

Data and Information

1 Data report

1.1 Financial decision (for Council)

The Regional Database for Commercial catch sampling (RDB) is a key tool for ICES in its strategy of providing quality assured and documented data into the stock assessment process. Council has already recognised this by providing development funds (in 2014, 680 000 DKK from equity and 2015, 300 000 DKK from equity).

The future of the RDB now stands at a cross-roads. By redesigning the RDB now to anticipate and answer the needs of the ICES assessment groups, ICES will be in a strong position to provide a commercial catch data processing platform for all ICES countries (to avoid an EU and non-EU system for ICES stock assessments), and to reduce the workload for member countries in processing and transmitting data to ICES.

http://community.ices.dk/Committees/Council/2016/Meeting_Documents/CM_2016_Del-9.2_RDB.pdf

Council is invited to approve the development of this system with an investment of 1 000 000 DKK from equity to provide 2 person years of resource for this platform.

1.2 Policy decision (for Council)

As part of its ongoing work, the Data and Information Group (DIG) at its 2016 meeting reviewed the current (2012) ICES Data Policy¹ and recommends the following amendments to ensure the continued relevance of the policy to the ICES member countries both supplying and consuming data to/from ICES.

In summary these are:

- Exceptions on data permissions (to cater for data that are subject to other policies but made available to ICES i.e. EU Data Collection Framework, 3rd party datasets)
- Updated section on (digital) Data Citation, which follows the community best practice

http://community.ices.dk/Committees/Council/2016/Meeting_Documents/CM_2016_Del-9.1_Data_policy_update.pdf

¹ <http://ices.dk/marine-data/guidelines-and-policy/Pages/ICES-data-policy.aspx>

Council is invited to read and approve this update to the ICES Data Policy.

2 Data and Information Operational Group (DIG)

2.1 New chair of DIG

Jens Rasmussen (UK) will take over as the new DIG chair, and in agreement with SCICOM his term starts at the 2017 DIG meeting in May.

2.2 Change of DIG workflow on longer term

It was felt that the reporting structure and deliverables for DIG could potentially change quite dramatically instead reporting and profiling the ICES data community by topics areas that are more relevant to data and information management.

2.2.1 Basic model for future DIG work

The model preferred was to align the broad governance issues into topic areas corresponding to the functional areas of the Data Management Association's Body of Knowledge (DAMA-DMBOK) - although it would benefit from slight modifications to align the ICES terminology in some places. The overarching areas of data governance that DIG could evaluate would be:

Topic Area	What is included
Architecture and governance	Understanding integration and linkage between underlying data, data products and associated working groups in ICES
Data Development	Updates to structures and formats of data either as requirements arising from new use cases or legal requirements
Database Operations	Understanding the ICES responsibilities in terms of maintaining databases versus data coming from outside or other data providers.
Data Security	Ensure that you can enable appropriate access to data and prevent inappropriate access. This also touches on potential limitations on data use and/or further dissemination.
Reference and Master Data Management	Identify the authoritative copies of the master data and understand where shared references codes are used and who maintains and develops these.
Warehousing and Business Intelligence	How data are made available for sharing and integration through presentation within the ICES working community, more broadly on websites, and how different types of users need to interact with the data.

Document and content management	How documents, guidelines and other unstructured ¹ content relevant to the data are maintained.
Metadata management	How well data structures and information is profiles via metadata. This links to both legal compliance obligations (e.g. INSPIRE) and improvements in data sharing and citation (e.g. minting DOI for reports, datasets etc.).
Data Quality Management	Consideration of how data quality is managed for the given collection. Responsibilities may be shared between expert groups and data centre, and the key thing is to understand how decisions on quality management are made, and how they align across ICES data handling.

If this methodology is adopted, the format of the DIG annual report would change to essentially become the framework evaluation instead, structured around data governance principles.

