ICES SCIENCE COMMITTEE

SCICOM:04

REF. SCICOM, ACOM

Report of the Data and Information Group (DIG)

21-23 May 2013 Copenhagen, Denmark



International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer

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Executive summary

The Data and Information Group (DIG) met from 22 to 24 May 2013 at ICES, Copenhagen. 25 participants attended the meeting, including 8 members from ICES Data Centre.

During the 2013 plenary meeting, the group mainly focussed on the contribution for the Data Plan as part of the ICES Strategic Plan 2014–2018, and communication with ICES Data Centre.

ICES Data Centre

New tools that have been developed by the ICES Data Centre were presented. The eggs and larvae database has now been established and is online, available on the ICES data portal (http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/Eggs-and-larvae.aspx). Furthermore, progress has been made in relation to data quality checking, as a quality check database has been established. Also, the regional database FishFrame, RDB-FF (http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/RDB-FishFrame.aspx), is now hosted by ICES and has a steering group responsible for its strategic improvement and development. Finally, a tool providing summary information on climatic conditions in the North Atlantic (ICES Report on Ocean Climate, IROC) will be available online when the ICES Report on Ocean Climate (2013) has been published. From this report it is will be possible to download the most recent associated data series by station. Interactive maps and graphs make it possible to get quick and easy access to the data.

Data Publication and Digital Citation

DIG spent time getting up to speed on the relatively new practice of assigning digitally persistent identifiers, like a Digital Object Identifier (DOI), to a dataset, in a similar way that a DOI is assigned to a scientific paper, book, or other published document. This makes it possible to refer to a collection of data in a consistent and well defined way. In addition, the data themselves can be retrieved, creating an environment where the data can be readily shared throughout the scientific community. At the same time, the originators are given the credit for producing the dataset, in a similar manner as getting credit for a published paper.

Data in the ICES Strategy

Paul Connolly (ICES President) presented the process for renewing the ICES Strategy at the DIG meeting. To highlight the significance of data to the ICES work, a Data and Information Services Plan will form one of the four plans supporting the ICES strategy, and where DIG was asked to provide key input. Several of the ICES Candidate Goals for the ICES Strategic Plan relate specifically to data accessibility and data and information management activities. DIG identified and defined specific activities in support of these goals. These activities come under the following categories: Regional facilitation; international standards and interoperability; knowledge transfer and professional development; data stewardship and a trusted resource.

1 Opening of the meeting

The Data and Information Group (DIG) met from 22 to 24 May 2013 at ICES, Copenhagen. 24 participants attended the meeting, including 8 members from ICES Data Centre. The list of participants is in Annex 1.

2 Adoption of the agenda

The tasks of the group are divided into four categories: strategy, policy, user guidance and technical subjects. The list of tasks reflects the widespread target audience of the Data and Information Group and has slightly been modified compared to the plan published in WGDIM 2012 report (ICES 2012).

i. Strategy

- Provide guidance and feedback to the ICES Data Centre (continuous, proactively and on request)
- Provide input and draft to the ICES Data Plan (2013), as part of ICES Strategic Plan 2014–2018

ii. Policy

- Keep oversight of and provide revisions to the ICES Data Policy (2012, 2017)
- Provide guidance on implementation of the ICES Data Policy (continuous)
- Advise on other data and information management regulations and their impact on ICES (continuous)

iii. User Guidance

- Provide guidelines for quality assurance methodologies (on request)
- Recommend, develop, and provide advice on best practices on all aspects on data management (on request)
- Review output of offspring groups (annual), currently DUAP

iv. Technical

- Provide advice on data management guidelines (on request)
- Promote new technologies and data management infrastructure development (continuous, annual overview)

v. Operational

- Facilitate communication between ICES Data Centre and users (on request)
- Review priorities on the Data Centre action list (annual)

The 2013 terms of reference were:

- a) Review priorities on the Data Centre annual work plan
- b) Provide guidance and feedback to the ICES Data Centre
- c) Advise on other data regulations and their impact on ICES Data Strategy, ICES Data Policy
- d) Review output from offspring groups
- e) Promote new technologies and data management infrastructure development
- f) Provide guidelines for quality assurance methodologies
- g) Revise the ICES guidelines on Oceanographic Quality Control

During the 2013 plenary meeting, the group mainly focussed on the contribution for the Data Plan as part of the ICES Strategic Plan 2014-2018, and communication with ICES Data Centre. The complete agenda is in Annex 2.

