



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

Thursday 23rd (13:00) – Friday 24th (13:00) January 2025

Hybrid: physical & online

Chair: Colm Lordan

Draft Agenda

1) Welcome and opening of the meeting.

The ACOM chair will outline the [ICES code of ethics and professional conduct](#). This will include a short roundtable of introductions from all participants.

2) Adoption of agenda

Any comments to the agenda should be before the 13th of January Doc 1. This will include a follow up of action points in Report of MIACO 2024 (Doc 2).

3) Overview of ICES advice produced in 2024

An overview of the ICES advice provided and advice process in 2024 will be presented (Doc 3).

MIACO will be invited to comment.

4) ICES Action Plan to Address Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance (QA) is fundamental to ICES advice. Acknowledging that there was an increased number of advice corrections/changes in 2024 ACOM leadership will present a review of the causes of errors. Many of the recent “errors” were due to underpinning data, model complexity and coding errors linked to workload, time pressures and resourcing. Ensuring the quality of scientific advice is an ongoing challenge involving many elements and collective responsibility. Ten new prioritised actions in 2025 will be proposed (Doc 4).

5) The future of fishing opportunities advice

a) Rebuilding, reference points and the advice framework

A MIRIA subgroup was established in 2024 to discuss rebuilding scenarios in ICES advice. This group met twice in 2024. The outcome of those discussions and further analysis by ICES will be presented. The Workshop on the calculation and evaluation of new reference points for category 1-2 stocks (WKNEWREF) report is now available and ACOM have accepted the groups recommendation to update and improve the guidelines for the calculation of reference points. These changes will be summarised. More broadly ACOM is still planning a workshop to evaluate the framework for advice

WKREFRAME which will look at the standard ICES advice rule and reference points for stock status definition.

MIACO will be invited to comment on these developments.

b) ICES mixed stock guidelines

At MIACO in 2024 the issue of consistency in approach for ICES advice on the management for mixed stock fisheries was raised. ACOM discussed this in March 2024 and published version 1 of the [ICES Guidelines for advice on fisheries that concurrently catch a mix of stocks of the same species](#) in May 2024. ACOM is currently reviewing the guidelines based on experience and feedback from the community and advice users. MIACO will be invited to comment.

c) Changes to fishing opportunities advice framework in 2025

MIRIA will be informed about some technical changes to the Advice Rules for category 2 and 3 stocks. And also, that ACOM will discuss the advice rule for stocks under B_{lim} in March due to concerns that providing non zero advice may not be precautionary.

6) The future of ecosystems service and effects advice

a) FEISA – what is it and how can we use it?

The [ICES FEISA framework](#) was published in March 2024 (Doc 6a). The framework will be explained using a windfarm analogy with some worked examples.

MIACO will be asked to discuss how the framework could be applicable to future ICES advice.

b) ICES overviews planning, next generation Ecosystem Overviews and Integrating overviews

ACOM and SCICOM have initiated two processes to further develop EOs and to integrate overview in the future. ACOM would like to receive feedback from MIACO on their views on the overviews and how they could be further developed.

c) ICES work on Offshore Renewable Energy roadmap and requests

The ICES ORE Roadmap was launched at MIACO in 2024. ICES will update on the work to address the roadmap objectives, progress on ORE related special requests and working with the Greater North Sea Basis.

d) Kunming Montreal Framework & Nature Restoration Regulation

ICES will provide an overview of the international policy and legislative drivers and how ICES is planning to develop the scientific knowledge base and in the future address requests related to biodiversity protection and restoration. ICES is planning a new expert group on the topic Workshop on Nature Restoration (WKREST) 4-7 March 2024.

MIACO is invited to comment and provide guidance on future advisory needed on this topic.

7) Improving communications with advice users

a) Stakeholder webpage & navigating ICES website

The new stakeholder webpage will be presented and feedback from MIACO will be sought.

b) Stakeholder engagement Strategy

SCICOM and ACOM have reviewed the WKSTIMP recommendations and also established WEGNAGE will take up the points of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

MIACO is invited to comment.

c) Revision of the Observer Rules

New Observer Rules were agreed at ICES Council 112 in November 2024. The changes will be explained (Doc 8).

MIACO is invited to comment.

8) ICES Advisory Work-plan 2025

The meeting will be updated with information on the Work-plan for ICES advice and relevant science initiatives in 2025.

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

9) Wrap up and close



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