

ICES MIRAC REPORT 2014

ICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ICES CM 2014/ACOM:03

Report of the Annual Meeting between ICES and RACs (MIRAC 2014)

15–16 January 2014

Copenhagen, Denmark



ICES

International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea

CIEM

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

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

H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44–46
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
Denmark
Telephone (+45) 33 38 67 00
Telefax (+45) 33 93 42 15
www.ices.dk
info@ices.dk

Recommended format for purposes of citation:

ICES. 2014. Report of the Annual Meeting between ICES and RACs (MIRAC 2014), 15–16 January 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:03. 16 pp.

For permission to reproduce material from this publication, please apply to the General Secretary. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8303>

The document is a report of an Expert Group under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and does not necessarily represent the views of the Council.

© 2014 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Contents

1	Opening of the meeting.....	1
2	Adoption of the agenda.....	1
3	Feedback from the 2013 advisory process	1
4	Review of advice in 2013 and new developments in 2014	2
5	Requests for advice, Workplan 2014 and arrangements for communication with stakeholders	3
6	Advice dissemination including the ICES web site and popular version of advice.....	3
7	MSY–in an ecosystem context	4
8	Outcomes of ICES WGMARS 2013 November meeting	4
9	Points from the RACs	4
10	AOB.....	6
Annex 1:	Participants list.....	7
Annex 2:	Agenda.....	11

1 Opening of the meeting

The new ACOM Chair, Eskild Kirkegaard, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Copenhagen. Representatives from the North Sea, North Western Waters, Baltic Sea, Pelagic, Long Distance RACs, as well as from EU-DGMARE, EFCA, the ACOM Leadership and ICES staff were in attendance. There were three observers. See list of participants in Annex 1.

Three participants were unfortunately affected by flight delays; the chair of NWWRAC sent his apologies, while representatives from NSRAC and NWWRAC arrived in time for the second day of the meeting.

SWWRAC sent their apologies; a statement from the Secretariat was issued to MIRAC; see Section 9.5.

2 Adoption of the agenda

After the Tour de Table the draft agenda (Annex 2) was presented and approved.

3 Feedback from the 2013 advisory process

Meeting participants were invited to report on their experience of working with ICES in 2013 and to present their research and advisory needs, and discuss ICES experience of participating in RAC meetings in 2013.

NSRAC: it has been a productive year of cooperation and increasing engagement. But it was unfortunate that it was not possible to have presentation of advice at NSRAC demersal group meeting.

BSRAC: the presentation of advice was welcomed. The RAC has not been sufficiently prepared for the multispecies considerations.

PelRAC: is happy with the collaboration. The miscommunication problems in the past have been solved now. The RAC members who participated in the ICES course with DG MARE are very satisfied.

NWWRAC: appreciates the presentation of advice and the openness of the presenters. They now have a better understanding of the timing issues and they feel there is a need to have a fast track approach between COM, RACs and ICES. They also appreciate the benchmarking workshops – specifically Colm and Carmen. They also appreciate the training course.

SWWRAC: is happy with the presentation of advice.

LDRAC: Their stocks are not so much dealt with by ICES, but they have some interest in the north, they are pleased with having ICES at meetings there.

4 Review of advice in 2013 and new developments in 2014

Regarding MSY/Mixed fisheries, etc. the RACs raised the issue that for the Baltic, there was only a multispecies advice for the eastern cod stock. They would like to see it for the western cod stock as well.

