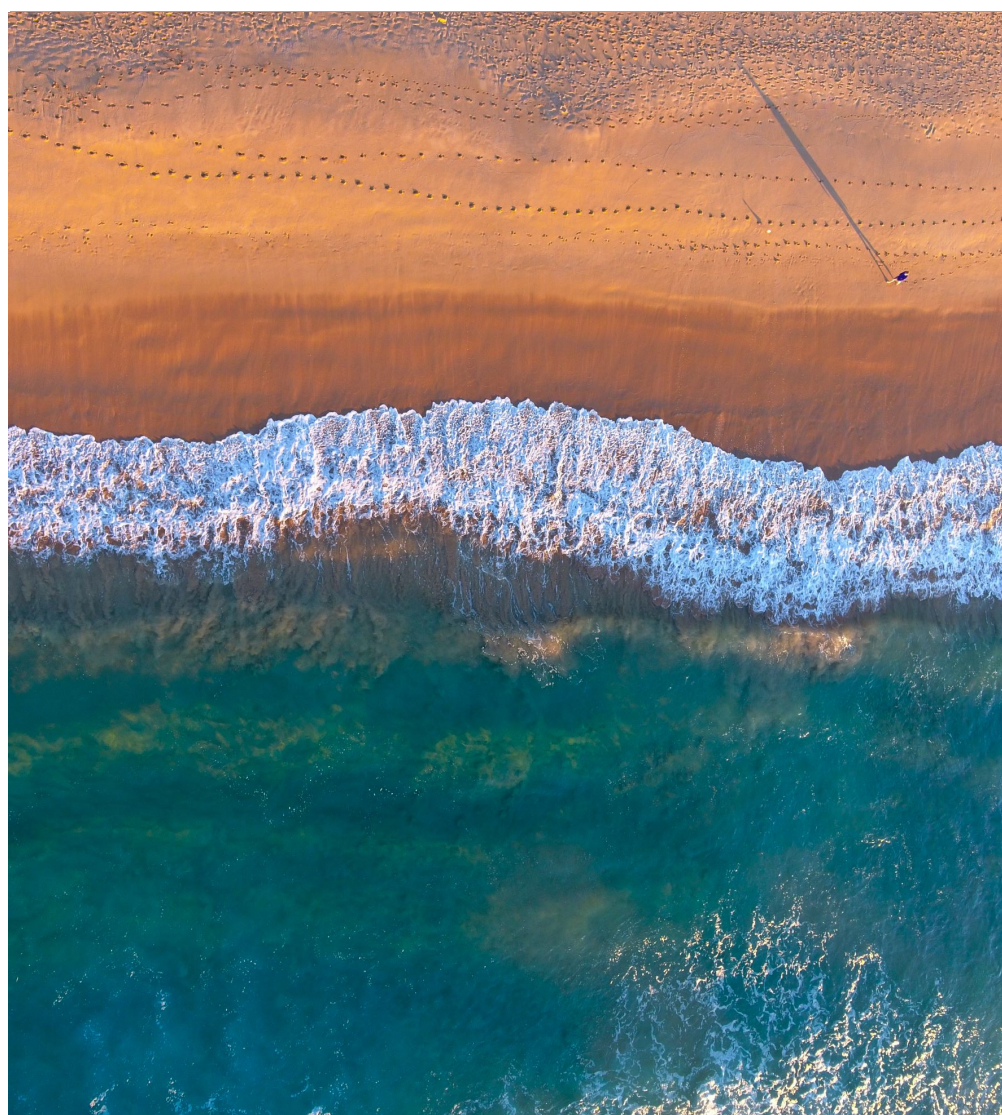


# ICES Quality Policy

Version 1 | August 2023

**ICES GUIDELINES  
AND POLICIES**



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# ICES Guidelines and Policies

## ICES Quality Policy

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# i Background

## Policy scope

Quality assurance is key to the ICES mission to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals. The ICES quality policy is founded on the 10 principles that guide the advisory process and, as such, extends to all elements of the ICES mission. This policy will guide members of the ICES network and inform stakeholders and the general public about the quality policy and ICES commitment to implementing it using the ICES Quality Management System.

## Changes since the last version

Location	Change description
NA	<i>This is the first version of these guidelines</i>



# 1 Introduction

ICES mission is to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals. ICES advice is produced through an advisory process, the 10 principles of which form the basis of this Quality Policy.

It is the policy of ICES to implement these principles using ICES Quality Management System, with progress measured through regular monitoring and communication with ICES advice recipients and stakeholders. ICES commits to continual improvement of this quality management system and to maintaining its CoreTrustSeal accreditation.

# 2 Principles of ICES Advice

## Guidelines for advice

**Principle 1.** The guidelines and procedures to produce ICES advice are documented, openly accessible, and up-to-date.

## Request formulation

**Principle 2.** Final request formulation is agreed through dialogue to clarify the requester's needs and expectations, the ICES process, likely resource implications, timelines, format of advice, and roles and responsibilities of the engaged parties.

**Principle 3.** Where possible, existing policy goals, objectives, and the level of acceptable risk relevant to the advice request are identified. Where these objectives and descriptions of risk are unclear, ICES will identify these in the advice, and, where possible, provide options for management action and the consequences of the options and their trade-offs.

## Knowledge production and review

**Principle 4.** The deliberations of all relevant expert groups are published by the time the associated advice is published.

**Principle 5.** The best-available science and quality-assured data are used. ICES selects and applies relevant methods for any analysis, including the development of new methods. The methods are peer reviewed by independent experts and clearly and openly documented.

**Principle 6.** Data are findable, attributable, researchable, reusable, and conform to ICES data policy. Data flows are documented.

**Principle 7.** To ensure that the best available, credible science has been used and to confirm that the analysis provides a sound basis for advice, all analyses and methods are peer reviewed by at least two independent reviewers. For recurrent advice, the review is conducted through a benchmark process; for special requests through one-off reviews.



## Advice release

**Principle 8.** Advice is comprehensive, unambiguous, and consistent with the synthesized knowledge, while taking the peer review into account. All advice follows existing advice frameworks and any deviation from the frameworks or related, previous advice is identified and justified.

**Principle 9.** All ICES advice is adopted by the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), through consensus, prior to being made available to the requester and simultaneously published on ICES website.

**Principle 10.** ICES provides advice as an impartial response to a request, and does not lobby the requester or any other party to implement its advice.

# Annex 1: Detailed version history

Version	Date	Major changes
1	August/2023	Policy established