

ICES Policy for Observers of Advisory Services

Adopted by Council Resolution

1. Governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals are eligible to observe ICES Advisory Services.
2. The ICES public website shall contain an invitation to apply to observe Advisory Services with a link to this policy, a description of the application procedure and other relevant information.
3. Organizations that want to observe Advisory Services should support the general objectives of ICES and have competence in the area of ICES work.
4. Individuals that want to observe Advisory Services should as a personal matter endorse the objectives of ICES and they should have an expressed interest in the work of ICES.
5. Organizations and individuals may apply to be observers or they may be nominated by ICES member countries.
6. Applications to observe Advisory Services shall include:
 - 6.1. name, address, telephone, e-mail address of the organization or individual seeking observer status;
 - 6.2. a description of organizations including aims and purposes, description of activities, history, current membership, and membership eligibility;
 - 6.3. the reasons an individual wishes to observe Advisory Services and a description of the activities or accomplishments of the individual that might make observer status beneficial;
 - 6.4. statement on the specific meetings or events, or the category (e.g., Advice Drafting Groups) or the subject matter (Baltic Sea fisheries) of meetings or events, or a time period an organization or individual wishes to observe.
 - 6.5. documents or other resources produced that are relevant to ICES;
 - 6.6. information (if any) the organization or individual wishes to present to a meeting or event.
7. All applications to observe Advisory Services will be circulated to ACOM and the Council for comment. The application will be deemed accepted 10 business days after it is circulated unless an ACOM member or Council member objects.
8. If an ACOM member or Council member objects to an application to observe Advisory Services, the ACOM Chair will conduct an ACOM web conference to resolve the matter. Any Council member that objected will be invited to participate in the web conference. However, ACOM will be empowered to resolve the matter.
9. Under unusual circumstances, the ACOM chair may authorize an organization or individual to observe a specific Advisory Services event. In such cases, ACOM and the Council will be notified at the time the authorization is granted, and if there is an objection, the authorization will be revoked immediately, until the matter can be addressed according to paragraph 8.
10. Any observer admitted to a meeting may:
 - 10.1. attend meetings (in person or by electronic connection), but may not vote;
 - 10.2. make oral statements during the meeting upon the invitation of the Chair;
 - 10.3. distribute documents at meetings through the Chair;
 - 10.4. engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the Chair.

11. The General Secretary will determine the maximum number of observers to be admitted to any meeting based on conference room capacity or limits on electronic connectivity, and the need for a balanced participation preserving the scientific nature and integrity of the work. The General Secretary will transmit any such determinations in the conditions of participation.
12. All observers admitted to a meeting shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Member States and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by a Member State, the Chair of meeting or event or the General Secretary.
13. All observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that ICES may adopt for the conduct of observers may result in removal from the meeting by the presiding officer and revocation of observer status. Closed meetings, as decided by the presiding officer in case of deliberations of *inter alia* financial and personnel matters, are not open to observers.
14. These rules shall be subject to review and revision, as appropriate. If any Member State so requests, the adequacy of these rules shall be reviewed and assessed and, if necessary amendments shall be adopted in the light of the need of ICES to function effectively when conducting its business.
15. Organizations with whom ICES has signed an agreement specifying delivery of advice, including costs, as well as Member States, shall be invited to observe all ICES meetings considered in this rule.

This resolution replaces the resolution "CM2008 extra Del 05 Approved Resolution on selection and management of observers"