The chair informed on the development of the ICES Advice Plan, 2014–2018, which was to be seen as one out of four pillars implementing the ICES Strategic Plan, 2014–2018 (ISP), adopted by Council in October 2013. The following was highlighted:

- while the ISP is in line with the ICES Convention and the Copenhagen Declaration, it is also based on a scoping document on the current and future policy and research landscape within which ICES operates;
- a key challenge identified in the ISP is the commitment to build the foundation of science towards integrated ecosystem understanding, and the identification of the following strategic choices; to further develop the work on the Arctic and aquaculture as well as to enhance the training programme;
- key principles identified in the ISP are to focus on addressing information gaps and needs, to focus work on the ICES niches and seek strategic partnerships, bearing in mind the economic and personnel constraints in the countries/expert network;
- the ISP will be implemented through the new associated plans, 2014–2018 for Science, Advisory Services, Data and Information, and the Secretariat, which will be adopted in February 2014, incorporating comments from Council;
- the four associated plans are synchronized, interdependent and inter-linked, and based on the goals and supporting activities outlined in the ISP;
- a key role for Bureau and Council will be the regular evaluation of the status of implementation of the ISP and associated plans, highlighting the importance of performance measures and indicators, and that these plans are living documents that will be updated as necessary;

The Chair specifically highlighted the supporting activities, which the Advice Plan needs to fulfill to meet the goal “Producing the information and advice that decision-makers need”, and which can be condensed as follows:

- deliver recurrent advice;
- respond to the evolving policy context and special requests;
- promote use and delivery of integrated advice;
- ensure quality assurance, interaction with advice recipients and stakeholders as well as communication with the informed public.

The aim of the Advice Plan thus is to ensure that ICES can deliver the advice of today, and stay relevant for the advice of tomorrow.

Summary

The ISP, and the document outlining “The Science and Policy Landscape in which ICES operates”, are available on the ICES website; http://www.ices.dk/explore-us/what-we-do/Documents/ICES_Science_Policy_landscape.pdf. Following its finalization end of February the Advice Plan, together with the Science, Data and Information, as well as the Secretariat Plans will also be available on the ICES website.

Upcoming activity

A launch of the ISP and the associated plans is intended in connection with a marine environment conference in Brussels, 3–4 March, 2014 on “*Healthy Oceans – Productive Ecosystems*”.

5 Requests for advice, Workplan 2014 and arrangements for communication with stakeholders

The Workplan 2014 was presented and it was agreed that RACs would approach ICES regarding the details of their wishes for advice presentations during the year.

6 Advice dissemination including the ICES web site and popular version of advice

Feedback from several RACs and national representatives was very positive on the popular advice, with requests for permission to further disseminate it to their clients via web links, hardcopy, and their national media outlets. The EC was very positive, but looking for a larger user community and interactive user interface, which ICES is actively working toward. Note that the EC has a publicity campaign beginning about sustainable seafood that will tie to the popular advice.

The meeting was given a general introduction to the website, as well as more specific examples of how to search for information.

The ICES secretariat always welcomes feed-back from the users of the ICES website, and to the extent possible tries to accommodate these. Any problems related to searching for information on the website can be addressed to the ICES Secretariat (info@ices.dk, (terhi@ices.dk)), who will be pleased to help out. In connection with physical meetings in the ICES HQs, there is also a possibility to have specific demonstration sessions.

The website aims to reach out to and inform new users, not familiar with ICES and at the same time also serve the ICES community, as an addition to the information that the every-day user will find on the SharePoint site.

Summary

Comments to the ICES website can be sent to ICES Advice (advice@ices.dk) or to ICES communications officer, Terhi Minkkinen (terhi@ices.dk).

7 MSY-in an ecosystem context

The clients of ICES have recently expressed that they prefer to postpone the dialogue meeting to spring 2015; this was more or less accepted by the RACs. The fishery part of the RACs expressed a strong wish to have a range of MSYs for a given stock and ecosystem and multispecies considerations could be taken into account when setting such ranges.

8 Outcomes of ICES WGMARS 2013 November meeting

The WGMARS 2013 report was presented by Steve Mackinson.

RACs noted that the largest challenges for cooperation are the landings obligation and the move to regional management. It is not clear how science needs in relation to discard plans are to be met. There is a need to redefine science needs from ICES system.