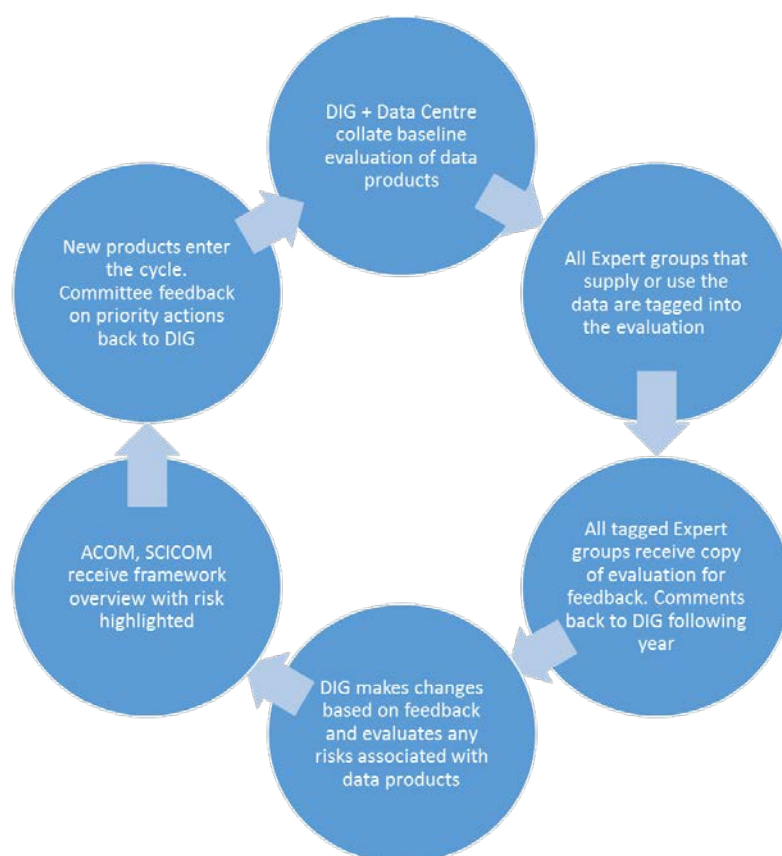
2.2.2 DIG workflow example

One option would be for DIG to review all ICES data products with this governance framework, and essentially develop a reporting framework that enables feedback to all associated working groups and committees. The reporting tool would serve to identify strengths and weaknesses for ICES data handling and thus could help inform any risk management as well by identifying weak areas that might pose a risk to successful delivery of advice for a number of working groups.

Clearly this type of exercise would be a substantial undertaking, and would essentially become the primary recurring action for DIG, with other terms of references being placed within the framework context.

The cycle would provide regular updates and maintain overview of the data management principles for the ICES “estate” of data. This approach would help SCICOM and ACOM in getting an overview of the data related interactions, and would allow DIG to more proactively engage with the wider user community rather than waiting for single issue terms of references to find their way to DIG.

¹ Unstructured in this context simply means that the content is not part of a relational database – it can still be well organised.



3 Data Centre: Three major new data portals released

Underpinning the ICES strategic plan implementation gut feeling report are a number of very concrete outputs in particular on regional operational products.

- Deepwater Ecology group (WGDEC) in cooperation with the Data Centre released the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem portal.
<http://vme.ices.dk>
- the Impulsive Noise register in support of both OSPAR and HELCOM.
<http://underwaternoise.ices.dk>
- Biodiversity portal which houses seabirds and seals data primarily for OSPAR but also for the joint WG on birds (JWBIRD) and the marine mammal group (WGMME).
<http://biodiversity.ices.dk>

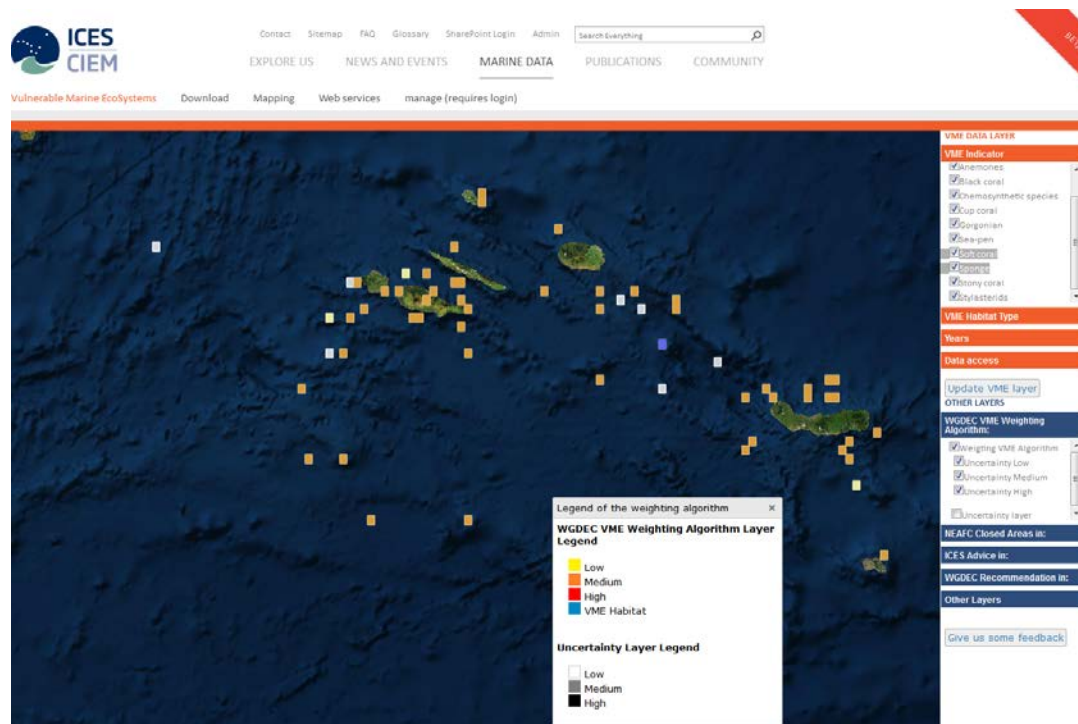


Figure 1 the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) data portal - <http://vme.ices.dk>