



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea

Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

## Network session example

<b>Select ASC session type:</b>	Network session
<b>Short Title:</b>	Towards consistent mapping of habitats and habitat sensitivity across ICES ecoregions
<b>Contact person's name *</b>	Firstname Lastname
<b>Contact person's institute (and contact details) *</b>	Institute Name, Institute Address, Country
<b>Contact person's email *</b>	<a href="#">xx@xx.xx</a>
<b>Contact person's telephone *</b>	+national code and number
<b>Session convener 1 (required) - Name *</b>	Firstname Lastname
<b>Session convener 1 - Email *</b>	<a href="#">xx@xx.xx</a>
<b>Session convener 2 (required) - Name *</b>	Firstname Lastname
<b>Session convener 2 - Email *</b>	<a href="#">xx@xx.xx</a>
<b>Session convener 3 (optional) - Name</b>	Firstname Lastname
<b>Session convener 3 - Email</b>	<a href="#">xx@xx.xx</a>
<b>Session convener 4 (ONLY for co-sponsored sessions) - Name</b>	Firstname Lastname
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<b>Description:</b>	<p>Information on the distribution and sensitivity of seabed habitats is required for marine spatial planning, resource and impact assessment, ecosystem modelling, and developing ICES ecosystem overviews. While methods to estimate human and environmental pressures on seabed habitats can already provide consistent spatial coverage of pressures across several ecoregions (e.g. frequency of seabed disturbance by trawls, model projections of sea bottom temperature), linked assessments of impact are not feasible at the same scales. This is because information on the distribution and sensitivity of habitats is patchier and less complete than information on pressures.</p> <p>In this network session we seek to initiate the development of a strategy to achieve consistent and co-ordinated mapping of habitat distributions and sensitivity across ICES ecoregions. This will involve identifying the steps that ICES would need to take to "add the biology", in a systematic way, to the increasingly sophisticated and highly resolved bathymetric and sediment maps for ICES ecoregions. These steps may involve identification, assimilation and re-analysis of existing data, large-scale predictive modelling of habitat types and sensitivity and/ or co-ordinated collection of new data with existing or novel technologies.</p>

	Participants in this session are invited to scope the main elements of a strategy for mapping habitat type and sensitivity across the ICES ecoregions. Elements would include a description of drivers for the strategy, leadership and co-ordination of mapping activity, identification of partners, development of methods and approaches for data collation, data collection, modelling, data processing and sharing of outputs. Participants would also consider the next steps in the process, to include development of terms of reference for a future ICES workshop and consideration of activities for existing expert groups in ICES and beyond.
<b>Session teaser:</b>	Rapid strides in seabed mapping provide high resolution bathymetric and sediment maps. Also, human and environmental seabed pressures are mapped with consistent methods at cross-ecosystem scales. But, to assess impacts of these pressures in a consistent way at the same scales, we have to "add the biology" to the seabed maps. Join this session to discuss challenges, solutions and plans to achieve co-ordinated mapping of habitat distributions and sensitivity for ICES ecoregions and beyond.
<b>Tweet text:</b>	Towards co-ordinated efforts to "add the biology" to seabed maps: join the discussion #ICESASC2019 [link will be added by ICES]
<b>Suggested session format:</b>	<p>(a) Two short opening presentations (drivers for adding biology to seabed maps, methods used to achieve consistency and co-ordination of physical seabed mapping).</p> <p>(b) Round table discussions (groups of 6-8) to explore high-level priorities and challenges associated with adding the biology to seabed maps across several ecoregions (questions pre-prepared for each group).</p> <p>(c) Facilitated report-back from round table discussions.</p> <p>(d) Short closing summary of next steps and invitation to participants to contribute in workshop development.</p>
<b>Expected participation:</b>	Scientists internationally and members of ICES working groups with interests in comparative analyses of ecosystems, benthic ecology, ecosystem modelling, acoustic seabed classification, co-ordination of surveys, pressure and state reporting and the impacts of human and environmental pressures on seabed habitats. Members and representatives of international groups and projects focused on seabed habitat mapping. Science advisers with interests in reporting on ecosystem state, assessing the impacts of human and environmental pressures on seabed habitats and marine spatial planning (including marine protected areas).
<b>Primary link to ICES priorities (select ONE only):</b>	Ecosystem science
<b>Other links to ICES priorities (select any of relevance):</b>	<p>Impacts of Human Activities</p> <p>Observation and Exploration</p> <p>Emerging Techniques and Technologies</p> <p>Conservation and Management Science</p>
<b>Links to ICES groups (if relevant):</b>	<p>Advisory Committee</p> <p>Science Committee</p> <p>Data and Information Group</p>