

Internal Discussion Paper for Council

ICES work related to the MSFD and related global, regional, and national instruments, in relation to an invitation to ICES to give an input to the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (CIS MSFD) - to be presented at the Marine Directors Meeting [3-4] December, in Vilnius, Lithuania

Summary

While ICES is currently providing science and advice on special requests relevant to ecosystem assessments, and specifically the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), there is a need to consider further developing both of these services into a routine data and information, science, as well as advisory service, similar to the fisheries services. However, this is not possible without additional resources. Some, but limited progress could be made through efficiencies.

Background

Following a meeting between CSG-MSFD1 / OSPAR / HELCOM / DG-ENV /EEA and on the recommendation of the CSG-MSFD a letter was sent from the President to the EU Marine Directors (MDs), responsible for the implementation of the MSFD in their respective Member States (see Annex 1 for the list of European Marine Directors).

This letter requested the MDs to accept a more detailed contribution from ICES on how ICES could input to the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) work programme which will be discussed at their December meeting. This was very well received by the MDs as is recorded in the report of their meeting². ICES potential contribution is also recognized indirectly in the Council Conclusion under the MSFD where it is stated that it “RECOGNISES the need to ensure the coordinated development of marine strategies within each marine region or sub region, especially by strengthening existing cooperation between Member States within and across Regional Sea Conventions, and where relevant, involving other competent intergovernmental organisations and third countries concerned”³

Draft Input to the European Marine Directors

The draft ICES input to the MDs (CM 2013 Del-03.2) sets out in some detail the elements of work where ICES could contribute. Importantly, it points out that ICES has been providing science and routine advice on fisheries management for many years and in recent decades responds to specific requests for environmental / ecosystem type advice on request from Member States, Regional Seas Conventions, Fisheries Organisations, and the European Commission. The purpose of this initiative is to try to bring more structure to these specific requests so that ICES can establish, if the MDs consider it useful and are willing to work collaboratively with ICES, a science and advisory service similar to the fisheries services we presently provide. This is a requirement under the MSFD and other national and international obligations (e.g., 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 5/2000, Decision V/6) which require states to use an integrated ecosystem based approach in managing how humans use the

¹In 2011 ICES Council established the Council Steering Group on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (CSGMSFD). The Terms of Reference are available at <https://groupnet.ices.dk/csgmsfd/default.aspx>

² available at

https://circabc.europa.eu/faces/jsp/extension/wai/navigation/container.jsp?FormPrincipal_idcl=FormPrincipal_id3&FormPrincipal_SUBMIT=1&id=2590b97b-4fb0-4998-9986-0fba79fc0784&javax.faces.ViewState=r00ABXVyABNbTGphdmEubGFuZy5PYmplY3Q7kM5YnxBzKWwCAAB4cAAAAAN0AAIxMXB0ACsvanNwL2V4dGVuc2lubi93YWkvbmF2aWdhbGlvbi9jb250YWluZXIuanNw

³ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/137614.pdf

goods and services provided by the marine environment. Such a coordinated and collaborative approach will bring many efficiency benefits to the already stretched and decreasing national resources.

Clearly ICES needs to be cautious not to further strain an already stretched pool of experts, and we therefore have to manage expectations and avoid making unrealistic promises. However, we should balance that against the reality that in most, if not all, MS marine scientific expertise and resources are finding ecosystem based approach and delivering the obligations of the MSFD extremely challenging. This is exactly where the collaborative ICES network could bring significant efficiencies, if managed and resourced adequately. The challenge to Delegates is to seek the relevant expertise and ensure commitment of the corresponding scientists. Attracting scientists that are committed to MSFD in each MS to ICES is core to the success of the ICES MFSD strategy.

The approach outlined here is consistent with the developing ICES Strategic Plan, and its associated Science, Advisory, as well as Data and Information Plans, as it promotes integrated scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, the development of integrated advice, and supporting data and information services. The ICES global network and systems in place possesses the expertise, independence, credibility, and transparency to make a more structured and continuous contribution to the implementation of the EU MSFD and to other related national and international instruments.

