

ICES and the EU Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean

The meeting is invited to discuss further actions, related to the EU Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean and the Galway Declaration in order to ensure ICES involvement, as well as to specifically ask the relevant countries about related activities. This includes the possibility to enforce the ICES role by identifying opportunities to ensure a coupling between the European and the North American research landscape, for strategic project initiatives, thereby safeguarding that such initiatives will be for the benefit of all member countries.


At the 2012 Council meeting the importance of ICES involvement in the EU Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean was discussed. Over the past year the following activities have taken place:

- ICES President, Paul Connolly participated in the Atlantic Forum workshop: Blue Growth: "The Community Dimension" on 24 January 2013 in Cardiff, UK. Paul Connolly gave a presentation on ICES and our scientific network, data services and products, as well as advisory programme as an existing cooperation framework covering the Atlantic Ocean, with both EU and non-EU participation (See attachment 1).

The programme of the event can be seen at:
http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/sea_basins/atlantic_ocean/atlatiforum/events/cardiff/index_en.htm

- On 23–24 May representatives from EU, Canada, and the US met to launch a trilateral Research Alliance. The high-level statement is linked to the EU Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean, with associated Action Plan, and for both instruments it is of importance to address EU, Canada, and the US to state the role of ICES and how existing structures can be used to implement and further the content and aims of the maritime strategy and high-level statement, (See attachment 2, Galway Declaration).

Attachment 1



Atlantic Forum - Workshop
Blue Growth – The Community Dimension
SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff, UK.
24th January 2013

Workshop II
Sustainable Growth – the Role of the Seafood Sector

Sustainable Fishing

An important input to Atlantic coastal economies

An 8 minute science perspective in 7 Slides !

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	€ 44.5 Billion
	€ 27.8 Billion
	€ 23.6 Billion
	€ 23.0 Billion
	€ 18.0 Billion
	€ 17.3 Billion
	€ 14.6 Billion

(Source: US Fortune 500; Facts of the CFP, 2010)

Seafood Sector is Big Business in Europe

The Sector
Employs
141,110 Full Time
Fleet
84,909 Vessels
Catch Sector
€ 7.7 Billion
Production Sector €23 Billion

The Science
Data Collection
€57 million annually
Fisheries Research
€190 million annually
Large Research Vessel
Fleet
Many Scientists
Many Laboratories

Ensuring Sustainable Fisheries Context - The Need for Change

Cumulated effects of human activities are leading to conflicts of use and to the deterioration of the marine ecosystem that everything depends on.

Against this background, and coupled to fleet overcapacity, overexploitation of fish stocks and new developments in ocean management, we are all at a major crossroads in our relationship with the ocean.



Opportunity for more “Joined Up Thinking” in the Atlantic

Europe 2020 - EU Maritime Policy
Atlantic Strategy – Blue Growth – Marine Knowledge 2020
Horizon 2020 - EMFF
NATURA 2000
Marine Strategy Framework Directive
Maximum Sustainable Yield
Reform of the CFP
New Data Collection Framework
Ecosystem Approach

In Relation to Marine Capture Fisheries – Some Ideas Potential Areas for Future Action A Regional Approach



1. Develop Area Based Management Plans with Stakeholders (Confront Tradeoffs)
2. Evaluate Socio-Economic impacts of these Management Plans
3. Quantify Economic benefits of healthy ecosystems
4. Incorporate Marine Strategy Framework Directive into Management Plans
5. Incorporate NATURA 2000 into Fisheries Management plans
6. Fishing Gears that minimise damage to Seabed and Reduce Carbon Footprint
7. Reduce discard and by catch – Atlantic Discard Atlas – understand the problem
8. Fishing vessels are ocean platforms (collect data; develop sensors;)
9. Improved Co-operation with industry - "Guardians of the Sea"
10. Develop Areas based GIS Atlas (e.g. activities; ecological features etc.)

