

ICES

CM 2010 Del-02.7

Approved by Council

Observers to the Advisory Services

On 28 April 2010, the Chair of ACOM circulated a request to Delegates to approve by electronic voting the following **amendment** to the 2007 Council Resolution for a Reform of the ICES Advisory Programme into the ICES Advisory Services (Council Minutes 2007, ANNEX 2 ,Version 3, 24 October 2007):

1. Employees of Commissions with which ICES has an MoU to provide advice will be allowed to observe **ICES expert groups**,
2. Employees of member country agencies that apply ICES advice to management of fisheries or other marine ecosystem uses or impacts will be allowed to observe **ICES expert groups**

The resolution was accepted by electronic voting on 6. May 2010 with 13 "Yes" votes to both questions posed (Germany, Sweden, Canada, UK, Finland, Norway, Poland, Estonia, Denmark, Iceland and France, Latvia, Lithuania).

The decision applies for a limited period of time to give the Council the opportunity to address this matter more thoroughly at its 2010 meeting.

*Council: **confirm** the amendment to the 2007 resolution on the Advisory Programme*

Annex: Revised Council Resolution for a Reform of the ICES Advisory Programme into the ICES Advisory Services

Council Resolution

for a Reform of the ICES Advisory Programme into the ICES Advisory Services (Version 3, 24 October 2007) **with amendment on observers from partner commissions**

Background

1. The Council recalled its resolution from October 2006 recommending that MCAP further develops its proposals for a unified advisory structure, including an Implementation Plan from 2008 accompanied by changes to the Rules of Procedure.
2. The Council also recalled that it stressed the need for an ongoing, comprehensive and open consultation process within the ICES community.
3. Noting that the reform of the science programme is still under discussion the Council repeats that a strong link between Science and Advice is of the utmost importance and that this link shall be assured.

Against this background the Council has decided as follows:

4. The Council recognizes that the new advisory system will require adjustments, especially during its first years of operation, in order to function as intended. The Advisory Committee shall have authority to introduce such adjustments.
 - a) The Council establishes its Advisory Services to be led by an Advisory Committee with authority to give advice on behalf of the Council. The role of the Committee is to:

Agree the ICES advisory strategic plan

Oversee the ICES Advisory Services

Establish such processes that are necessary to prepare and deliver advice subject to protocols agreed by the Council.

- b) The main tasks of the Advisory Committee are in the governance and oversight of the Advisory Services i.e. points ii) and iii) above. This includes establishing and implementing procedures to deliver the advice. The Council therefore delegates to the Committee the ability to establish such mechanisms that are necessary to prepare and disseminate advice subject to a protocol that satisfies the following criteria:

Objectivity and integrity

Openness and transparency

Quality assurance and peer review

Integrated advice – based on an ecosystem approach

Efficiency and flexibility

National consensus

c) The advisory structure shall have five elements i) – v):

Advisory Committee: The Advisory Committee (ACOM) will work under instruction of the Council, based on multi-year approval of science and advisory programmes

With full competency for the advisory responsibilities on behalf of ICES.

With national representation, one member and alternates for each member country appointed by Delegates as at present

Including an independent chair appointed by the Council and who reports to Council. ACOM may appoint a vice chair.

ACOM will nominate candidates for the ACOM chair to Council.

The ACOM chair's tasks shall include providing overall direction of the Advisory Service based on consideration of current and future needs of present and future Clients for marine scientific advice and direction to the science programme on present and future needs for marine science support of the Advisory Services

The ACOM Chair or designates will present the advice as adopted by ACOM to Clients, stakeholders and the public.

The chair of ACOM will have the right to participate at Council and Bureau meetings and will report on the performance of the ICES Advisory Services.

The Advisory Committee can delegate its authority to finalise and adopt the advice to an advisory group provided that this must have full national representation.

Review: A review process will provide a technical review of the analytical and science input to the advice formulation. This review will be conducted by

scientific peers who were not involved with producing the analytical and science input. ACOM will approve members based on proposals by the ACOM Chair;

Advice Drafting Group: A flexible system of advice drafting groups that will be the major source of the advice texts. These groups are established by ACOM and will base their advice on peer reviewed evidence prepared by expert groups. The advice drafting group will work from draft text of the advice, that is prepared by either Expert groups, advice drafting groups or the Secretariat as appropriate and as decided by ACOM. ACOM will appoint members based on proposals by the ACOM Chair. Delegates can nominate members of the advice drafting group for appointment by ACOM.

Expert groups: Advice will be based on evidence prepared by Expert Groups in response to terms of reference provided by ACOM. Delegates will appoint members of the expert groups.

Workshops on data compilation: The Advisory Committee shall facilitate the invitation of stakeholders to workshops on data compilation as input to the work of the expert groups. Stakeholders are invited to contribute data including data from non-traditional sources. At these workshops they can also contribute to data preparation and evaluation of data quality. Data that are to be included in the analysis of the Expert Group shall satisfy quality criteria established by ACOM.

- d) Participation in the groups mentioned above is through nomination by Delegates. The Chairs of the Groups can propose participation for Delegates approval. Data workshops will be open to all who have useful information to contribute. Participation by outside experts will be subject to rules laid down by the Council.

- e) Stakeholder and Client observers are accepted in

ACOM

Advice Drafting Groups

The technical review process

Data compilation workshops

Employees of Commissions with which ICES has an MoU to provide advice will be allowed to observe ICES expert groups,
Employees of government agencies that apply ICES advice to management of fisheries or other marine ecosystem uses or impacts will be allowed to observe ICES expert groups

- f) Council will establish rules for rights, obligations and selection of observers

g) In 2008 the ICES Advisory Services will be supported by three senior advisors who's tasks will include:

- a. Communicating on the requests with Clients
- b. Proposing ToRs for expert groups
- c. Proposing membership for the review process and advice drafting
- d. Communicating with management of National laboratories
- e. Supporting ACOM in presenting advice to Clients and stakeholders
- f. Reporting to the ACOM as requested

h) The ACOM Chair and the senior advisors will receive a stipend (grade P5-1). The appointments for 2008 will be as follows:

Chair for full time (12 months/year)

Senior advisor for fisheries 6 months/year

2 other senior advisors 3 months/year

i) Implementation will be as of 1st January 2008. The present structure will remain in place until ACOM decides that this parallel structure is no longer needed.

j) The Council will establish a working group chaired by (to be nominated) that will report to Council before mid January 2008 to

Finalise the detailed mandate and criteria to which the Advisory Services shall operate;

Propose a level of Secretariat support staff for future years including any senior advisor positions;

Propose the conditions of employment for the ACOM chair for future years.

Propose the most appropriate governance model for senior advisors to ensure the best professional management support for the Advisory Services

Estimate the costs for the transition year and costs for the long term;

Propose rules for rights, obligations and selection of observers;

Propose changes in the Rules of Procedure as appropriate;

Finalise a detailed work plan for 2008 that is a transitional year.

The Group will include the chairs of ConC and MCAP as *ex officio* members

- k) The Council will consider the report of its working group before mid February and at the discretion of the President an extraordinary meeting of Council may be convened.