What needs to be done and how:

- Need to identify MFSD relevant current work on ecosystem data and information, science and advice

Various aspects of the ICES work already actively contributes to the MSFD process of implementation. This work is based on ICES participation in projects, data streams, and developed data products, work carried out in science expert groups, and advice requests see Annex2:

- Develop a mechanism ensuring the ecosystem data and information, science and advice work is carried out in the most efficient way and matched to expectations and demands

The ecosystem data and information, science and advice work needs to be organized in a way that ensures maximum use of the work done by ICES and synergies with work carried out in other organizations, such as RSCs, and the EEA. Work on this has started with OSPAR, so that ICES and OSPAR meetings (in which many of the same experts attend) are organized in a mutually beneficial way.

A Workshop is needed in 2014 on the implementation of the strategic plan with Science Steering Group Chairs, chaired by CSGMSFD.

- Dissemination of news about activities and progress made by CSGMSFD.

Many working groups have asked, through formal ICES recommendations, for news about how ICES is engaging with DGENV on matters arising from the MSFD. They have also asked for ICES to highlight their specific roles in scientific preparation for the MSFD. These requests are covered by the work of the CSGMSFD. It is necessary for CSGMSFD to respond to these groups, to ensure that the network is made aware of the on-going efforts coming from across ICES on their behalf.

It is proposed that after the 2013 Council meeting, a briefing note (max 2 pages) be circulated to chairs of working group that concisely lists the activities of the CSGMSFD and documents the progress that has been made by the group. This document will be circulated by the chair of CSGMSFD and prepared by CSGMSFD.

- Identify additional science and advisory services that ICES could provide to the MDs with regard to the following:
 - the work carried out must be of *clear benefit* to the ICES member countries both in terms of fulfilling their obligations and in terms of making more efficient use of their scarce resources of

expertise and infrastructure. This can be achieved by using ICES as a platform as it enables member countries to integrate over marine eco-regions and as it pools the resources in one work process, where duplication is replaced by a coordinated sharing of tasks.

- the work carried out must benefit *the entire ICES community*, both as regards the science carried out and as regards the relation to global, regional, and national legislative frameworks; This is achieved by ensuring that the scientific analysis is of specific value for those countries with an MSFD commitment as well as providing generically useful products for those member countries which are developing and implementing their own national marine policies.
 - the work must focus on areas where ICES possesses a *unique competence and experience*; This is achieved by specifically addressing those descriptors / issues where international cooperation is required and where ICES has a well-established network of experts, including such issues as biodiversity, food webs, habitats and fish populations, risk analysis and evaluation, and cumulative effects.
 - the work must be coordinated with, and ensure *synergies with work carried out in other intergovernmental organizations*. In relation to the MSFD, this notably requires coordination with the Regional Seas Commissions, the European Environment Agency, and the EU. This is achieved by coordination to ensure complementary work without overlap and by developing joint processes leading to products of joint use.
- Council to approve the approach and content of the letter to the MDs –CM 2013 Del-03.2
 - This letter should contain a clear message that while ICES is currently providing science and advice on special requests relevant to the MSFD we could consider further developing both these services into a routine science and advisory service; similar to the fisheries services, but that this is not possible without additional resources, and/or a reorganization of the present use of resources.
 - The current resources and expertise in MS in this regard is limited, the very significant demands on these experts to ensure implementation at MS level will be a significant barrier to developing a routine operational science and advisory service on MSFD and ecosystem based management. Some consideration needs to be given to a very pragmatic approach in the short term in order to build in the medium to long-term efficiencies needed to effectively deliver MSFD requirements.
 - Some, but limited progress could be made through efficiencies. The operational part of the Advice Plan deals with initiatives to reduce the workload in relation to current advisory processes in order both to ensure efficient use of resources in the existing advisory process by focusing on real changes only and to liberate resources of experts to further develop fisheries advice in an ecosystem context, to develop and deliver relevant advice for environmental policy, and to develop integrated advice based on integrated assessments. These changes will be implemented in a way which still ensures the continued relevance, responsiveness, and robustness of the advice. An important component in this is a move to only updating single stock fisheries advice if important changes in the state or pressures on fish stocks have been identified. The continued work on these processes and their successful implementation is one of the keys to releasing capacity to focus on the development of ecosystem advice.

