

New Clients and MoUs

This document provides Council with information on negotiations with recipients of ICES advice

Representatives from ICES and the UK met in September to discuss the arrangements needed to ensure continued cooperation pending Brexit and given current uncertainty around the transitional period (March 2019 – 2020), as the UK prepares to withdraw from the European Union. Preparations and planning for future arrangements between the UK and ICES will consider both longer and shorter-term considerations. Another meeting is planned for late November to continue to develop a formalised cooperation agreement.

The Administrative Agreement (AA) between EC and ICES is up for revision, and with the aim to:

- Establish a new framework for the cooperation, to adhere to administrative rules in EC and to obtain a longer time perspective; going from a one year agreement to a four year Framework Partnership Agreement
- Establish more firm requirements for documentation and verification of costs associated with advisory services, including a reduction of indirect income from ~30 to 7%

The changes to the costing of the EC advisory requests, and the cooperation agreement with UK will require:

- A general opening of the ICES costing principles for providing advisory services, under the 100% cost recovery principle, and
- A sharing with all recipients of ICES advice, during the January MIRIA and bilateral meetings with clients.

While it is important for ICES to ensure a unification of the costing methodology (based on how many stocks and in which ecoregion a client is getting advice), it is beyond ICES remit to propose how costs should be shared among recipients of advice. A share key needs to be agreed among all recipients of ICES advice. Pending the changes to the cooperation agreement with the EC, and a new agreement with the UK, the negotiations with Iceland have been put on hold. No other negotiations for new cooperation agreements for advice have been initiated.

An overview of all cooperation agreements is available on the web:

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/how-we-work/Pages/Cooperation-agreements.aspx>