

Appointment of ACFM Chair

1 INTRODUCTION

The ICES Advisory Committee of Fisheries management (ACFM) has a membership of 24 scientists: 19 national members appointed by ICES, 3 chairs of ICES science committees (Living Resource Committee, Resource Management Committee and Baltic Committee), an independent elected chair and vice-chair. Under the current schedule this committee meets twice a year (in May and in October for about 10 days each meeting) to provide advice for about 150 stocks of which about 70 are subject to full analytical assessment. At present, the annual ACFM report is 900-1000 pages.

The ICES advisory process is overseen by MCAP. MCAP is currently discussing a proposal for a general restructuring of the review process applied in the advisory committees. If this proposal is accepted then the annual ACFM meeting time will probably be cut back by about 5 days. Also, there is discussion of introducing the benchmark/update assessment system. Should that be agreed then the role of ACFM will change to focus on the benchmark assessments (about 20 % of the assessments each year, on the principles that shall be applied in formulating advice and on overseeing that the ACFM Secretariat works in accordance with the principles laid down by ACFM). In such a system the ACFM meeting time may be reduced to one meeting per year.

2 ACFM'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the terms of Council Resolution 2000/4DEL01, Section (iii), "ACFM will have the primary responsibility for scientific information and advice on the status, outlook, and exploitation of living marine resources. While not the exclusive source of advice on fisheries management, it will be the primary source of the scientific advice for ongoing fishery management needs, such as setting total allowable catches (TACs)".

The advice to be provided by ACFM will normally be specified by Council Resolution, in accordance with requests from Intergovernmental Commissions or ICES Member Countries and as directed by the Management Committee on the Advisory Process (MCAP).

The ACFM advice shall normally be prepared and delivered in accordance with the terms of Memoranda of Understanding between ICES and the Partner Commissions, or under such other procedures as may be agreed with the recipient, through MCAP, from time to time.

MCAP has proposed to move the advice on North Atlantic Salmon to ACE. The reason for this move is that North Atlantic salmon issues are much wider than the population dynamic issues but includes a number of environmental problems such as interaction between the wild stocks and mariculture, diseases and habitat restoration in rivers. On the other hand the marine fisheries at current exploitation rates do not seem to have notably influence on stock development.

There is currently an ongoing discussion of ecosystem advice and this may have consequences for which a request is assigned to.

3 TASKS OF THE ACFM CHAIR

The Chair of ACFM is responsible for ensuring that ACFM provides, on behalf of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, scientific information and advice to intergovernmental bodies and member Governments [Rule of Procedure 28 (ii)]. ACFM may also provide scientific information and advice on such matters as the Council or MCAP may consider relevant [Rule of Procedure 28 (ii)].

The Chair of ACFM represents ICES externally in connection with advice on fisheries management and internally in formulating policies and coordination of the work. The Chair presents the advice to the Fisheries Commissions (EC, IBSC, NASCO and NEAFC) at their annual meetings. Furthermore, the chair participates in extraordinary meetings of the Fisheries Commissions and their working groups as deemed appropriate.

The Chair takes the lead in ACFM with respect to developing the technical aspects of formulation of advice, the committee's internal organisation of its work and with respect to meet client requirements on timeliness and the form of advice.

The Chair represents ICES externally with respect to ICES advisory function within fisheries management. The Chair represents ACFM internally in ICES and is *ex officio* member of MCAP and the Consultative Committee (CONC).

Annex I is an extract of the rules of procedure relevant to the work of the ACFM chair.

Annex II is a table of meetings and tasks that an ACFM chair typical shall attend during a year.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACFM CHAIR

It shall be the responsibility of the Chair of ACFM to ensure that:

- the advice reflects relevant management and biological objectives;
- ACFM advice is internally consistent;
- ACFM advice is consistent with advice and science in other ICES committees;
- the advice is written clearly, using plain language wherever possible.
- quality procedures are maintained, updated and followed in the advisory process;
- the best scientific expertise is drawn upon when formulating advice;
- the most appropriate methodology is used in the assessments carried out by ACFM, giving due regard to the development of new methods, to the need for consistency, and to the necessity for balance between these considerations;
- any change in the assessments between years, particularly when this results from changes in the methods used, are fully and clearly explained;

Under the terms of Council Resolution 2000/4DEL01, Section (xi), “strategic peer review of the ICES Advisory Process will be carried out at intervals by experts who are independent of the advisory process, with scientists not normally involved with ICES playing a prominent role. MCAP will develop proposals for the implementation of such strategic peer review for the consideration of the Bureau and the Council”. The Chair of ACFM will be responsible for organising appropriate peer reviews of ACFM’s procedures, and of any of the assessments carried out by ACFM or its subsidiary groups, as directed by MCAP from time to time.

