminary analysis (WGMARS Report 2011) WGMARS analysed the linkages that occur between ICES expert and advisory groups and pointed toward a lack of overlap between working groups. This may lead to less integration of science and a reduced capacity to provide integrated ecosystem advice. Although there was some debate as to whether social networks are the best example for amalgamating ICES work, WGMARS remained firm in the view that personal connections and the social and institutional aspects cannot be overlooked. WGMARS invite all expert group chairs to contribute to their work through a 5-minute, web-based survey to be sent out in March 2012. Watch out for the e-mail from WGMARS and your chance to be heard!



Advisory working group chairs and members of the ICES Secretariat who participated in WGCHAIRS.

Fishery-related benchmarks

Reporting on the results of previous benchmarking workshops, Barbara Schoute highlighted the lack of ecosystem data and ecosystem expertise in the process. As a means to strengthen the integration of ecosystem aspects in fishery-related benchmarks, the integration of ecosystem drivers and ecosystem impact in advice should take place through the benchmarking process. SCICOM Steering Group chairs will identify scientists who will provide ecosystem issues and environmental drivers to the benchmarking working groups. The terms of reference for benchmark groups will be reviewed with the purpose of appealing to more ecosystem and environmental scientists.

Following the lead taken by the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks (WKPELA), further discussion on the benchmarking process pointed out that, as a rule, benchmarking should be split into two sections: a data compilation and verification workshop to be held a few months before the actual assessment benchmarking meeting, and the actual assessment benchmarking meeting.

Integrated ecosystem assessments

Han Lindeboom, ACOM Vice-Chair, put forward a new approach to ecosystem overviews. The last ecosystem overview, carried out by ICES in 2008, led to mass of long-term data, that could be presented in a more accessible manner. Lindeboom will work with Yvonne Walther, Chair of the SCICOM Steering Group on Regional Sea Programmes, and with the integrated assessment working groups, among others, to develop and prepare ecosystem overviews that will be made available later in the year.

Integrating policy through MSFD

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is a cross-cutting issue that will have implications for most of ICES work, with an expected collation of information from more than 100 expert groups. In 2011, all expert groups were asked to identify elements of their work that may help determine status for the 11 Descriptors and provide views on what Good Environmental Status might be for those descriptors. Eugene Nixon informed the chairs that the resulting “living report”, which identifies a substantial body of current and planned work within the ICES network, is [now available on ICES website](#).

World Symposium on Stock Assessment Methods

Carmen Fernandez and Jose de Oliveira, members of the joint ACOM/SCICOM Strategic Initiative on Stock Assessment Methodology (SISAM), updated the group on developments for the World Symposium on Stock Assessment Methods to be held in 2013, which will explore the merits of available assessment methods for providing relevant advice to ICES and regional fishery management organizations (RFMOs). The process was initiated with a workshop in 2010, and it is planned to assemble and/or simulate 10 to 12 datasets that characterize the breadth of life-history strategy, data quality, population dynamics, and assessment problems through contributions from the Working Group on Methods of Fish Stock Assessments (WGMG).

Expert group chair training courses

ICES will provide a number of [training courses](#) in 2012 for expert group chairs. These courses will elaborate on communicating science and advice, how to lead an effective technical meeting, and how to lead and participate in ICES meetings. Maguire commented that all chairs should take advantage of this initiative, if possible. Having participated in a similar programme in Canada, he feels that the knowledge he gained was invaluable.

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A work in progress

Preparing for the 2012 advice season

The third Workshop on Implementing the ICES MSY Framework (WKFRAME3) took place at ICES headquarters in Copenhagen, between 9 and 13 January. The group met to improve the framework for advising on stocks with data insufficient to calculate a TAC advice. These proposals can be used in the *General Context of the ICES Advice*, which is the basis for the advice drafted by the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM).

MSY

Since 2010, ICES has delivered advice based on the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach, in response to international commitments and clients' needs. Prior to this, ICES issued advice based on the Precautionary Approach, which frames advice in a way risk-adverse to causing harm. This approach alone, however, lacks an operational management target.