3 Progress made in 2013

The recommendations by WGDIM 2012 were:

Recommendation	Addressed to	Status
1. Institutes should be encouraged to either incorporate a chapter about data citation in the data policy, or develop a specific document on data citation policy.	National institutes	Continue, see section 6.1 and ICES (2012)
2. it is recommended that an ICES strategic position towards the assembly and use of VMS and logbook data, as outlined in section 5 of the WGDIM 2012 is developed	ACOM and SCICOM	Feedback given to commission for DC-MAP
3. Incorporate an additional term of reference for the 2012 meeting, addressing suitability/fitness for purpose of VMS and logbook data in relation to the level of aggregation and the requirements from ICES expert groups.	SGVMS	SGVMS has become WGSFD (spatial fisheries data, SSGUE) to create some standard output in anonymized format.
4. It is recommended that the revised Data Policy is reviewed by ACOM and SCICOM at their joint meeting in September before the policy is presented to Bureau for a decision on its publication	ACOM and SCICOM	Completed

The 2012/2013 action items were:

Action	Addressed to	Complete before	Status
1. Publish development of WGDIM on ICES Bulletin board	Ingeborg de Boois	1 November 2012	Completed
2. Discuss ASC theme session proposal with SG chair(s), and revise theme session proposal	Ingeborg de Boois, Neil Holdsworth, Helge Sagen	1 August 2012	Completed
3. Discuss quality flagging needs with ICES Data Centre and list those	Lesley Rickards, Jens Rasmussen	1 September 2012	Completed
4. Provide the Data Centre action list (sharepoint)	Neil Holdsworth	1 March 2013	Completed
5. Revise the ICES guidelines on Oceanographic Quality Control	Sjur Ringheim Lid, Taco de Bruin, Lesley Rickards, Peter Wiebe	1 April 2013	A little work done, plan to have presentation at ASC2013 and IMDIS2013. That should be the deadline for a first revision. Incomplete, see section 6.2.

4 ICES Strategic Plan and Data Plan

Paul Connolly presented the development process of the ICES Strategic Plan 2014–2018. Neil Holdsworth presented an outline for the Data Plan. Based on those presentations, DIG prepared input for the Data Plan, as part of the ICES Strategic Plan. The draft document will be sent to Bureau before the Bureau subgroup meeting in July, and to SCICOM. Based on the feedback by Bureau and stakeholders modifications might have to be made.

In the analysis and discussion four key areas for the data plan were identified, these were:

- Regional Facilitation
- International Standards and interoperability
- Knowledge transfer and professional development
- Data stewardship and a trusted resource

In the discussion about the Data Plan it was pointed out that it is important to store metadata (data about data) at ICES. For the databases stored at ICES, metadata is available, but it is also known that some groups hold their own data. It is not necessary to move all those data to ICES Data Centre, but everyone should be able to find out the existence of these datasets related to ICES work. This can be easily done by providing metadata to ICES. It is recommended that in 2015, SCICOM and ACOM put a term of reference to all the groups in order to get insight in all datasets available within the ICES community and used for ICES work.

DIG suggests the following term of reference

"(...) to inform ICES Data Centre (this can be sent out as an online questionnaire to EG's to fill in)

- 1. If the expert group is using datasets in its work (YES/NO)
- 2. If the expert group collates and manages the dataset(s) (YES/NO)
 - IF YES: metadata records should be supplied to ICES Data Centre for the various datasets/databases to be included in ICES Metadata portal (these may already exist in other data portal systems, so references to these should be provided)
- 3. If the dataset(s) are stored in a database managed by ICES Data Centre (YES/NO)
 - i. IF YES: in which database and under which coding (List will be supplied by ICES Data centre)"

Question(s) to elicit the details of the database, what kind of data management design and protocols are in place, etc. might be added. DIG could reflect the standards that it intends to have applied to ICES data onto source data systems.