9 Points from the RACs

The NWWRAC proposed the following items for discussion:

- 1) Review on cooperation between ICES and RACs in relation to data deficiencies for stock assessments: state of play and way forward. The point was raised and presented by the NWWRAC / Barrie Deas Docs 10a and b

The discussion highlighted that there on one hand is a political wish to improve data collection on non-target species but that it on the other hand must be very clear to the industry that the data collected are used and useful as it may be a big burden for fishers to record these data. It is important that end users (ICES in this case) report back to the industry whether data are useful.

- 2) Latest developments in methodology for data-limited stocks; i.e. conclusions of WKLIFEIII, WKUPDATE, etc. (Presentation by ICES Doc 4ii);

Overall the response from RACs, the EC and national representatives was very positive; they were happy to have quantitative advice on many DLS. The Baltic RAC expressed doubts on the use/necessity of precautionary tools (PA buffer and uncertainty cap) for DLS as well as the use of catch data to produce catch advice. The EC is looking for possibilities to have MSY advice for DLS stocks, with high priority for economically important stocks including mackerel, anglerfish, megrims, *Nephrops* and pollock. Understanding how biodiversity concerns can be addressed within the DLS framework is also a priority.

- 3) Outcomes of ICES WKMARS, Stockholm, 4–5 November 2013 (Eibhlín O’Sullivan and other RAC Secretariats) (*Agenda item 8*);

The RACS expressed frustration at the way projects are assessed and then funded via the EU framework system. There was broad agreement that the expectation of tools for management would naturally flow from these projects was unrealistic. The proposal evaluation mechanism should change. There was also agreement that “stakeholder” fatigue was prevalent throughout the system.

- 4) Review of evolution in the role of the stakeholders in the ICES advisory process (e.g., benchmark process, ACOM ADGs...)

There was a general appreciation of the openness of ICES to let stakeholders participate in the advisory process. However, also stakeholders faced restraints in their resources, which were both an issue of having an expert available to participate in a meeting as well as an issue of not being able to participate in the entire meeting, but only for one to two days.

Acknowledging that cooperation takes time, there was a fear that the workload runs the risk of destroying the existing interaction and dialogue with stakeholders.

One way to solve this would be by enrolling more persons to the ICES training courses as well as using the Working Group on Maritime Systems (WGMARS) as a think tank to deal with this issue.

Summary

The increasing work load influences the possibility for stakeholders to send experts to the meetings and participate throughout their entirety. There are no easy solutions to this.

Upcoming activity

The next meeting of WGMARS (planned for December, 2014 – which many found was a difficult month) could be asked to look into this. The ICES training programme could be an intermediate solution.

- 1) Open discussion with ICES on methodology and timescale for implementation of MSY framework to fisheries management in light of the CFP Basic Regulation which introduces some flexibility in the system; i.e. MSY shall be reached by 2015 where possible and, at the latest by 2020 for all stocks.

The ICES transition to the MSY advice which has been applied to the ICES advice since 2010 with a gradual reduction in F advice has now come to its final step where ICES will advise on F_{MSY} . Thus, this is in line with the time frame of 2015 in the new CFP. There is however some uncertainty about how to deal with biomass levels in the MSY context. For instance all stocks cannot be rebuilt to MSY biomass levels as they are estimated based in single stock models. The solution is an ecosystem approach instead. ICES will continue working on this. The dialogue meeting in autumn 2014 or spring 2015 is part of this plan.

The Pelagic RAC proposed the following item for discussion:

- 1) Procedure that ICES uses when choosing external reviewers.

This was specifically about ICES advice re blue whiting. The Pelagic RAC had developed a HCR, but the review was negative. ICES explained that independence and relevant qualifications are guiding principles and that it would be against the integrity of reviews if ICES would try to influence the process by selecting reviewers based on anything else.

10 AOB

ICES noted that the MIRAC meeting in practice had become a meeting between ICES and stakeholders and stated that ICES wished the meeting to serve such a general purpose in the future. This means that the scope of the meeting should be expanded to include non-EU issues and to include stakeholders with an interest in policies beyond fisheries policy.

Some RACs and a COM representative expressed a wish to maintain a specific RAC space in the meeting. ICES stated that a future stakeholder meeting with an expanded scope would be set up to accommodate the wishes of the RACs within the meeting.

