

Call for ICES Scientific Steering Committee members for the Fifth ICES PICES Early Career Scientist Conference, 2027

[ICES Strategic Initiative on Integration of Early Career Scientists \(SII ECS\)](#) is pleased to open a call for early career scientists (ECS) to represent ICES on the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) for the next ICES [PICES](#) Early Career Scientist Conference! The purpose of the conference is to encourage greater involvement of young scientists in international scientific investigations and to foster their role in the management and stewardship of the marine environment.

Rationale

Conference attendance is especially relevant for ECS as it provides a prime opportunity to expand networks, form collaborations that will last throughout their careers, and make new friends. Being a member of the SSC provides the opportunity to set the tone and subjects for a marine science conference targeted towards your peers. Transferable skills, such as time management, teamwork, event organization, and planning, will be learnt during this process.

What are the roles and responsibilities of the SSC members?

General organization and structure:

Overall coordination and budget responsibility is in the hands of ICES and PICES secretariats (ICES Head of Science Department and PICES Executive Secretary); ICES and PICES are the main conveners of the conference, together with the hosting or local organization. It is possible for there to be two conveners per organization, if it is needed to share the work.

A local organizer, together with ICES and PICES secretariat staff, handle all organizational aspects at the venue, including accommodation, catering, excursions, and the accounting. It may be that a local research institute will be in charge of the local organization, or the host may use a conference organizer to do this.

The SSC is in charge of developing the scientific programme and the conference organization, in consultation with the conveners.

ECS SSC roles, tasks and responsibilities in detail:

The SSC consists of nine ECS; three nominated by ICES, three nominated by PICES, and three nominated by the host country/institute/local organizer.

The SSC identifies the overall conference theme, scientific topics and decides on the theme sessions, including the selection of invited keynote speakers, abstract submissions (oral, poster), and rapporteurs. SSC members also act as co-conveners of the theme sessions. They are involved in designing the conference programme. They might also become involved in setting up side-events (workshops, panel sessions, and excursions).

The SSC members are expected to participate in monthly online meetings with the organizers (possibly more frequent when getting closer to the event or other important dates), as well as having internal meetings within the SSC e.g. abstract submission selection.

Early in the process, it can be discussed and decided if there should be a special issue or submission to a journal, e.g. [ICES Journal of Marine Science](#) or other topic-relevant journals, to publish the outputs of the conference. If so, after the conference, the SSC will be responsible for collating and coordinating submission of manuscripts for a suite of publications in a selected journal.

In essence, the SSC:

- scopes out the conference theme,
- sets up the theme sessions,
- decides on the submitted abstracts (oral, poster),
- convenes the sessions,
- works together with the conference organizers (ICES/PICES/Local organizer) on practical matters, and
- if agreed in advance to publish in a selected scientific journal, then collate and coordinate submission of manuscripts.

Remember, it is YOUR conference and should, as much as practically possible, reflect the ideas of the SSC.

Application criteria for ICES SSC members

The candidates should meet the following criteria:

- **ECS criteria:** The candidate must be 35 years of age or younger at the time of the event in 2027 OR have completed a PhD no earlier than 2022. Non-PhD candidates are also eligible.
- **ICES affiliation and engagement:** The candidate should be or have been engaged in at least one ICES activity with verifiable track records. This includes: **membership/chair-invited member** in a Working Group or Strategic Initiative Group, an **active collaboration** with ICES [through external current projects, or other external collaborations](#).
- **Country of employment:** The candidate's working country must, at the time of application, be one an ICES Member Country ([List of ICES Member Countries](#)).
- **Institutional approval:** The candidate's institution or supervisor must be informed and must allow the candidate to allocate time during working hours starting 2025 and ending late 2027. It would be beneficial if the supervisor/institute can provide a letter of support to be included in the application.
- **Ability/willingness to work outside usual working hours due to collaboration with different time zones.**
- Candidates are expected to follow [ICES Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#) throughout their term as representatives of ICES in the SSC, and to be mindful that English is not the primary language of the majority of participants.
- **Experience in organizing events** such as symposia, conferences, etc. (desirable but not required).
- **Experience in convening** such as sessions at conferences or workshops etc. (desirable but not required).

If a SIIECS Terms of Reference leader or member is nominated/self-nominates as a candidate, they will be excluded from the entire decision-making process to ensure impartiality.

Nomination Process

In the nomination process, you will be asked to:

- Complete the [questionnaire found here](#). This questionnaire can be saved to be continued at a later time.
- A curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé not exceeding 3 pages.
- EITHER a letter of motivation (in the case of self-nomination) OR a letter of nomination (in the case of a nominated applicant), not exceeding 1500 characters, including spaces. The letter should highlight why the candidate wants to be a member of the SSC for the conference, what the candidate hopes to gain from the experience, and what contributions the candidate can make to the committee.
- Statement of support from institute for the candidate to commit time to the SSC tasks described in the nominations call. Suggested template can be [found here](#).

If you are nominating someone else, you must make the candidate aware that you are nominating them.

Non-PhD candidates are also eligible.

Timeline

The application deadline is 23:59 CET **3 November 2024**. The selection of candidates will be conducted by a panel consisting of SILECS members that have no conflict of interests, ICES Science Committee (SCICOM) Chair, and an ICES Secretariat member of staff. The selection panel will inform the candidates about the decision in January 2025 and are expected to confirm their availability within two weeks. Tasks as members of the SSC representatives are expected to begin in 2025, with increasing activity in the run-up to the conference in 2027. Attendance to the conference is mandatory, where organizers will be expected to host and chair individual sessions.

History of the conference

The first conference for early career scientists was organized by the [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#) and was held in Hirtshals, Denmark. Following the second successful iteration, which was organized in cooperation with [North Pacific Marine Science Organization \(PICES\)](#) in 2007 in Baltimore, USA, there was unanimous positive feedback advocating for scheduling these conferences at regular intervals. Since then, the conference has been successfully organized in Spain (2012), South Korea (2017), and Canada (2022).