5 Communication with ICES Data Centre (tor a and b)

ICES Data Centre presented its developments over the last year to DIG. Below is a short summary of the presentations.

5.1 Quality control database

The Quality Control (QC) database has been developed to provide an easy way to both enter and extract information about the quality checks that are being applied by the various data flows in the ICES data centre. The idea behind it is that instead of searching within each individual database for each quality check there will be a separate tool for this task. As the amount and complexity of data increases, the need for a quality control overview is becoming indispensable.

Currently, there are 350 checks in database, some are overlapping (one check done on more datasets). In the next stage some checks will be added automatically, but for some this will be more difficult as they have to be carried out manually. There is no connection with the databases yet, especially because some checks are carried out 'by eye' and are not available in the database.

What would users like to see?

- Two groups of data users: (1) users submitting the data that would like (and need) to see all checks carried out on their data, (2) end-users that might only be interested in a more global description of the checks
- See the ICES checks and add own checks to create the total picture of data checks carried out on the dataset.

5.2 Regional DataBase FishFrame and InterCatch

(http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/RDB-FishFrame.aspx and http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/InterCatch.aspx)

The RDB FishFrame contains commercial fish, sampling, landings and effort data. It is used by regional coordination meetings (RCMs) for coordinating commercial sampling. Last year RDB Fishframe was migrated from DTU Aqua to ICES. The current focus is (1) to make standardised reports for the RCMs, (2) change exchange format.

InterCatch: Since 2006; raising and documentation for stock assessment. 45 stocks have used InterCatch. In order to increase the number of stocks in InterCatch more data calls will be sent out, as InterCatch does not have any problems accepting more stocks. Promotion of InterCatch at WGs is done by visiting those when they meet at ICES.

In the end, RDB FishFrame should be able to replace InterCatch. For that reason, it is important to streamline InterCatch and RDB Fishframe as much as possible. The FishFrame exchange formats might change in 2014.

5.3 Eggs and larvae database

(http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/Eggs-and-larvae.aspx)

The database was developed and there are data in the database. Having the action plan with a clear timeline as created by WGDIM in 2010 helped the process. Starting point was that ICES working groups should provide a clear request to ICES Data Centre. During the process, communication about the mackerel egg survey, MIK

dataset and the Baltic larvae survey was lost. DIG would like to encourage the responsible groups to store their ichthyoplankton data in Eggs and Larvae database, and to create the time schedule for doing so, as the national action plans might depend on it. For IBTS-MIK and WGMEGS data DIG/ICES Data Centre will actively stimulate the groups to add the data to the eggs and larvae database.

5.4 Ocean

(http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/ocean.aspx)

A webpage related to the ICES Report on Ocean Climate (IROC) was developed. The page will be released when the IROC report is going to be launched, and it is interactive. WGOH has a data manager, data will be sent to ICES Data Centre, and after quality control it can be published on the webpage. It will be a dynamic system.

5.5 Standard graphs (reinvented)

The graphs in the advice sheets are currently formatted by the stock coordinators, and this has led to a deviation from the standard. With the new standard graphs, the control of formatting is managed centrally in a web application and the data used to generate the standard graphs are stored in a database, facilitating re-use. There is version control on the standard graphs and it is also possible to download the data that generated the graph, along with the graphical images. The output is in line with the RA-CMS (see section 5.7). Currently, the system is in testing and therefore only available inside ICES.

Suggestions for further development: (a) take out species that cannot be connected to WoRMS coding, supply scientific as well as common (English) names, and maybe local names. Linking with WoRMS has almost been finished, only few problems arise. (b) to provide data quality/metadata (number of samples etc.). Currently, this is done manually. This relates to the RA-CMS, which will provide information about the data. It also relates to the discussion in the Data Plan about metadata. (c) provide stock status table. This also relates to the RA-CMS. (d) Change the appearance of the graphs to improve readability. That should be discussed in ACOM.

5.6 Overall comments

DIG is very positive about the developments. The developments of services/tools make the ICES Data Centre and the data stored more visible to end-users, and the creation of databases helps the people collecting data to get the data stored in a good way.

