

2020 →  
2018 - 2019  
2016 - 2017  
2014 - 2015  
2012 - 2013  
2010 - 2011  
2008 - 2009

ICES CONTRIBUTION TO MAJOR MSFD MILESTONES

ICES coordination and contribution to Commission Decision (2010/477/EU)

ICES MSFD D3+ Report

Possibility to contribute to and peer review monitoring guidelines and programmes, integrated ecosystem surveys, as well as programme of measures.

Input for the second cycle related to development of methodological standards for monitoring for GES and to compatibility between regions

MEMBER STATES

Initial assessment, GES, environmental targets, indicators

Establish and implement monitoring programmes

Develop programme of measures

Programme of measures initiated

Achieve good environmental status

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commission Decision: Criteria and methodological standards on GES (2010/477/EU)

Reply and provide guidance on initial assessment environmental targets, indicators

Progress report: establishment of Marine Protected Areas  
Reply and guidance on monitoring programmes

First evaluation report on implementation of directive



### Learn more

Visit [www.ices.dk](http://www.ices.dk) to learn more about how ICES is contributing to the development of the science needed for implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

### ICES Member Countries

Belgium, Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.



SEPTEMBER 2012

## ICES and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive – Providing the science needed for implementation



## ICES and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive –providing the science needed for implementation

ICES, established in 1902, is an intergovernmental organization whose main objective is to improve the scientific knowledge of the marine environment and its living resources, and to use this knowledge to provide sound scientific advice on their use. This advice, provided to national competent authorities, and to international organizations such as OSPAR, HELCOM, NEAFC, NASCO, EEA, and the European Commission, is based on principles of sustainability and is underpinned by the ecosystem approach and, where necessary, the precautionary approach.

ICES is a network of more than 4000 scientists from 20 member countries and beyond, including Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, and South Africa. This wealth of expertise and experience coordinating marine science in the North Atlantic, North Sea, and Baltic Sea is rising to meet the science demands of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD; Directive 2008/56/EC). Contributing to the science development of the implementation of the Directive is also a contribution to the globally adopted ecosystem approach to marine management, a priority issue for ICES.

### How is ICES involved in the MSFD?

ICES has contributed throughout the MSFD development and implementation process by creating and managing task groups in cooperation with the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC). These groups provided the background information for the Commission Decision on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status (GES) of marine waters (2010/477/EU). In addition, ICES has produced a report providing guidance for the implementation of Descriptor 3 (commercially exploited fish and shellfish) which is available on ICES website.

EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive	ICES contribution
1. Initial assessment	Scientific development, benchmarking, and operationalization of integrated ecosystem assessments
2. Good environmental status	Operational and concept review, including development and test of new assessment methodologies.
2.a Indicators	Review of existing indicators, and selection and development of new integrated Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and MSFD indicators.
2.b Environmental targets	Development of methodologies to facilitate target setting and evaluation.
3. Monitoring programmes	Coordination of international monitoring programmes for fish stocks and ecosystems. Development of monitoring guidelines, programmes, and integrated ecosystem surveys.
4. Programmes of measures	Development of management strategy evaluation tools for simulation of management measures and review of proposed measures.
5. Marine spatial planning, including marine protected areas	Contributions to the development of next generation ecosystem-based marine spatial planning. Identification and review of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), proposed marine protected areas (MPAs), and ecologically and biologically significant areas (EBSAs)
6. Interregional cooperation	Supporting compatibility and coherence between regions.
7. Data handling, dissemination, and display	Provision of databases and data related services.
8. Training	Provision of tailor-made MSFD relevant training.
9. Networking	Sponsoring science symposia and conferences, and participating in external projects towards development, stimulation, and synthesis of relevant science. Strengthening cooperative science approaches.



### A unique collaboration

Using its extensive network ICES is prepared to create frameworks and initiate processes to further the application of the ecosystem approach, specifically with regard to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. This will be accomplished by working together with relevant organizations and countries, around the European regional seas as well as drawing on the experience of the Large Marine Ecosystem projects.

Existing ICES services (Data Centre, Training Programme, and expert networks) are already informing the MSFD implementation process, and can be expanded to meet future specific MSFD requests.

ICES maintains substantial international databases with long-term data series on marine living resources and the marine environment required for defining targets and setting thresholds for MSFD indicators. ICES is uniquely positioned to synthesize approaches that integrate across indicators, and to craft and tailor outputs and recommendations to the objectives of the Directive.



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