

ICES Steering Group Chair

Ecosystem Observation

Steering Groups address broad and enduring areas of science and/ or advice in ICES and “parent” a number of Expert Groups. Steering Group Chairs lead the Steering Groups and represent their work on the Science Committee (SCICOM) and internationally, feeding into the setting of science priorities and other work to increase and measure the scope, scale and impact of ICES science.

Each Steering Group addresses a broad and enduring area of science and advice. The ICES Steering Groups are:

- Aquaculture chaired by Ann-Lisbeth Agnalt
- Data Science and Technology chaired by Jens Rasmussen
- Ecosystem Observation chaired by Joel Vigneau
- Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics chaired by Steven Degraer
- Fisheries Resources Currently chaired by Jonathan White
- Human Activities, Pressures and Impacts chaired by Andrew Kenny
- Integrated Ecosystem Assessments chaired by Debbi Pedreschi

Chairing a Steering Group provides an excellent opportunity to guide and nurture the scientific work of Expert Groups, to build a scientific network and to have a real impact on scope, scale and impact of ICES science. Candidates for this role would ideally have previous experience chairing Expert Groups and/ or leading large scientific projects, as well as management experience, and would be committed to supporting the vision and mission of ICES. Steering Group chairs receive a modest annual travel budget to support engagement with the ICES community and scientific activity internationally.

In addition to contributing to the work of the Science Committee, day-to-day roles of the Steering Group Chairs (with support from the ICES Secretariat) include:

- Engaging with and working with Chairs of Expert Groups to ensure that Expert Group work supports and meets the science objectives and advisory needs of ICES
- Helping Expert Groups formulate and prepare their draft terms of reference and resolutions
- Reviewing and reporting on the science being undertaken within Expert Groups to the Science Committee, and on occasions the Advisory Committee, with a focus on identifying science highlights and priorities and demonstrating the impact of their science
- Reviewing scientific products/deliverables of the Expert Groups and providing feed-back on ways to improve the impact and influence of their work
- Providing feedback to the Science Committee on research priorities and implementation of ICES strategy
- Identifying shortfalls in skills and knowledge needed to achieve ICES objectives within the Steering Groups area and working within the Steering Group and through the Science Committee and operational groups to develop capability
- Identifying gaps and overlaps in the work of Expert Groups, and proposing consolidation, rationalization or forming of new Expert Groups to the Science Committee as appropriate
- Helping Expert Group Chairs to adopt working practices which ensure scientific information generated by Expert Group is receiving adequate quality control consistent with scientific norms
- Facilitating active horizontal and vertical communication, collaboration and co-ordination between Expert Groups and all other relevant ICES groups and identifying, in cooperation with Expert Group chairs, opportunities for internal and external collaboration
- Representing the Steering Group at Science Committee meetings, Science Committee and Advisory Committee leadership meetings, Steering Group meetings, and at the Annual Science Conference

The Science Committee (SCICOM) is the main scientific body in ICES and oversees all our scientific work. All ICES member countries have representatives on the Science Committee which has three main roles:

- to keep the science programme dynamic, internationally relevant, and impactful
- to ensure seamless links between science, data and advice
- to engage with scientists in ICES member countries and beyond by planning an annual cycle of meetings and workshops as well as the Annual Science Conference

The Advisory Committee (ACOM) translates ICES science into advice on the sustainable use and protection of marine ecosystems. The Advisory Committee responds to requests for advice from ICES member countries, international commissions and organizations, and fisheries and ecosystem management bodies. All ICES member countries have representatives on the Advisory Committee.

Further information specific to Ecosystem Observation Steering Group

The *Ecosystem Observation Steering Group* is responsible for guiding and supporting expert groups that are meeting immediate data demands and contributing to the running and further development of effectively coordinated, integrated, quality assured, and cost-effective monitoring in the ICES region and beyond.

Topics covered include:

- Developing more efficient and effective data collection through better integration and evaluation of existing ecosystem monitoring information and supporting implementation of new methods and technologies
- Collaborating with Regional Co-ordination Groups and national data collectors to evaluate and optimise survey design to better meet the needs of member countries, and to support advisory requests and ICES science development
- Developing monitoring to meet emerging data, science and advisory needs, with a focus on integrated ecosystem assessment and ecosystem-based management
- Overseeing design, planning and coordination of egg and larval, acoustic and trawl surveys and development and publication of survey protocols.