



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

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

MIACO

Doc 01a

Version 1, 8 December 2023

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**Meeting between ICES and Advisory Councils and other Observers  
(MIACO)**

**Thursday 18th (13:00) – Friday 19th (12:00) January 2024**

**Hybrid: physical & online**

**Chair: Colm Lordan**

**Draft Agenda (annotated)**

**1) Welcome and opening of the meeting.**

*Presentation of the new ACOM Chair, introductions, followed by code of ethics and professional conduct. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.21647825>.*

*Covid guidelines (doc 01b)*

**2) Adoption of agenda (Doc 02a).**

*Suggested dates for MIACO 2025 – 16-17 January 2025.*

*Minutes of MIACO 2023 in Doc 2b*

**3) Review of 2023 (Doc 03)**

*An overview of the advice process and the advice provided in 2023 is given in document 03.*

*MIACO is invited to review the advisory process in 2023 and to discuss any issues and concerns arose since the 2023 MIACO meeting. This will be done through round table contributions from each organisation represented, and observers.*

**4) Quality assurance of ICES Advice**

**a) Towards a Quality Management system (Doc 04a)**

*ICES advice is produced through an advisory process built on its ten principles. At its March 2023 meeting ACOM approved the Quality Policy proposed by WGQUALITY, the foundation of which is these ten principles. This has now been published at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.23864760>*

*ACOM also agreed at its meeting to begin to implement procedures to deliver the quality management system to meet the requirements of ISO 9001:2015. To that end a workshop [Workshop on the ICES Quality Management System. (WKQMS)] is planned for 2024.*

*MIACO is invited to comment.*

**b) Reproducibility of ICES advice (Presentation)**

*Over the past few years ICES has been engaging with the expert community to make all assessment and advisory products fully reproducible. This involves developing a number of key databases and the TAF tool to store and version control computer code/scripts used to process data and carry out the assessments. An overview of the various databases and TAF tool will be presented.*

*MIACO is invited to comment.*

## **5) Transparency of ICES advice**

### **a) ICES Guidelines on the formulation of advice requests (Doc 5a)**

*In October 2023 ICES published a new guideline the formulation of advice requests <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.24338032> . Transparency of the advisory process is best practice in the provision of advice for societal decision-making. The intended audience of these guidelines is ACOM, requesters of advice, and informed interested third parties.*

### **b) Advice eXplorer (Presentation)**

*adviceXplorer is the new app to access and visualise ICES advice on fishing opportunities. The app is fully integrated with ICES databases and services and allows users to quickly find, visualize and access the data used for advice.*

*adviceXplorer will be demonstrated, and MIACO will be asked to provide feedback as key end-users of the tool.*

## **6) Evolving Advice**

### **a) Advice on conservation aspects (Doc 6a)**

*ICES has stepwise implemented conservation advice in 2023. An overview of this implementation will be presented in Doc X. ACOM will carry out a detailed analysis on the implementation of conservation advice in 2023 for discussion at ACOM March 2024 meeting.*

*MIACO is invited to provide feedback on the conservation advice.*

### **b) Progress towards rebuilding scenarios in the advice (Doc 6b)**

*WKREBUILD2 has developed and implemented a tool to test different rebuilding scenarios. The main outcomes of WKREBUILD 2 will be presented.*

*MIACO will be asked to provide stakeholder perspectives on including rebuilding scenarios in the ICES advice.*

**c) Fisheries reference points**

*WKNEWREF the Workshop on the calculation and evaluation of new reference points for category 1-2 stocks will take place from the 5/2/2024 to 9/2/2024. The plan for the workshop will be introduced to MIACO.*

**7) ICES Roadmaps**

**a) Offshore Marine Renewable Energy roadmap (Doc 07a)**

*The science and advisory needs around offshore renewable energy is evolving rapidly. ICES need to address this in an agile and flexible way. The newly created ICES roadmap will be informal launch at the MIRIA and MIACO meetings.*

**b) ICES Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species by-catch roadmap (Doc 07b)**

*ACOM agreed in March 2023 to revise the text of the [ICES Roadmap for bycatch advice on protected, endangered and threatened species](#). The draft of the updated Roadmap will be presented and discussed during MIACO 2024.*

**8) Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) Advice (Doc 08)**

*The policy and management objectives around protection of VMEs are increasing and evolving in response to global biodiversity protection agreements and regional policies and strategies. ICES is a process of developing and improving the science and evidence-based advice on occurrence or likely occurrence of VMEs and the potential for significant adverse impacts of human activities.*

*There have been a number of challenges because the science and evidence base is also evolving and the expert resources work in this area are limited. ICES will present the developments to date and inform MIACO of plans to further improve the assessments and the advice in the short and medium term.*

**9) Stakeholder engagement strategy**

*The outcome of the Workshop on Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (WKSTIMP ) will be presented <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.23507958> . The next steps in terms of implementation will be discussed at MIACO.*

**10) Prioritisation of science needs**

*Last year MIRIA and MIACO were asked to consider emerging science needs.*

*ICES is currently reviewing the Science plan*

*MIACO will be asked to engage in an exercise to try to prioritise science needs required to underpin ICES advice and services.*

## **11) Mixed Fisheries (Doc 11)**

*ICES continues to develop mixed fisheries data and methods to progress in the development of its capacity to provide advice on multispecies fisheries. The Second Scoping workshop on next generation of mixed fisheries advice (WKMIXFISH2) took place in March 2023 <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.22665112>. The main conclusions of this group will be presented and the plans for 2024 will be outlined. The next steps include two important workshops planned back-to-back in March 2024: The Workshop on mixed fisheries fleets (WKMIXFLEET) in March 2024 and The third Scoping workshop on next generation of mixed fisheries advice (WKMIXFISH3).*

*MIACO is invited to comment.*

## **12) Providing advice in 2024**

### **a) ICES Advisory Work-plan 2024**

*The meeting will be updated with information on the Work-plan for ICES advice and relevant science initiatives in 2024.*

*MIACO is invited to comment on the presented plan including the timing for release of recurrent advice.*

### **b) Benchmark procedure (Doc 12b)**

*The meeting will be reminded of the current procedure for prioritising benchmarks and the ACOM review of benchmarks.*

*MIACO is invited to comment.*

## **13) Wrap up and close**

Proposed timing of MIACO 2024