Seeing the presentations, it became apparent that different technologies are being used for different purposes. This should not be a problem as long as ICES Data Centre keeps the balance between consistency in technologies and challenging the programmers.

5.7 RACMS

The Report and Advisory Content Management System uses collaborative technologies in order to streamline the Advisory process. It is based on XML input forms, utilising Nintex workflows that move these forms through the complete process, with SharePoint as its repository. The first sets of Advice for a subset of stocks have just been completed. Phase 2 will involve addressing any issues and further enhancements, leading to a full implementation in 2014.

6 Other topics

6.1 Data citation (tor e)

Data citation is a trending, but complicated topic. Many forums discuss about data citation. One of the important background documents is the Ocean Data Publication Cookbook at the IODE website (IOC Manuals and guides No. 64, http://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=10574).

The outline of a White Paper on Current Practices in Data Citation is developed by the International CODATA Task Group on Data Citation Standards and Practices (http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/TGdatacitation/index.html). This document is not publically available yet, but might become available in 2014.

Assigning a persistent identifier, such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) to a dataset is comparable to assigning a DOI to a publication such as a scientific paper or a book. Once a DOI is assigned, it makes it possible to refer to a collection of data in a consistent and well defined way. In addition, the data themselves can be retrieved, creating an environment where the data can be shared throughout the scientific community. At the same time, the originators are given the proper credit for producing the dataset, in a similar manner as getting credit for a published paper.

SCICOM asked DIG to prepare a document in collaboration with PUBCOM about digital citation. DIG prepared a draft document for discussion with PUBCOM.

Additionally, DIG proposes a theme session on digital citation in collaboration with PUBCOM. The proposal will be ready before the call for 2014 ASC theme session proposals.

6.2 Revision of ICES guidelines (tor f and g)

The action item 'Revise the ICES guidelines on Oceanographic Quality Control' is incomplete, as the discussion expanded towards the relevance of ICES Guidelines and the need for collaboration with other organisations keeping guidelines for similar data. It was mentioned that there room for synergy although quality assurance at ICES Data Centre should be kept in mind. Guidelines on the ICES website are useful, even when there are more detailed guidelines available at other locations. A workshop is proposed for 2014. The draft proposal is in Annex 5.

7 Any other business

7.1 Proposal for new chair

After chairing DIG and its predecessors (WGDIM, MDM) for 10 years, Helge Sagen is going to resign. The members of the group are very grateful for his effort and engagement, and all hope to welcome him next year as a regular member of the group.

There is only one candidate-chair for the next three years: Ingeborg de Boois. DIG supports this candidacy unanimously.

8 References

ICES. 2012. Report of the Working Group on Data and Information Management (WGDIM), 23-25 May 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2012/WGDIM:01. 38 pp.

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2: Agenda

Tuesday 21 May

9.00-10.15

Recommendations 2013

Recommendation	Addressed to	Status
1. Institutes should be encouraged to either incorporate a chapter about data citation in the data policy, or develop a specific document on data citation policy. (section 7.1)	National institutes	
2. it is recommended that an ICES strategic position towards the assembly and use of VMS and logbook data, as outlined in section 5 of the WGDIM 2012 is developed	ACOM and SCICOM	
3. Incorporate an additional term of reference for the 2012 meeting, addressing suitability/fitness for purpose of VMS and logbook data in relation to the level of aggregation and the requirements from ICES expert groups.	SGVMS	
4. It is recommended that the revised Data Policy is reviewed by ACOM and SCICOM at their joint meeting in September before the policy is presented to Bureau for a decision on its publication	ACOM and SCICOM	Completed

Action item list 2013

Action	Addressed to	Complete before	Status
1. Publish development of WGDIM on ICES Bulletin board	Ingeborg de Boois	1 November 2012	Completed
2. Discuss ASC theme session proposal with SG chair(s), and revise theme session proposal	Ingeborg de Boois, Neil Holdsworth, Helge Sagen	1 August 2012	Completed
3. Discuss quality flagging needs with ICES Data Centre and list those	Lesley Rickards, Jens Rasmussen	1 September 2012	Completed
4. Provide the Data Centre action list (sharepoint)	Neil Holdsworth	1 March 2013	Completed
5. Revise the ICES guidelines on Oceanographic Quality Control	Sjur Ringheim Lid, Taco de Bruin, Lesley Rickards, Peter Wiebe	1 April 2013	??

