

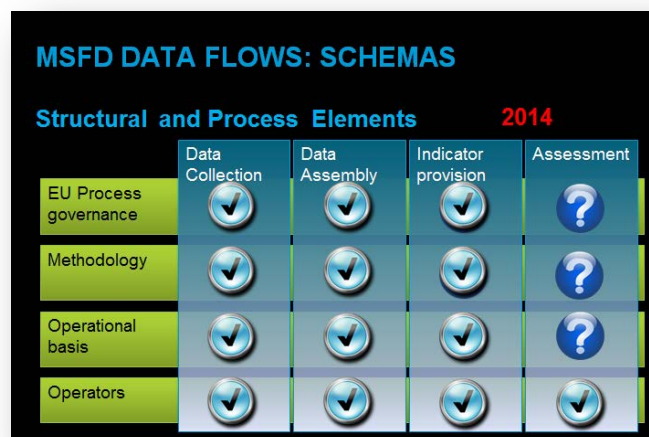
ICES Data and Information

Council is invited to review this short update of developments in data and information.

Strategic Issues

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

Across the marine institutes in Europe the MSFD will continue to place a great demand on the capture, categorization, and exchange of data and information related to the marine environment. The data centre will continue to be closely associated with the MSFD through its work on new/emerging data streams, new data products, and standards related to the MSFD, the interaction with member countries, the EEA and Commission through the European Topic Centre (ETC).



ICES has been specifically referenced in the Commission Common Implementation Strategy (CIS), and on-going activities in the knowledge exchange arena between ICES, the regional Sea Conventions, EEA and the Commission are highlighted as an area of good and concrete progress.

In connection with this, the current ETC contract under the EEA expires at the end of 2013. In July 2013 it was confirmed that a new contract will start in 2014, and the ICES Data centre will lead the work related to WISE-Marine and associated data flows.

Data and Information; a pillar of the ICES Strategy

Many have noted this, and most acknowledge the significance of the data activities to the current and future success of ICES. With the renewal of the ICES strategy, data is now officially recognised as one of the key pillars of ICES alongside science, advice, and the Secretariat. The inclusion of a data strategy into the overall ICES strategy is a big step forward in ICES organisational

strategy, and one that the Data Centre and Data and Information (operational) Group (DIG) have readily responded to with a draft data and information implementation plan for the ICES strategy.

DCF -> DCMAP (Data Collection Framework for Fisheries)

With the delay in bringing the new regulation (DCMAP) into force, a number of activities with long-term implications for fisheries data management, and ICES role in it, are being explored by the Commission. A Commission study is looking at “*Scientific data storage and transmission*” for all inputs and outputs to the DCF and will report back in January with scenarios for how this could be organised in the future and under DCMAP. ICES has responded to a detailed questionnaire based on the Regional Database (RDB-FishFrame), InterCatch, and DATRAS (trawl surveys) as key tools in the work of fisheries managers. Also coming from the Commission, and in relation to its Marine Knowledge 2020 vision, EMODnet is being considered to expand into having a fisheries data portal to complement the existing portals on biology, chemistry etc. This development will be both an opportunity and a challenge to the ICES data systems.

Capacity building

Relationship with Data and Information Group (DIG)

A new operational group was formed in 2012 “Data and Information Group (DIG)”, which will report into both SCICOM and ACOM. This group, formed from the working group on Data and Information (WGDIM), is an important partner for the Data Centre especially as they have been key in helping to shape the data implementation of the ICES strategic plan. An important output of this group is their work on forming a strategy towards digital and data citation (together with PUBCOM). This was recently highlighted as a particular issue relating to the traceability of datasets used in advisory assessments, and so will have implications across the ICES community.

The ‘data’ session at the 2013 ASC in Iceland was well attended and demonstrates that the challenges facing data managers, data users and policy makers are an area where there is much to be understood and many challenges yet to be overcome.

GIS knowledge exploitation

Building on the success of the GIS knowledge exchange of skills and expertise with OSPAR/HELCOM/EEA in 2012, the Data Centre will be looking to use the increased GIS expertise of ICES DC to create more advanced data products and specialised views in cooperation with ICES expert groups and client commissions (HELCOM, OSPAR, and AMAP).