The MSY concept is about maximizing yield. The ICES MSY approach gives advice to achieve this by exploiting the stock at a rate (F_{MSY}) that would on average theoretically deliver maximum sustainable yield. In reality, the annual yields realized under an MSY strategy managed by F_{MSY} will be further affected by natural variability in the amount of young fish entering the population and species interaction.

Data poor

According to Ciaran Kelly, WKFRAME Chair, the term *data poor* is a misnomer. It gives the impression that information is lacking, whereas in most cases data exist but the available information is simply not sufficient to present a precise assessment and forecast. As Kelly notes, "The difficulty is that, when you set a high-precision goal for an assessment to be accepted, everything gets labelled 'data poor', which has become another way of saying that we don't accept that the population-based assessment is precise enough to give unqualified advice based on a catch forecast".

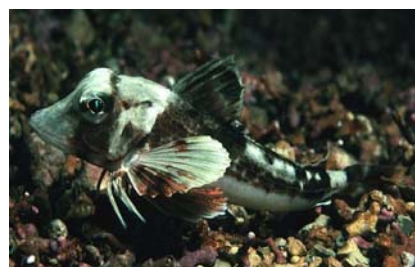
WKFRAME are developing an advice framework for species for which there may be a time-series from an abundance index, information about growth, maturity, and productivity, and a reasonably long record of landings or catches, but the information is either incoherent, unreliable, or not robust or accurate enough. In other words, it is very noisy. According to Kelly, "When an assessment lacks precision, the risk associated with catch advice based on a forecast will be greater. ICES has a singular standard for assessments that are used to generate catch advice, and so imprecise assessments fall foul of this, and the stock is labelled as data poor".

WKFRAME also includes species recently added to ICES Advice, where something is known about the catch but ICES cannot estimate the abundance (trend), and information about the distribution, growth, and fecundity of that species may also be limited.

The number of stocks with imprecise assessments changes from year to year and depends on the area. For example, there are more such stocks in ecosystems with increased diversity, such as the



Boarfish: an example of a species with unknown stock status. ICES advice is based on the exploitation rate. Photo courtesy of NOAA.



Grey gurnard: a new stock (first advice in 2011) for which there is no population size estimate. Photo courtesy of Bernard Picton, NMNI.

shelf and deep water areas of the OSPAR Celtic seas region and the Bay of Biscay.

WKFRAME's terms of references referred to an empirical-advice concept that was originally proposed by WKFRAME1 and modified by ACOM in 2011.

Kelly says that a problem with the presentation of the concept by ICES was that only the endpoint was visible. "Stakeholders didn't see the process whereby you get to the endpoint, making the actual basis for the advice non-transparent. Thus, they didn't see the principle that led to the conclusion. WKFRAME3 tried to generalize the ICES MSY harvest control rule (HCR) as an empirical expression ($C_{y+1} = \text{Catch}_{\text{recent}} * b * r * f * \theta$)[†]. If it were applied as a basis for advice in 2012, one could see how the catch advice has been derived. The stakeholders have come a long way: from not understanding the system in the past, to participating in our open meetings and workshops today".

The first step has been taken: a general expression has been outlined and provides the basis for advice about stocks for which a forecast is unavailable. The next step is to identify the factors to be either enumerated or provided by expert judgement. The expression is constructed in such a way that the expert judgement is transparent.

A work in progress

This expression is not the only solution. Discussion at the workshop also considered the management of species without a numerical forecast, which could be done through appropriately defined HCRs. After considering what is known and the consequences of what is unknown, an HCR sufficient to manage the species can be constructed, but it will be stock- or fishery-specific.

This catch advice arising from the empirical expression is limited in several ways. The indices available can be extremely noisy. This noise has to be managed somehow in the generation of advice, and the empirical nature of the rule makes this approach more appropriate as a short-term direction finder rather than a long-term solution to providing catch advice for data-poor species. As such, advice based on the WKFRAME3 approach should be considered a multi-annual advice promoting sustainable exploitation, rather than an annual harvest that is optimized to achieve MSY. Management built on HCRs can work for annual advice for data-poor species, but the properties of the data and the dynamics of the stock must be considered carefully.

Kelly says, "Calling it a work in progress may hopefully create more focus on the immediate problems of giving operational advice by either developing single-species management plans that manage species in a way appropriate to the data and the stock dynamics, or delivering operational multispecies fishery advice".