5 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACFM CHAIR

5.1 EXPECTED INPUTS

The ACFM Chair will work for about six months spread over the calendar year. For part of that period, the Chair will be required to work from an office in the ICES Secretariat in Copenhagen. The duration of the required stay in Copenhagen will depend on the work demands and will be at the discretion of the General Secretary in consultation with the Chair of MCAP, but will not be less than 2 months: 15 May – 15 June and 20 September – 20 October; other visits of shorter duration may be necessary from time to time. In addition, the Chair will present the advice to IBSFC and NEAFC (two periods of one week each); presentation of the advice in other forums will occur on an ad hoc basis. The Chair is expected to work from home for the remainder of the six months.

5.2 BENEFITS

The Chair will take office on 1st January 2003 and will remain in that post until 31 December 2005. During that period the Chair will be employed as a consultant at ICES Secretariat with a stipend equivalent to 1/2 of the net payment of an P5-1 (~DKK 400,000 annually). This stipend will be subject to the same tax rules as other ICES consultants, i.e. exempted from Danish tax. The stipend offered includes all benefits including pension saving benefits.

The chair will receive travel and per diem according to ICES travel rules when travelling for ICES outside Copenhagen. To cover additional expenses for staying in Copenhagen the Chair will receive DKK 232/day (or approx 7,000 per month) and travel insurance (~DKK 65 per day).. For the period stipulated above about 3.5 month this would be approximate DKK 25,000 plus travel insurances DKK 7,000.

The Chair will have office facilities at the ICES HQ. ICES Secretariat will assist with finding appropriate accommodations in Copenhagen.

ANNEX I

In accordance with Rule of Procedure 32, the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) shall:

- preside over meetings of ACFM and regulate its procedure;
- prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Committee;
- keep in touch with workers who are to carry out the programme of the Committee and to do all in his/her power to ensure that the work undertaken is actually carried out in accordance with the programme and to obtain records thereon;
- draw up from time to time, with the consent of the Committee, a general review of the work done and results achieved together with an examination of the position reached by investigations within the Committee's ambit;
- draw up from time to time, for the consideration of the Committee, memoranda expressing his/her views on the main problems affecting the Committee's remit and the methods of treating them;
- provide records of the annual meetings of his/her Committee and prepare draft Resolutions for the attention of the Consultative Committee, with appropriate supporting information.
- In accordance with Rule of Procedure 26, the Chair of ACFM shall participate in meetings of the Management Committee for the Advisory Process (MCAP).

ANNEX II

Typical ACFM chair year. Travel time is shown separately. Some of the working days are on Saturdays and holidays. In all these tasks the Chair is assisted by the Secretariat.

Task Category	Task	Period	Duration(workdays)	Travel (workdays)	Meeting	Comment
1. ACFM internal organisation	Prepare Consultations (plan the following year)	August-September	5			
	ASC including Consultations	September-October	10	1-2	ASC	
	Prepare for ACFM Autumn	August-September	7			
	ACFM Autumn advice formulation	October	12	1-2	ACFM Autumn	
	Review of request and TORs for AWGs and ACFM	January	3		MCAP	
	Planning the ICES year	Spring	6	1-2	CONC	
	Preparing the Spring ACFM meeting	April-May	7			
	ACFM review and drafting group for NASCO advice	April	3	1-2		
	ACFM spring meeting	May	12	1-2		
	Review of assessments, science, and methodologies to be able to run the meetings	April May and August-September	30			
	Maintenance and further development of ACFM working procedures		20			
	Maintenance and further development of AWG working procedures		20			
	Total ACFM Internal work		135	8		
2. Non recurrent advice			10-20? (varying between years)			
3. Presenting the ICES Advice on Fisheries	Prepare NEAFC presentation	October-November	3			

management						
	NEAFC Presentation	November	4	1-2	NEAFC	
	EC ACFA	November	1	-	ACFA	Often covered by the Fisheries Adviser
	Prepare presentation to NASCO	May	3			
	Presentation of advice to NASCO	June	5	1-2		
	Prepare presentation to IBSFC	August	3			
	Presenting the advice to IBSFC	September	5	1-2		
	Possible extraordinary Fisheries Commissions meetings	January-April	7			
	3. Total Presenting the ICES advice		31	5		
4. Various tasks	SG, WGs and SGs that the Ghair must participate in	January-April, August - September	10			
	Meetings with Other Secretariats	Entire year	2	1		
	4. Total		12	1		
Overall Total			188-198	14		