Inter-sessional Activities - summary DIG (related) activities 2013 -no presentations, only short feedback:

- Acoustic metadata (Jens)
- Marine Knowledge 2020 survey (Neil)

10.15-10.40

ICES ASC:

- a) 2013 theme session
- b) Ideas for 2014?

11.00-11.45

Data Plan:

- Presentation Paul Connolly on ICES Strategy
- Presentation Neil on Data Plan

11.45-12.15

High level update from Data centre (Neil): New projects, new datastreams (VME, Eggs, Std Graphs dataset), hot topics etc.

12.30-12.50

Data/digital citation: Presentation Helge based on last information

12.50-13.00 identification of subgroup topics and subgroup participants

14.00-17.00 (including tea break)

Subgroups:

- 1) Data Plan, chapter 5. 'Goal 4: To promote the advancement of data and information services for science and advice needs. '
- 2) Data Plan, chapter 6. 'Goal 5: Catalyse best practices in marine data management, and promote the data and information data node as a global resource.'

17.00-17.30

Wrap-up from and feedback to subgroups:

- 1) Chapter 5
- 2) Chapter 6

Wednesday 22 May

9.00-11.00 (including a coffee break)

Plenary:

- Quality flagging: overview of the developments up to now (presentation Neil)
- Feedback on Marine Data section of ICES website/DIG webpage (Neil/Ingeborg)
- INSPIRE services description (Jens)
- Product requests: the acting of the ICES Data Centre as an agent between product suppliers and the users, has been brought up by quite a few of the community. – only example, discussion in subgroup

Example: Request for products from WGINOSE

The overview requires the following products:

METRIC	TEMPORAL	DEFINITION	PRODUCT DELIVERED BY*
	MEASURE	OF SPACE	

Temperature	Mean monthly , integrated over water column	1, 2, 3, 4	WGOOFE & WGOH
Stratification	Timing & area by year	1	WGOOFE
Estimates of flux	Trends in fluxes	1, 4	WGOOFE & WGOH

North Sea areas. 1. northern North Sea, including the Norwegian deep, 2. southern North Sea (<50m), 3. Skagerrak and Kattegat, 4 English Channel

* WGOOFE & WGOH can produce the products now, and so easier than the data centre, but people want the data centre to house these products and be the contact for delivery of operational updates

11.00-13.00 Subgroups:

- 1. Data Plan: combine chapter 5 and 6, add chapter 7 and if possible chapter 8.
- Data/digital citation. Output: document containing overview of chances for ICES regarding data citation (text citation to be done by PUBCOM), ready for feedback from DIG.
- 3. Action plans for new product requests. Output: vision on the role of ICES

 Data Centre as an agent between product suppliers and the users, and action
 plan(s) for new product requests

14.00-16.30 (including tea break)

Plenary: Feedback to ICES Data Centre

16.30-17.30

Plenary resuming morning subgroups and afternoon session, review final draft version of data citation document.

Thursday 23 May

9.00-11.00

Preparing presentations of DIG work:

- 9.00 Plenary: agree on topics
- **9.30** Fine-tune in subgroups:
 - 1. Social media: linkedin, facebook and ICES website
 - 2. ICES inside out
 - 3. Presentation SCICOM at ASC 2013

10.30 Plenary: review subgroup texts and decide on final versions for items 1 and 2.

11.30-13.00

Planning DIG meeting at ASC (when, how long?) and DIG 2014

New chair (no election, only proposal as SCICOM has to approve)