In Relation to Marine Capture Fisheries – Some ideas Potential Areas for Future Action (Continued)



11. Marine Spatial Planning is Key – A Tool for all ocean users
12. New Data Collection Framework – Collect and Share Data, Information and Knowledge
Address the area of Data Deficient Stocks (2012 – 35% of Stocks of known status)
Build on the existing the Regional Co-ordination Group for the Atlantic
Build on the existing Regional Advisory Councils
13. Broaden Scope of Data Collection in Fisheries Research Vessel Surveys – not just fisheries data – MSFD data
14. Make better use of the available data – Ocean Modelling/Forecasting/ Scenarios
15. Ensuring that all available Fish Quotas are used
16. Scope for New Species in Atlantic Area – We need to be very careful here
17. Raise Public Awareness on sustainable use of our oceans – it begins in the Schools
18. Brand Seafood – Captured in an "Ecosystem friendly" way - add economic value

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) *Marine science, advice and data in the North Atlantic*



ICES can make an important contribution to the Implementation of an Atlantic Strategy

Closing Comments



Aquaculture has been seen as representing a sustainable way to meet rising demand for seafood, while decreasing reliance on imports and relieving the stress on overexploited European fish stocks. Aquaculture will not replace capture fishing any time soon. The existing sea fisheries sector makes a significant contribution to the Atlantic marine economy and this must be sustained. Branding seafood products as harvested in an "ecosystem friendly" way represent a real opportunity to add value to Atlantic seafood and build the economies of Atlantic coastal communities.

"We must care about the world of
our children and grandchildren,
a world we may never see"

Bertrand Russell - Welsh writer and critic (1872 to 1970)

Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation
Launching a European Union - Canada - United States of America
Research Alliance

The Signatories of this Statement meeting on the occasion of the high level event

The Atlantic – a Shared Resource, held on

23 and 24 May 2013

at the Marine Institute, Galway, Ireland

Recognizing the importance of the Atlantic Ocean to our citizens, prosperity, human health and well-being, adaptation to climate and other environmental change, and security,

Cognizant of our reliance upon the best available science and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the Atlantic Ocean,

Realizing that our countries face similar challenges in promoting a healthy and well-understood Atlantic Ocean,

Acknowledging the critical interlink between the Atlantic Ocean and the portion of the Arctic region that borders the Atlantic,

Appreciating the value of our ongoing cooperation on ocean science and observation in the Atlantic Ocean, and

Valuing the essential role of international partnership to achieve our shared objectives and the potential of greater cooperation to advance our knowledge of the Atlantic Ocean,

Intend to advance our shared vision of an Atlantic Ocean that is healthy, resilient, safe, productive, understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.

This cooperation is intended to increase our knowledge of the Atlantic Ocean and its dynamic systems - including interlinks with the portion of the Arctic region that borders the Atlantic - by aligning our ocean observation efforts to improve ocean health and stewardship and promote the sustainable management of its resources. Observation is fundamental to understanding the ocean and forecasting its future. Activities may include efforts to better coordinate data sharing, interoperability and coordination of observing infrastructures and seabed and benthic habitat mapping.

This cooperation may result in mutual benefits including better ecosystem assessments and forecasts and deeper understanding of vulnerabilities and risk, including those relating to the global climate system and climate change impacts. It can also help to generate new tools to increase resilience, conserve rich biodiversity, manage risk and determine social, environmental and economic priorities.

We further intend to promote our citizens' understanding of the value of the Atlantic by promoting oceans literacy. We intend to show how results of ocean science and observation address pressing issues facing our citizens, the environment and the world and to foster public understanding of the value of the Atlantic Ocean.

We intend to advance this agenda by

- taking stock of and utilizing existing bilateral science and technology cooperation (e.g. the U.S. - European Union Science and Technology Joint Consultative Group and the Canada - European Union Science and Technology Joint Coordinating Committee) and multilateral cooperation frameworks including those related to ocean observation, and ocean literacy initiatives;
- recommending priorities for future cooperation and, where possible,
- coordinating the planning and programming of relevant activities in these areas, including promoting researcher mobility.

This cooperation could potentially involve national partners and European Commission representatives, the private sector, and the scientific community to further our efforts by harnessing the value of public-private partnerships.

This initiative is also expected to reinforce existing international efforts to advance our knowledge of the ocean, including the World Ocean Assessment.

Signed in Galway on 24 May 2013 in three originals in the English language.

For the European Union

**For the Government of
Canada**

**For the Government of the
United States of America**

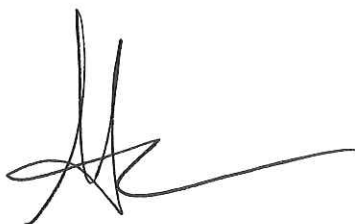


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