



**ICES**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea

**CIEM**

Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

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For immediate release

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## ICES is leading the way to integrated understanding of marine ecosystems

The **International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)** is launching an ambitious new strategic plan, setting itself as a leader in advancing the integrated scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and providing advice on the sustainable use and protection of these ecosystems. The plan presents the direction for the organization over the next five years against the background of a rapidly changing marine science and policy landscape.

“By launching this plan ICES offers a strong, competent, and open scientific community that can support the sustainable management of the seas,” said Paul Connolly, ICES President.

“Our goal is to produce integrated advice that is based on innovative science and timely and accurate data while taking into account regional differences. Each regional sea area has unique challenges, and ICES possesses the expertise, experience, and creativity to address these.”

ICES has also made a number of strategic choices that will see it develop its science, advisory, and data work on the Arctic and on aquaculture, as well as enhancing its Training Programme.

The Strategic Plan will be implemented through one associated plan that will outline the Science, Advice, Data and Information, and Secretariat activities over the next five years.

The ICES Strategic Plan 2014–2018 is [now available online](#), and the **official launch** will take place at the Norwegian Mission to the EU, in Brussels, Belgium, **next Tuesday, 4 March 18:00–20:00**. Members of the press are invited to attend.

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### **Note to editors**

**The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)** coordinates and promotes marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, and the Baltic Sea. ICES advises international commissions and governments on marine policy and management issues related to the impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems and the management of the exploitation of living marine resources. ICES is working

towards integrated ecosystem assessments and integrated advice, delivered at the regional seas level. For more information, visit the [ICES website](#).