Kelly points out that single-species advice only goes so far towards meeting the requirements of fishery managers, because problems associated with mixed-fisheries, such as bycatch, are not addressed.

Strategies in other jurisdictions

Managing fisheries using limited data is not a situation unique to ICES Member Countries. WKFRAME3 looked briefly at some harvest strategies currently applied by other jurisdictions. A comprehensive review of such strategies would provide an important reference for ICES in providing fishery advice that suits clients' needs.

It was noted that, in many cases, the issue was tackled jointly by managers and scientists because the operational implementation of a fishery harvest policy is not solely a scientific endeavour. It is foreseeable that ICES Member Countries could employ a similar approach. However, in practice this is not as straightforward for ICES and its clients as that of single-nation entities. Multiple policies create multiple objectives, probably requiring harvest strategy guidelines appropriate to each of the

existing policies.

Kelly feels that this form of engagement (i.e. a harvest strategy produced jointly by managers and scientists) will help achieve the goal of transparency. Client objectives need to be stated clearly in a policy, and the technical implementation of those objectives in the provision of advice needs to be transparent. “When these things are not transparent, unnecessary complexity is introduced in the rules and regulations, and everybody gets lost in the detail”.

A parallel meeting, the Workshop on the Development of Assessments Based on Life-history Traits and Exploitation Characteristics (WKLIFE), took place in Lisbon, between 13 and 17 February. WKLIFE prepares guidelines for ICES expert groups on determining proxies for F_{MSY} for stocks without quantitative forecasts, based on life-history traits, among other things, and estimating the exploitation rate in relation to reference points.

[WKFRAME3's report is available here.](#)

† $C_{y+1} = \text{Catch}_{\text{recent}} * b * r * f * \theta$. In order to arrive at C_{y+1} , it is necessary to enumerate the following factors: (i) $\text{Catch}_{\text{recent}}$; (ii) ‘b’: whether or not the stock is in a poor biomass condition, a protection rule similar to ICES F_{MSY} control rule; (iii) ‘r’: the trend in the stock (this must be calculated with care); (iv) ‘f’: whether the stock is overexploited or not, relative to what would be sustainable in the long term; (v) ‘ θ ’: the Precautionary Approach factor (accounts for uncertainty or unknowns in the other factors, assigned an arbitrary value). Once the parameters in the expression can be enumerated or informed by expert judgement, the empirical rule can be applied to generate a catch option. It can be applied with as little or as much information as is available, whereby the less is known (or can be judged expertly) the more conservative the advised yield will be.

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MSFD — Descriptor 3+

ICES releases a report on assessing GES for Descriptor 3

ICES has published a report on the process it undertook to support EU Member States in the implementation of the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive \(MSFD\) Descriptor 3](#) – commercially exploited fish and shellfish.

Five steps have been identified to assess Good Environmental Status (GES) for Descriptor 3, and different approaches for directing these steps towards assessment are applied in five case studies: the Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Northeast Atlantic Ocean (Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast), Northeast Atlantic Ocean (North Sea), and Northeast Atlantic Ocean (Celtic seas).

An analysis comparing the outcomes of the GES assessments, based on indicators with reference levels (from stock assessments) and without reference levels (from monitoring programmes), demonstrated some consistency but also revealed that the GES assessment based on indicators with reference values is stricter than the one based on indicators without reference values.

Three possible definitions of GES at the criterion level are considered, reflecting different levels of ambition. The examples provided in the report confirmed that the interpretation of GES has important consequences for the outcome of the GES assessment.

The report also discusses the potential role of “ecosystem” indicators collected under the fishery Data Collection Framework (DCF) to support assessments of other MSFD Descriptors.

Read the [full report online](#).



The first European Conference on Research and Ecosystem-based Management Strategies in Support of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive takes place from 14 to 16 May, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Call for Papers opens 1 March 2012.

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Introducing new chairs and chiefs

What challenges lie ahead?

The previous edition of *ICES Inside Out* took the opportunity to thank colleagues in various positions across ICES who finished their terms. Now, we introduce their successors, who will continue the work of strengthening ICES position as a leading marine science body.

