

Update from 2022

ICES is a world-leading marine science organization, meeting societal needs for impartial evidence on the state and sustainable use of our seas and oceans.

We are a network of 5000 experts from 800 institutes and organizations in 20 Member Countries and beyond. More than 3000 experts participate in our activities annually. ICES network comprises a diverse range of people. Recognizing the need to create a culture of belonging and inclusion, a consultation process within our community culminated in approval of the Gender Equality Plan and Code of Ethics and Professional conduct by the Council in October 2022.

Fostering a broad network is central to our mission, and valuing the contributions of early career scientists was at the heart of the launch of the Strategic Initiative on the Integration of Early Career Scientists. This dedicated group has been active in making our network more accessible to early career researchers.

To ensure our science and advice is societally relevant requires continuous engagement with our stakeholders. Stakeholders contribute with their expert knowledge, which is incorporated into the science and the evidence base for advice. Our new Stakeholder Engagement Strategy makes explicit the purpose of engagement, creates greater transparency in the process, and lists the expectations and responsibilities of stakeholders and scientists. This work further strengthens the credibility of ICES science and advice.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is underway, and we continue to contribute. The Ocean Decade-endorsed programme SmartNet establishes a global knowledge network for ocean science by strengthening and expanding the collaboration of ICES, the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES and our partner organizations).

Our ecosystem, fisheries, and aquaculture overviews are central to our approach to support evidence-based ecosystem-based management, the primary way of managing human activities affecting marine ecosystems. In 2022, ICES published ecosystem overviews for eleven ecoregions and carried out a complete revision of the Greater North Sea Ecosystem Overview. Our fisheries overviews portfolio has also grown and includes all 11 ICES ecoregions providing a complete overview of fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic. In 2022, the Celtic Seas ecoregion became the second ICES area for which an aquaculture overview was developed. ICES portfolio now covers the Norwegian Sea and the Celtic Seas.

Our more than 150 groups continue to address a range of marine science topics, and more information is available in our 2022 Annual Report.