

Update on international projects

*Council is invited to **take note** of recent ICES work on projects.*

AtlantOS

Part of the Horizon2020 package of projects and with the goal to optimize and enhance the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System (IAOOS). ICES is involved in three of the work packages, however the main focus is WP2. Together with the ICES acoustic survey groups and led by the SSGIEOM chair, Nils Olav Handegard (Norway), ICES Data Centre is establishing for the pelagic fisheries an end-to-end system data flow for acoustic processed data and pelagic biological trawls. This builds on existing infrastructure for trawl surveys but also established new standards and databases for the acoustics in the ICES network.

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/ATLANTOS.aspx>

European Topic Centre (ETC-ICM)

Although technically classed as a project, this is really the long term partnership and provision of technical advice and support to the European Environment Agency (EEA). ICES Data centre, and the Ecosystem approach coordinator are the main deliverers of these services which range from provision and quality assurance of data flows, support to MSFD reporting, particularly in bridging understanding between regional systems and the European level.

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/ETC-ICM.aspx>

EMODnet Biology II and EMODnet Chemistry II

The European Marine Observation and Data Network is a major infrastructure investment from the European Commission. It is split into thematic lots and regional expertise. ICES Data Centre partners in both biology and chemistry.

For biology, as well as providing deep linkages to ICES datasets to ensure their discoverability and compatibility with other regional and national data networks, the initiative on ICES Operational Oceanographic Products (OOPS) is receiving a major suite of biological services via the project. For chemistry, ICES provides technical expertise on regional data assembly and products and leads the user feedback work package.

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/EMODNET-Biology.aspx>

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/EMODnet-Chemistry2.aspx>

BalticBoost

Starting in September 2015, this is a HELCOM led project that builds capacity in the Baltic region for delivering on a number of key elements for the MSFD. ICES will be working on operationalizing the fish indicators in the Baltic, streamlining the data flow and outputs for the contaminants and contributing to the benthic habitats work package.

SeaDataNet II

The continuation of an existing infrastructure project that aims to provide a pan-European infrastructure for ocean and marine data management. ICES Data Centre contributes to the standards and harmonization initiatives within this infrastructure and specifically manages the platform system, with the inclusion of WMO-IOC Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) into this work it is now a truly global management platform for an array of monitoring platforms.

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/Sea-Data-NET-II.aspx>

MicroB3

This project focuses on bioinformatics. The ICES Data centre has been involved in developing standards that enable the genomes data to be more easily linked to the contextual environmental data. MicroB3 were also present at the project market place at the ASC in 2015.

<http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/Micro-B3.aspx>

The Fish Pi project

This project focuses on Fisheries Data Collection Cooperation, and aims to Propose Regional Sampling Designs, using probability based selection methods, as well as to propose mechanisms for international cooperation. ICES has a smaller role under work package 2.2 Data Formats and code lists and is linked to the Regional Database based on FishFrame.

LME-LEARN

In September 2015 the planning meeting for the project took place, back to back with the ICES WGLMEBP. The project's approval is now finalized by the GEF Council, it will officially kick-off early 2016, together with the IW-LEARN4 GEF project.

FP7 COFASP (Cooperation in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing –ERA NET)

The ERA-NET's first projects call was launched in February 2014, and include topics in all three sectors that COFASP covers; the second call was launched in February and closed on 17 June 2015. The third call is planned for 2016. Workshops within case studies on fisheries, on regional differences in aquaculture and on the European Maritime Fisheries Fund took place in 2015.

Workshop: *Towards new solutions on mobility and learning tools for human capacity building on the fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing chain* took place in October 2015 (attended by the Training Coordinator and the DHoS).

MAREFRAME

MareFrame is an EC-funded RTD project which seeks to remove the barriers preventing more widespread use of the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. This entails development of new tools and technologies, development and extension of ecosystem models and assessment methods, and development of a decision support framework that can highlight alternatives and consequences. ICES role is in analysis of current fisheries advisory processes; assisting with the design of a decision support framework; and provision of case studies.

<http://ices.dk/explore-us/projects/Pages/FP7-MAREFRAME.aspx>

HORIZON 2020 projects

The following H2020 projects with ICES participating as partner organization have kicked-off in 2015:

- BG8-2014 Developing in-situ Atlantic Ocean Observations for a better management and sustainable exploitation of the maritime resources: ATLANTOS project; (see details above)
- BG11-2014 Monitoring, dissemination and uptake of marine and maritime research: COLUMBUS project;
- BG14-2014 Supporting international cooperation initiatives: Atlantic Ocean Cooperation Research Alliance: AORAC project; A separate document on the AORA is prepared for the 2015 Council meeting.
- H2020-EINFRA-2015-1 E-Infrastructures for virtual research environments: BlueBRIDGE project.

Projects under evaluation (H2020 2nd round, 2nd stage):

- BG1: Improving preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems (2 competitive proposals);
- BG2: Forecasting and anticipating effects of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture;
- SFS11b: Consolidating the environmental sustainability of European aquaculture.

Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020, priority 2 'Management of natural resources', - the BalticBLUE project with ICES contribution, under evaluation.

Concluded project (2015):

BALSAM

Baltic Sea Pilot Project: Testing new concepts for integrated environmental monitoring of the Baltic Sea

Lead Organization: Helsinki Commission HELCOM, Finland

Duration: 2013 - 2015

ICES contact: Neil Holdsworth, Head of Data and Information

Project objectives:

Develop integrated environmental monitoring in the Baltic to support the MS in implementing HELCOM BSAP and the MSFD;

Provide input to the development of online HELCOM monitoring manual (cataloguing current monitoring);

Focusing on gaps (fisheries, seals and seabirds, NIS, benthic habitats, coordination in research vessel use) provide recommendations for coordinated monitoring.

ICES role:

Sub-contractor for work package 2 (monitoring catalogue, recommendations and actions for streamlining of monitoring reporting and data management)