Chair of ICES Publications and Communications Group (PUBCOM) – Mark Dickey-Collas

Mark Dickey-Collas views his new position as Chair of PUBCOM as a stimulating challenge. He takes over the reins from the extremely active Pierre Pepin, who successfully steered the development of the ICES publication strategy. Mark hopes PUBCOM will continue Pierre's legacy and push to further modernize ICES Communications as well as the publications portfolio. Mark commented recently, "As new approaches develop, and the speed of communication increases, ICES finds itself in an ever-changing publication environment where its standards of quality must be safeguarded. To fulfil its potential, ICES must be visible and proactive, yet maintain its core niche as provider of trusted advice and relevant research".



Mark Dickey-Collas.

Mark, an Englishman based at [IMARES](#) in IJmuiden, has been a part of ICES for 18 years. His first assignment was in the Working Group on Recruitment Processes, and he is a long-standing member of the Herring Assessment Working Group. He is active on both the advisory and science sides of ICES, chairs workshops on the evaluation of management plans, and represents the Netherlands on ICES Science Committee (SCICOM). He also chairs the Strategic Initiative on Stock Assessment Methods (SISAM), which is planning the 2013 world symposium on stock assessment methods. He enjoyed chairing the wonderfully named WGOOFE, the Working Group on Operational Oceanographic Products for Fisheries and Environment, which brought oceanographers and ecologists together. In addition to PUBCOM in 2012, Mark looks forward to running the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks, which will allow him to work on sardine, blue whiting, and his beloved herring.



Editor-in-Chief of *ICES Journal of Marine Science* – Howard Browman

Howard writes: *ICES Journal of Marine Science* has had a series of accomplished marine scientists at the helm. I am honoured to join this group as a steward of the *Journal*. I am a broadly trained aquatic/fishery ecologist, whose research has focused on zooplankton-ichthyoplankton interactions. I have also worked with policy issues surrounding ecosystem-based management, marine protected areas, and ocean acidification. I have studied and worked in Canada and the USA, and have been a Principal Research Scientist with the [Institute of Marine Research](#) in Bergen, Norway, since 1998. More information about me and the activities of my team can be found [here](#). Importantly, I am an

Howard Browman.

experienced editor of marine science journals. I live and breathe the journal(s) with which I have been charged and fully integrate the editor's job into the rest of my scientific activities. Credibility and respect for *ICES Journal of Marine Science* is earned by being service-oriented, ethical, fair, transparent, accountable, visible, accessible, responsive, fast, efficient, effective, decisive, diplomatic, constructive, consistent, merit-based, and humble (including admitting to being fallible). I will lead

IJMS in a manner that is guided by these adjectives. Thanks to the efforts of my predecessors and their editors, the *Journal* holds a strong position with its core community (the “ICES” part of the title). That strength will be maintained and nurtured, while also leveraging it to expand the *Journal’s* horizons (the “Marine Science” part of the title). The *Journal* will also introduce and/or make more frequent use of themed article groupings and article categories, such as editorials, “Food for Thought” essays (preferably provocative/controversial hot topics), “Quo Vadimus” (describing the future of a topic or discipline), and “Editor’s Choice” (outstanding articles of broad interest), all of which will be fast-tracked for publication and published with complimentary open access.

Chair of the SCICOM Steering Group on Ecosystem Functions (SSGEF) – Graham Pierce

Graham Pierce is a Professor at [Oceanlab](#) (School of Biological Sciences), University of Aberdeen. Over the past 25 years, he has worked on various aspects of marine biology, ecology, and fisheries. He coordinated several European projects including [BIOCET](#) (on contaminant bioaccumulation in small cetaceans), [CEPHSTOCK](#) (on cephalopod life history in fisheries; see ICES Cooperative Research Report 303), and [ECOSUMMER](#) (Marie Curie training site). He was Marie Curie Chair, based at [Instituto Español de Oceanografía](#) (Spain) between 2007 and 2010. He served two terms as Chair of the Working Group on Cephalopod Fisheries and Life History (WGCEPH) and is a member of WGMME (Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology).



Graham Pierce.

