

ICES as an observer to the United Nations

ICES shares and supports the goals of the United Nations initiatives on sustainable development. ICES seeks observer status to the UN General Assembly in order to contribute to the work of the UN on ocean sustainability, climate change, biodiversity, and conservation and management of resources.

[The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea](#) (ICES) is an intergovernmental¹ marine science organization headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES coordinates and promotes research on oceanography, the marine environment, ecosystems, and living marine resources in the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent sea areas.

ICES is a global scientific organization focusing inter alia on advancing the scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and their relation to human activities. Every year more than 1500 experts contribute to fulfilling the organization's mandate to give advice on human activities affecting, and affected by, marine ecosystems.

Science is the foundation on which integrated and successful environmental marine policies are built to achieve agreed objectives. ICES can contribute within its remit to promote marine research, particularly in relation to living resources and marine ecosystems. ICES works at the science-policy interface, providing the best available science to sustainable management. The science is carried out in a way that is transparent and auditable, covering areas from the regional to the global level.

ICES has already established formal cooperation agreements with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).²

As an observer of the UN General Assembly, ICES will be ready to contribute and engage actively in relevant work of the United Nations, such as inter alia achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to contributing to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UNESCO/IOC), as well as the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process in Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

¹ ICES has 20 member States: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

ICES - AN OVERVIEW

We are an intergovernmental marine science organization. Our mission is to advance scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and provide knowledge for the sustainable management of our seas.

Geographic scope

- 20 member countries
- Strategic partnerships globally

A global scientific community

- 1500 active experts annually in over 160 working groups and workshops



Science for sustainable seas

ICES WORK AREAS

- **SCIENCE**
Facilitating cooperation and research in marine science
- **ADVICE**
Providing impartial, evidence based scientific advice on environmental issues and fisheries management
- **DATA & INFORMATION**
Custodian and provider of fisheries and environmental data
- **TRAINING**
Building capacity to support scientific advice
- **COMMUNICATION**
Communicating science, data and advice



Science for sustainable seas

ICES PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- Advice on fishing opportunities for app. 250 stocks
- Advice in response to special requests
- Ecosystem and fisheries overviews
- International peer review
- Data used in science and advisory products
- Science highlights within areas of societal importance
- Identification of research needs
- Training
- Publications



Science for sustainable seas