Annex 1: Participants list

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX	E-MAIL
Michael Andersen BSRAC	Danish Fishermen's Association Fredericia Nordensvej 3 Taulov 7000 Fredericia Denmark	Phone +45 70 10 9645 Fax Cell: +45 4026 5040	ma@dkfisk.dk
Christine Absil	The North Sea Foundation Drieharingstraat 25 3511 Utrecht Netherlands	Phone +31 6145 14608	c.absil@noordzee.nl
Alexis Bensch EFCA	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Unit Operational Coordination Avenida Garcia Barbón, 4 E-36201 Vigo Spain	Tel: +34 986 12 06 45	alexis.bensch@efca.europa.eu
Anne Christine Brusendorff	ICES H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +45 33386701	anne.christine@ices.dk
Antonio Cabral LDRAC	Edifício Vasco da Gama, Bloco-C, Piso 1 Rua General Gomes d Araujo 1399-005 Alcantara-Mar Lisbon Portugal	Phone +351 21677248 Fax +351 50 09	adapi.pescas@mail.telepac.pt
Sally Clink BSRAC	Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council H.C. Andersens Boulevard 37, 3rd Floor 1553 Copenhagen K Denmark	Phone +45 21677248 Fax +45 33 93 50 09	sc@bsrac.org
Anne Cooper	ICES H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark		anne.cooper@ices.dk
Barrie Deas NSRAC	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations 30 Monkgate YO31 7PF York United Kingdom	Phone +44 Fax +44	barrie@nfpo.org.uk

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX	E-MAIL
Poul Degnbol	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +45 33386763 Fax +45 3393 4215	Poul.degnbol@ices.dk
Mark Dickey-Collas	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark		Mark.dickey-collas@ices.dk
Lorna Duguid NSRAC	NSRAC Secretariat Cammach Business Centre Greenbank Road East Tullos AB12 3BN Aberdeen Scotland United Kingdom	Phone +44 Fax +44	lorna.duguid@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Carmen Fernandez	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +34 (620) 588 360	Carmen.Fernandez@ices.dk
Kenn Skau Fischer NSRAC	Danish Fishermen's Association H.C. Andersons Blvd. 37 DK-1553 Copenhagen Denmark	Phone +45 3336 6028/+45 5119 9537 Fax +45	ksf@dkfisk.dk
Evangelia Georgitsi	European Commission Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 200 rue de la Loi B-1049 Brussels Belgium	Phone +32 Fax +32	Evangelia.GEORGITSI@ec.europa.eu
Helle Gjeding Jørgensen	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +45 33386753 Fax +45 3393 4215	hgj@ices.dk
Eskild Kirkegaard Chair	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +45 33 96 33 42 Fax +45	ek@aqua.dtu.dk
Sebastian Linke Observer	University of Gothenburg P.O. Box 100 SE-405 30 Gothenburg Sweden	Phone +46 735736703 Fax +46	sebastian.linke@sts.gu.se

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX	E-MAIL
Steve Mackinson Observer	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) Lowestoft Laboratory Pakefield Road NR33 0HT Lowestoft Suffolk United Kingdom	Phone +44 1502 524295	steve.mackinson@cefas.co.uk
Conor Nolan NWWRAC	NWWRAC Secretariat P.O. Box 12 Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin Ireland	Phone +353 1 2144278 Fax +353 2300564	Cnolan@bim.ie
Verena Ohms PRAC	Pelagic RAC Secretariat PO Box 72 2280 AB Rijswijk Netherlands	Phone +31 63 3756 324 Fax +31 70 399 9426	v.ohms@pelagic-rac.org
Christian Olesen PRAC	Danish Pelagic Producers' Organisation Willemoesvej 2 9850 Hirtshals Denmark	Phone +45 9894 4239 / +45 40203239	co@pelagisk.dk
Kenneth Patterson	European Commission Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 200 rue de la Loi B-1049 Brussels Belgium	Phone +32 22 998 227	Kenneth.Patterson@ec.europa.eu
John Simmonds	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +44 1751 430695	simmonds@ices.dk
Henrik Sparholt	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone +45 33386723 Fax +45 3393 4215	henriks@ices.dk
Kari Stange Observer	Wageningen UR Centre for Marine Policy P.O. Box 1528 8901 BV Leeuwarden Netherlands	Phone +31 Fax +31	kari.stange@wur.nl