Graham writes: Like the Committees that preceded them, the SCICOM steering groups (SSGs) act as the interface between ICES and its expert groups (EGs). As its full name suggests, SSGEF concentrates on ecosystem function, and thus has a key role in delivering the science needed to underpin implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries. EGs address scientific and advisory objectives proposed by ICES, its clients, and scientists in the EGs and, as such, have top-down and bottom-up components and often cut across the remits of several SSGs. The SSGs provide a forum for EGs to communicate their work at the Annual Science Conference and help to identify future science priorities. Hence the job description for an SSG chair probably includes manager, mediator, secretary, and soothsayer. It promises to be an interesting challenge!



Carmen Fernandez.

ACOM Vice-Chair – Carmen Fernandez

Carmen writes: My early background is in mathematics and statistics (PhD from [Universidad Autónoma de Madrid](#), Spain, followed by post-doctoral and lecturing positions at Belgian, Dutch, and British universities). In 2006, I became a research scientist at the [Instituto Español de Oceanografía](#) (Spain), and this is when my involvement with ICES began.

This has been mostly in stock assessment and related aspects on the advisory and research sides. I recently chaired the Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Stocks of Hake, Monk, and Megrin, and I am a member of the Working Group on Methods of Fish Stock Assessment, as well as being a participant in various ICES workshops and ICES Annual Science Conference. I have taken part in reviews of experts’ work, advice drafting groups (mainly fish-stock advice and management plans), activities such as the ongoing Strategic Initiative on Stock

Assessment Methods, and the work on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive Descriptor 3+. In 2010, I was nominated as Spanish alternate member of ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) and now, from January 2012, I am an ACOM Vice-Chair (on leave from Spain), dealing mainly with advice for fish stocks and fisheries.

Relevant questions at the moment include the provision of advice for fish stocks with different levels of data availability, technical interactions, multispecies interactions, and the incorporation of ecosystem aspects. I find my new role in ACOM both challenging and interesting, as it aims to bring the work of an entire scientific community together and use it in a way that is relevant, clear, and helpful to the needs of advice recipients and society as a whole. In my view, challenges arise from the increasing demands for advice in a wide variety of situations and the demands on experts' time and availability. We will work on all of these aspects.

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ASC 2012 Call for Papers

Abstract submissions are now being accepted

Preparations are well underway for ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC), this year taking place in Bergen, Norway. Although it is early days for registration, which opens in March, it is time for participants to think about their scientific contributions. The Call for Papers has been issued, with an [online version](#) available at the ASC website .

It contains descriptions of the 18 theme sessions, some of which will feature aspects of this ASC's two overarching themes, "aquaculture sustainability" and "the oceanography and ecology of the Arctic in the context of climate change". Other theme sessions are set in the areas of ecological theory, ecosystem function and dynamics, fishery assessment and management, and policy implementation.

The Call for Papers includes short guidelines on the submission of paper presentations as well as posters. The guidelines can be viewed [here](#). They contain important submission information. Abstracts can be submitted [here](#). Follow the directions for online submission. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 20 April.



Abstracts are now being accepted for ICES ASC 2012.

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ICES marine symposia 2012

What's in store in the coming year

ICES, with its many global partners, provides a host of occasions on which scientists, stakeholders, and policy-makers enter into dialogue. ICES symposia provide an arena for the expansion of the ICES community, and the wide range of issues invites broad participation.

In upcoming symposia, topics essential to the science component of *ICES Strategic Plan* are addressed, including understanding the physical, chemical, and biological functioning of marine ecosystems; understanding and quantifying human impacts on marine ecosystems, including living marine resources; and evaluating options for sustainable marine-related industries, particularly fishing and mariculture.

The [2nd ICES/PICES Early Career Scientist Conference 2012](#) will be held from 24 to 27 April, in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Conveners: Stewart McKinnell (PICES) and Adi Kellermann (ICES).

The [6th World Fisheries Congress \(WFC 2012\) "Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing World"](#) will be held from 7 to 11 May 2012, in Edinburgh, UK. Convener: Michel Kaiser (UK).

