

ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC), brings together the marine science community to showcase innovations, compile the state-of-the art, confront perspectives, network, and integrate across disciplines and generations. For that the conference is organized into sessions whose topics are proposed by convenors. The format and organization of each theme session can be decided by the convenor, depending on what best fits the purpose. The following are guidelines to help convenors organize their sessions. Additional formats can be proposed by convenor and will be considered in the ICES evaluation process:

- Theme session. This can consist of oral presentations (15 minutes including discussion), short talks (10 mins including discussion), poster presentations (2 mins no discussion), keynotes (30 mins including discussion), and general discussions. Convenors may use as many or as few of these as they wish, but a general discussion is recommended. The maximum duration of a theme session is two days, representing 45 oral presentations. A theme session should be a compilation of cutting-edge scientific progress on a topic.
- Panel discussion. This starts with an introduction (5 mins no discussion), followed by short talks (10 mins no discussion) and a general discussion. They can last for a maximum of 90 minutes with at least 30 of these reserved for discussion. A panel discussion should confront perspectives on issues involving society such as new regulations or ocean management.
- Innovation presentation. This is made up of 2-3 short talks (10 mins each no discussion) followed by a general discussion and can be up to an hour long. This type of session should present the breakthroughs of a research project or technological developments with novel applications in marine science. It should also discuss ideas of future joint projects and proposals.

All sessions may be sponsored by externals/industry depending on the arrangements the convenors think appropriate.