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX	E-MAIL
Alexander Stein	European Commission Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 200 rue de la Loi B-1049 Brussels Belgium		Alexander.STEIN@ec.europa.eu
Björn Stockhausen LDRAC	Seas at Risk Rue d'Edimbourg 26 1050 Brussels Belgium	Phone +32 Fax +32	bstockhausen@seas-at-risk.org
Mark Tasker	ICES H. C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46 1553 Copenhagen V Denmark	Phone + 44 1 224 266551 Fax + 44 1 224 896170	mark@ices.dk

Annex 2: Agenda

MIRAC Meeting

Chair: Eskild Kirkegaard, ICES Secretariat

15 January (1pm)–16 January (1pm)

Draft Agenda

- 1) Opening of the meeting
- 2) Adoption of the agenda
- 3) Feedback from the 2013 advisory process

Meeting participants will be invited to report on their experience of working with ICES during 2013 and to present their research and advisory needs, and discuss ICES experience of participating in RAC meetings in 2013.

- 4) Review of advice in 2013 and new developments in 2014

Progress and follow up of points from the 2013 MIRAC meeting will be reviewed. The meeting will be invited to discuss the plan for further development of ICES advice in relation to catch based advice, MSY, mixed fisheries, integration of multispecies considerations and further move towards integrated advice and prepare for dialogue meeting regarding MSY in an ecosystem context in the autumn of 2014.

- 5) Requests for advice, Workplan 2014 and arrangements for communication with stakeholders

The meeting will be invited to discuss practical arrangements in 2014 for cooperation between (R)ACs/stakeholders and ICES, including procedures for delivering and discussion of the ICES advice.

- 6) Advice dissemination including the ICES web site and popular version of advice

The meeting will be invited to provide feed-back on the ICES website, launched in 2013, and on the popular advice published in 2013.

Document 13: Popular Advice

- 7) MSY; in an ecosystem context

The meeting will be invited to discuss an ICES Dialogues meeting regarding MSY in an ecosystem context in autumn of 2014.

Document 8: proposal for dialogue meeting.

- 8) Outcomes of ICES WGMARS 2013 November meeting

Document 9: WGMARS 2013 report.

- 9) Points from the RACs:

- 9.1) The NWWRAC would like to propose the following items for discussion:

- 9.1.1) Review on cooperation between ICES and RACs in relation to data deficiencies for stock assessments: state of play and way forward (intro by Barrie, then open discussion); Docs 10a and b;

- 9.1.2) Latest developments in methodology for data-limited stocks; i.e. conclusions of WKLIFEIII, WKUPDATE, etc. (Presentation by ICES Doc 4ii);
- 9.1.3) Outcomes of ICES WKMARS, Stockholm, 4–5 November 2013 (Eibhlín O’Sullivan and other RAC Secretariats) (*Agenda item 8*);
- 9.1.4) Ideas for engagement of RACs/stakeholders in project design and at the preliminary stages of Project application (for debate);
- 9.1.5) Review of evolution in the role of the stakeholders in the ICES advisory process (e.g. benchmark process, ACOM, ADGs...) For debate;
- 9.1.6) Open discussion with ICES on methodology and timescale for implementation of MSY framework to fisheries management in light of the CFP Basic Regulation which introduces some flexibility in the system; i.e. MSY shall be reached by 2015 where possible and, at the latest by 2020 for all stocks.
- 9.2) The Pelagic RAC would like to propose the following item for discussion:
 - 9.2.1) Procedure that ICES uses when choosing external reviewers.
- 10) AOB