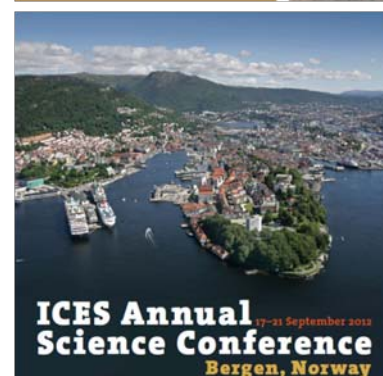
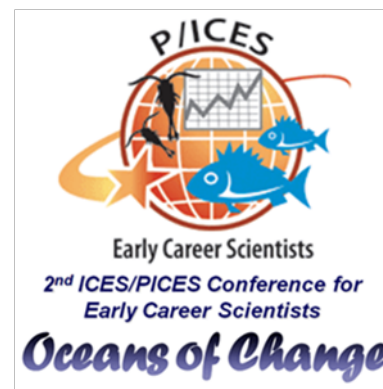
A symposium on "Research and ecosystem-based management strategies supporting the implementation of the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#)" (Marine Strategy 2012) will be held from 14 to 16 May 2012, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Conveners: Jesper Andersen and Bo Riemann (NERI, DK).

[ICES/PICES/IOC Second International Symposium on the Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans](#) will be held from 15 to 19 May 2012, in Yeosu, Korea. Conveners: Luis Valdes (Spain), Kim Suam (Korea), and Sarah Hughes (UK).

[ICES Annual Science Conference](#) will be held in Bergen, Norway, from 17 to 21 September 2012.

A symposium on "Forage Fish Interactions: Creating the Tools for Ecosystem-Based Management of Marine Resources" will be held from 12 to 14 November 2012, in Nantes, France. Conveners: Stefan Neuenfeldt (Denmark) and Myron Peck (Germany).

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Grammar Slammer

Bill Anthony says, never, ever is comprised of, or I can make up words if I want to

Fred is a good friend of Grammar Slammer. He's always sending us interesting stuff, and after we sort through the recipes for armadillo meat, tips for keeping squirrels out of the bird feeder, and instructions for concocting home-made fireworks, some of it is really useful.

Recently, Fred wrote wondering: If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? I told him to check with the Nobel Committee and get back to me. But, as my finger twitched over the delete button, I noticed something I had missed. Fred went on to express his disgruntlement at people who misused the word *comprise*. Fred was **disgruntled**. So, I asked myself, if I used ICES platform of the Grammar Slammer to spread the word about *comprise*, would that make him grunted? Would it restore his gruntlement? Hard to say, but I have to try.*

As faithful readers of this humble column are aware, half of what I write about grammar, I make up on the spot. The other half involves arcane laws that have an equal number of exceptions. That leaves little room for hard-and-fast rules, but here is one that I can share with absolute confidence. Never—and I'm going to type that again very slowly—never write *is comprised of*. *Is, comprised, and of* are never, ever, to be seen side by side.



English grammar comprises many parts.

Comprise is a verb that means *consist of* and should not be used to mean *constitute* or *make up a whole*.

The easiest way to remember the correct use of *comprise* is that **the whole comprises the parts**. ICES membership *comprises* twenty Member States. The catch *comprised* sprat, herring, and old rubber tyres.

Don't turn it around by writing lettuce, tomatoes, and onions [the parts] *comprised* the salad [the whole]. Personally, I would add some anchovies, but that puts me at odds with at least three NGOs. In that case you could write lettuce, tomatoes, and onions *make up* the salad.

If you find yourself momentarily confused—whole-parts, parts-whole—you can substitute *is made up of* or *is composed of*. Both will get you off the hook. The species *is made up of* squiggly ones, bumpy ones, and little smiley ones. The data are *composed of* nonsense, misinformation, and baloney.

By the way, *includes*, which is not restrictive, has a broader meaning than *comprise*, which is restrictive (telling you exactly what you get). For example, the special bargain on cruises may *include* an anchor in every room, but it may also include much more, such as free live bait, dancing narwhals, and a vessel with an engine. Here's an example that's about as restrictive as you can get: The family *Coerebidae* *comprises* the **bananaquit**. (The *Coereba flaveola* is the only member of the family.)

I hope everyone feels better after reading my explanation, especially Fred. Or in the idiom of today's youth, now Fred can get his grundle on.

*If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

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