Trawl Survey products

Already in January 2013, a review DATRAS related data processing and quality of the data output in expert workshop (WKDATR). This review is aimed at improving both the output that will be used by assessment groups, but also ensuring the expert groups who provide the data have a full oversight of how

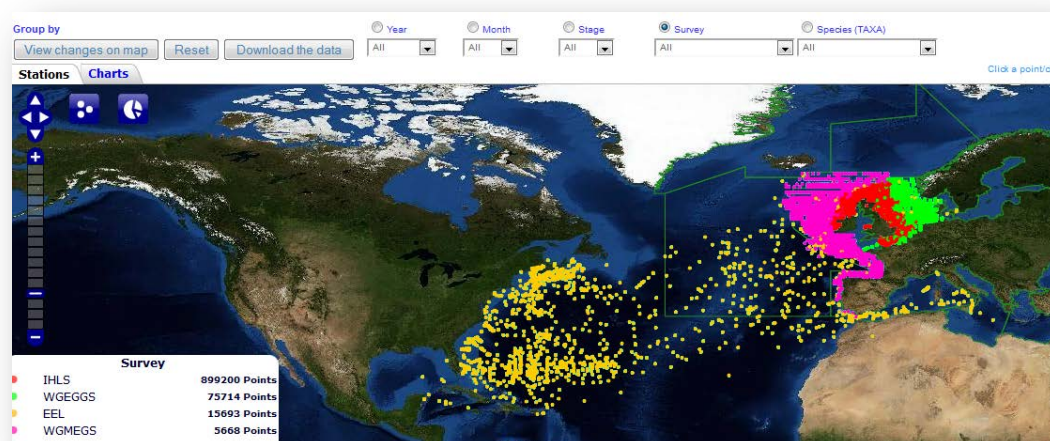
data products are prepared and updated. A planned follow-up to this activity, formed around the redesign of the web portal for DATRAS, is planned for the latter part of 2013.

INSPIRE (EU regulation on spatial data)

ICES Data Centre have already deployed discovery, view, and download services to comply with the INSPIRE regulation. With a deadline for Annex III data in December 2010, a wider range of themes relevant to ICES will be included. The Annex III datasets are already available with the required services.

Data portfolio expansions

- **Trawl survey (DATRAS):** Inclusion of deepwater Surveys, and Northern Ireland trawl data
- **Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME)** database extension to existing data systems (with WGDEC) and in cooperation with OSPAR and JNCC
- **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)** data: this remains a difficult area, and while agreements have been put in place i.e. NEAFC, there are still some difficulties in realising the terms of this agreement. In the meantime we continue to request these data to feed the science and advice process, for example ICES are partnering with HELCOM for a VMS data call in 2013 and OSPAR for a data call in 2014
- **Regional Fisheries Database (RDB-FishFrame):** the ICES Data Centre will continue to service and support this data application, and also play a key role in the steering committee. A data call in July 2013 was successful in populating the database with transversal variables from national databases, and used by the regional coordination meetings (RCM's) in their Autumn meetings.



- **Eggs and Larvae (image above):** New system released in 2012 and in the Data Centre is now looking to increase the ichthyoplankton survey datasets available in Eggs and Larvae database <http://eggsandlarvae.ices.dk>

Data portfolio: pipeline

- **Bycatch (seabirds):** the Data centre has recently been in discussion with members of the WGBYC (bycatch) and WGSE (Seabird ecology) to help the experts bring their datasets and data management into a more streamlined and effective working arrangement. We believe this will be a valuable exercise in relation to inputs for the DCF and MSFD, and look forward to reporting further on this initiative.

Project activities

EuroBasin

The sub-contract is now completed (March 2013), the historical fish catch time series (1903-1949) has been entirely revised and quality checked as part of this project. The resulting time series is now online and also made available to the PANGAEA information system.

EMODnet Chemistry (phase II)

As well as facilitating the streamlining of data processes, ICES leads the work package on user feedback and engagement to ensure a good connection between the policy side end uses, and the production side.

EMODnet Biology (phase II) and MicroB3

Using the SeaDataNet technologies, ICES is working with other data providers to define a format that will allow biological datasets to be available to the MicroB3, EMODnet biology and SeaDataNet infrastructures. ICES key role in the biology project is to ensure the policy relevance of the products resulting from the project, this is with particular regard to the MSFD.

European Topic Centre on Inland, Marine and Coastal waters (ETC-ICM)

The Data Centre provides support to MSFD implementation and development of WISE Marine, including:

- Regional operational workflows for data assembly
- Regional streamlining and synergies

SeaDataNet

The Data centre is now connected as a data node in the decentralized network. However, only a small portion of ICES oceanographic and environmental datasets are as yet available through the SeaDataNet portal while the issue of data duplication is still to be fully resolved. SeaDataNet is considered an important infrastructure in the Marine Knowledge 2020 communication from the Commission, and it is therefore timely that ICES has taken this step.

ECOKNOWS

Ensuring the usability of the trawl survey data by providing calculated data and calculation procedure guidelines to ECOKNOWS project

BALSAM (formerly BALMON)

Sub-contracting to HELCOM Secretariat, in order to provide a series of recommendations on the adaptation of existing regional databases to suit MSFD needs in the Baltic

Pipeline projects for 2013

- RDB-FishFrame Study proposal
- MSFD Regional Coordination Platform

- Analysis of MSFD spatial data and support implementation of INSPIRE