Finalise report

Annex 3: Action list

Action	Addressed to	Complete before Status
1. Send the draft Data Plan to Bureau and SCICOM (for info)	Ingeborg de Boois, Neil Holdsworth	15 June 2014
2. Revise the Data Plan (WebEx)	Ingeborg de Boois, Neil Holdsworth, Marcin Wichorowski, Lena Szymanek, Peter Wiebe	Bureau meeting July, and dependent on feedback maybe before 1 September
3. Revise ASC 2014 proposal incollaboration with PUBCOM and send the proposal to SCICOM	Jens Rasmussen, Liam Caffrey, Marcin Wichorowski, Helge Sagen, Neil Holdsworth	1 July 2013
4. Send digital citation document to PUBCOM	Ingeborg de Boois, Neil Holdsworth, Helge Sagen	1 July 2013
5. Arrange WebEx with PUBCOM on digital citation document	Helge Sagen, Ingeborg de Boois, Neil Holdsworth, Taco de Bruin	1 September 2013
6. Provide the Data Centre action list (sharepoint)	Neil Holdsworth	1 March 2014
6. Finish proposal workshop on ICES Data Guidelines and send to Ingeborg	Sjur Ringheim Lid, Taco de Bruin, Hjalte Parner, Peter Wiebe	1 July 2013
7. Send the workshop proposal to SCICOM	Ingeborg de Boois	1 August 2013
8. Add INSPIRE descriptions for services to ICES data sets	ICES Data Centre (Periklis), Jens Rasmussen	Start before September 2013
9. Ask WGMEGS and IBTSWG-MIK to add data to eggs and larvae database	Ingeborg de Boois, Anna Osypchuk	1 July 2013

Lena Szymanek and Jens Rasmussen are available in 2014 to work on ad-hoc topics.

Annex 4: Recommendations

Recommendation Adressed to

1. Add a term of reference in 2015 to all ICES working groups to add metadata to the ICES metadata database, to create an overview of all datasets available within ICES. DIG suggests the following term of reference

SCICOM and ACOM

DIG suggests the following term of reference

"(...) to inform ICES Data Centre (this can be sent out as an online questionnaire to EG's to fill in)

- 1. If the expert group is using datasets in its work (YES/NO)
- If the expert group collates and manages the dataset(s) (YES/NO)
 - IF YES: metadata records should be supplied to ICES Data Centre for the various datasets/databases to be included in ICES Metadata portal (these may already exist in other data portal systems, so references to these should be provided)
- If the dataset(s) are stored in a database managed by ICES Data Centre (YES/NO)
 - IF YES: in which database and under which coding (List will be supplied by ICES Data centre)"

Question(s) to elicit the details of the database, what kind of data management design and protocols are in place, etc. might be added. DIG could reflect the standards that it intends to have applied to ICES data onto source data systems.

Annex 5: WKIDG workshop proposal

The **Workshop on ICES Data Guidelines** (WKIDG), chaired by XXXXX, XXX, will meet at ICES, Copenhagen, Denmark, DD-DD MMM YYYY to:

- a);
- b);

WKIDG will report by DATE to the attention of DIG and SCICOM.

The proposal still has to be created and will be sent to SCICOM directly.

Annex 6: Data and Information Group: tasks for the next meetings

A representation of the **Data and Information Group**, chaired by Ingeborg de Boois, Netherlands and Helge Sagen, Norway, will meet in Reykjavik, Iceland, during ICES ASC 2013 to:

- a) Review action list
- b) Provide input to the ICES Strategic Plan (Data Plan) based on feedback
- c) Review activities of DUAP

The **Data and Information Group**, chaired by Ingeborg de Boois, Netherlands, will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, 20–22 May 2014 to:

- a) Review priorities on the Data Centre action list
- b) Provide guidance and feedback to the ICES Data Centre
- Advise on other data regulations and their impact on ICES Data Strategy, IC-ES Data Policy
- d) Review output from offspring groups (WKIDG, DUAP, LinkedIn Data and Information Forum) if relevant
- e) Promote new technologies and data management infrastructure development

Products (e.g. updated data management guidelines, reviews of ICES Data Strategy, ICES Data Policy, etc.) from the meeting as well as a written report to SCICOM will be delivered before 15 July 2014.

The group reports to SCICOM during the SCICOM mid-term meeting March 2014 as well as the SCICOM meeting at ICES ASC 2014. The group reports to ACOM by correspondence and via the ACOM representative.