- There may be a need for some change in the way ICES works, both to ensure the integration between data, science, and advice, and to ensure a fulfilment of the resource demand. To achieve the latter would require some investment and an expectation of longer term resource stream.
- Communication of the message - delegates should consider approaching their relevant MDs to ensure they have a clear understanding of the cost and benefits proposed and the importance of engaging scientists committed to MSFD in their country in ICES work.

Annex 1

List of European Marine Directors

AT	Lebensministerium	Ueberreiter	Ernst	Ernst.Ueberreiter@lebensministerium.at
AT	Lebensministerium	Schwaiger	Karl	karl.schwaiger@lebensministerium.at
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BG	Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water	Balusheva	Galina	Galia@moew.government.bg
HR	Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Construction	Nećak	Jasenska	jasenska.necak@mzopu.hr
CY	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Fisheries & Marine Research (DFMR)	Argyrou	Marina	margyrou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy
DK	Danish Ministry of the Environment, Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	Pilsgaard	Helle	hepi@blst.dk
EE	Ministry of Environment of Estonia	Villmann	Agnes	Agnes.Villmann@envir.ee
FI	Ministry of Environment of Finland	Kaarikivi-Laine	Ulla	ulla.kaarikivi-laine@ymparisto.fi
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FR	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie	Rouyer	Nicolas	nicolas.rouyer@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
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DE	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit	Holzwarth	Fritz	Fritz.Holzwarth@bmu.bund.de
EL	Central Water Agency	Andreadakis	Andreas	aedema@gmail.com
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LT	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania	Vaškevikienė	Viktorija	v.vaskeviciene@am.lt
LU	Administration de la Gestion de l'Eau du Grand Duché de Luxembourg	Weidenhaupt	André	andre.weidenhaupt@eau.etat.lu
MT	Malta Environment and Planning Authority	Cassar	Vincent	marine.director@mepa.org.mt
NL	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, DG for Spatial Issues and Water	Busstra	Jan	Jan.Busstra@minvenw.nl
NL	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, RWS Centre for Water Management	Goud	Reinier	reinier.goud@rws.nl
PL	Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection	Jagusiewicz	Andrzej	a.jagusiewicz@gios.gov.pl
PT	Direcção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos	Rafael	Teresa	trafael@dgrm.min-agricultura.pt ; teresa.rafael@defesa.pt
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UK	Marine Scotland	Rosborough	Linda	directormarinescotland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
IS	Environment Agency of Iceland	Linda Árnadóttir	Kristín	kristinlinda@umhverfisstofnun.is
NO	Directorate for Nature Management	Schive	Per W.	Per-Wilhelm.Schive@md.dep.no
NO	Norwegian Pollution Control Authority	Kroglund	Marianne	

Annex 2

Recent requests regarding the marine environment and marine ecosystems

OSPAR 3/2013

Support to the technical specification and application of common indicators under D1, 2, 4, and 6

OSPAR 4/2013

Maximise the use of available sources of data for monitoring of biodiversity

OSPAR 2/2011 (Continued)

Spatial design of monitoring for contaminants in sediments

OSPAR 7/2013

OSPAR Ecological Quality Objective (EcoQO) on Seabird Population Trends

OSPAR–NEAFC joint request

To review ten proposals for EBSA's (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas)

NEAFC standing request

Continue to update cold water coral and sponge maps and the information underpinning such maps. This should include any new information pertinent to the boundaries of existing fisheries closures for sensitive habitats/vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME)

EC standing request to advice on and take into account interactions between fisheries and marine ecosystems

EC DG ENV

Data collection–1(DCF-F) Descriptors 1, 4 and 6-how to integrate impacts from various economic sectors