



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea  
Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

Council Meeting

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Del-3.4.2

Agenda item 3.4.2 amended

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### Proposal for investment in SCICOM activities 2015–2018

In February 2010, ICES Bureau agreed to provide funding to SCICOM in order to strengthen SCICOM operations beyond national contributions, to enhance participation of early career scientists (ECS) in the ASC, and to kick-off new SCICOM priority areas from the ICES Science Plan in 2010, under the direction of SCICOM and advice from ACOM. In total, 600K DKK led to the establishment of the SCICOM Strategic Initiatives, to the recurrent travel support for ECS from ICES member (and, if available affiliate) countries and to regular mutual support of theme sessions at ICES and PICES annual science conferences.

The funding was well invested and supported the successful performance of SCICOM over the past six years. Four Strategic Initiatives were established under SCICOM, some with joint ownership with ACOM, and a total of 13 topical sessions or workshops were supported by travel funds provided to ICES co-conveners and keynote speakers. In turn, PICES supported a total of 15 theme sessions at ICES ASCs. As another example, a total of 118 ECS received travel support for the ASC since 2010, some of which even won the prestigious ECS Award at the ASC (best presenter, best poster).

The Strategic Initiatives: The **ICES-PICES Strategic Initiative on Climate Change effects on Marine Ecosystems (SICCME)** formed during 2011 emerging from the P/ICES Working Group on Forecasting Climate Change and its Impacts on Fish and Shellfish. Ever since, SICCME produced several peer-reviewed publications, actively contributed to organizing two ICES/PICES/IOC Conferences on Climate Change Impacts on the World's Oceans in Yeosu, Korea, and in Santos, Brazil, and organized three workshops on climate modelling and forecasting in Friday Harbor (US), St. Petersburg, Russia, and Seattle (US).

The **SCICOM/ACOM Strategic Initiative on Area-based Science and Management (SIASM)** formed in 2010 and spurred two workshops on marine spatial planning science issues, one jointly with OSPAR and HELCOM (WKMCMSP 2010 and 2011). WKMCMSP produced several peer-reviewed publications and an interactive computer-run game on the topic of spatial planning. The game has resulted in a proposal under HORIZON 2020 for further development. SIASM successfully concluded its activities in 2012.

The **Strategic Initiative on Biodiversity Science and Advice (SIBAS)** organized a workshop on biodiversity science and its application to producing advice (WKMARBIO) in 2011 with participation of the Regional Conventions and CBD. SIBAS participated in several biodiversity-related science symposia and recently established ICES participation in the IPBES global biodiversity initiative (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). SIBAS was dissolved by SCICOM in 2015.

**Strategic Initiative for Stock Assessment Methods (SISAM)** started with a workshop (WKADSAM) in 2010 which produced an overview of existing stock assessment models/methods with good participation of RFMOs and scientists worldwide. SISAM activities culminated in another workshop and subsequent science symposium held in Boston, US in summer 2013 and the results published in the ICES JMS. In addition, SISAM spurred several theme sessions at ICES ASCs.

Since 2014 a new Strategic Plan is in place with an ambitious science element. The implementation of the plan, the current engagement of ICES in the implementation of the MSFD and the EU Maritime Policy will impose additional tasks for the science community. Having in view the current workloads in the ICES member institutes, putting the science element into practice will require additional resources. In addition, ICES has two new strategic areas, the Arctic and Aquaculture. While good working relationships with the key players have been established in both these fields, the next stage is to actively participate in the main events and involve ICES Expert Groups and key scientists by providing travel money.

ICES has committed to an Ecosystem Based Approach to Management (EBM) and has put Integrated Ecosystem Understanding at the core of its Strategic Plan and the Implementation Plans. This Integrated Ecosystem Understanding requires not only the physical and ecological, but also the human dimension to be an integral part of ICES work. The Human Dimension encompasses the social, cultural, economic and governance aspects of the EBM. For an integrated understanding of marine socio-ecological systems, methodologies from the natural and the social sciences need to be applied as well as methodologies integrating across disciplines to be developed. Whereas the natural sciences are strongly developed within ICES, social sciences are considerably less well developed and not used to their full extent. Further, if the understanding is to be translated into advice and management, the interface between science and policy, including the involvement of wider civil society, needs to be taken into account.

Consequently, a new Strategic Initiative was established: The **Strategic Initiative on the Human Dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (SIHD)** in order to explicitly address the Human Dimension in Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, not only considering the pressures of human activities on the ecosystem but to take into account social, cultural, economic and governance conditions when assessing the marine system and giving advice on its use.

**The ICES Science Fund:** All 2014 Science Fund projects have reported and have been evaluated. For the evaluation process SCICOM established a subgroup. One reviewer per report was assigned by SCICOM chair. The review and evaluation were based on the format below. The evaluations were discussed and finalised in a video meeting of the SCICOM subgroup:

- Did the project meet the objectives?
- Did the methodology fit the objectives?

- How well is the report presented?
- How does the project contribute to the ICES Strategic Plan/Science Plan?
- How can the results be used in the ICES community, create new initiatives?
- How was the results disseminated to ICES and elsewhere?
- Were there adequate links between Governmental and Academic Institutes?

All reviews were positive and recommend a finalization of the projects. Some general remarks were forwarded to be considered in future calls:

- Scope of the project was in some cases too wide and the Science Fund project was likely part of a bigger project. It is necessary to clarify what the Science Fund will be used for.
- Dissemination should be clearer especially the linkage with ICES Expert Groups, ASC Theme Sessions and science symposia
- Links to ICES Science Plan needs to be clearly recognizable.

For the future, SCICOM considered narrowing the thematic scope of the call for proposals with a closer linkage to the Strategic Plan and complementarity to the work of the Expert Groups.

The SCICOM Chair proposes the following funds for SCICOM activities:

**Strategic Initiatives:** biodiversity, climate change and impacts of marine living resources and human activities, stock assessment methods for the period 2015-2018: 441.000 DKK

**Science cooperation with PICES:** Travel support for ICES conveners and invited speakers at PICES Annual Meetings 2015-2018, meetings of the P/ICES Group on Strategic Cooperation: 165.000 DKK

It is good tradition also from PICES side to support conveners to ICES sessions at our ASCs.

**Science cooperation with CIESM:** Travel support for ICES conveners and invited speakers at CIESM Science Meeting 2016, meetings with CIESM scientists and secretariat on strategic cooperation: 20.500 DKK

**The Arctic and aquaculture:** Travel support for ICES EB scientists to participate in key events: 204.000 DKK

**The ICES Science Fund:** to continue and build on the 2014 and 2015 successful projects and deliverables: 1,575.999 DKK

Funding will be used to also address the new and unploughed areas of the science implementation plan, in support of low performance areas.

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2016-18</b>
<b>Science Fund</b>				
total grant	512000	525000	538000	1575000
<b>SCICOM Strategic Initiatives</b>				
SICCME	47000	49000	51000	147000
SISAM	47000	49000	51000	147000
SIHD	47000	49000	51000	147000
<b>PICES scientific cooperation</b>				
conveners/speakers at PICES				
ASM	33500	34000	34500	102000
Strategic P/ICES group meeting	20500	21000	21500	63000
<b>CIESM scientific cooperation</b>				
session convener, keynote				
speaker	20500			20500
<b>Strategic science areas</b>				
Aquaculture	33500	34000	34500	102000
Arctic	33500	34000	34500	102000
	794500	795000	816000	2405500