

Open Session: Functional links between pressure and state indicators

Monday 18 September 12:30-14:30

Room: Grand G

Conveners: Henn Ojaveer, Steering Group on Ecosystem Pressures and Impacts (SSGEPI), and Silvana Birchenough, Steering Group on Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics (SSGEPD)

The ICES Steering Group on Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics provides a forum for ICES Expert Groups working primarily on improving our understanding of the structure and function of marine ecosystems in the North Atlantic. The main aim of the Steering Group on Ecosystem Pressures and Impacts is to advance our existing knowledge on the relationship between human activities and marine ecosystems, mainly thereby estimating pressures and impacts, as well as developing sustainable science-based evidence to underpin advice and assessments.

While our understanding on the pressure and state indicators separately is relatively advanced, much remains to be done for establishing the operational links between these two aspects. However, this is essentially important, together with quantifying the effect of pressure indicators on state indicators, to support ecosystem-based management requirements.

This session will be used as a fora to communicate the most recent advances with targeted examples (e.g. from theory to applications) on the functional links between indicators of various human pressures (e.g., fisheries, eutrophication, contaminant and litter release, introduction of non-indigenous species, underwater noise) on marine ecosystem state indicators. This session will set the scene on: current policy priorities on pressure and state indicators, will help to illustrate the state of the art science and will help to broaden the science base evidence requirements set by the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Programme:

➤ Presentations:

- 'Setting the scene': what are the current policy drives? (Simon Jennings, ICES SCICOM).
- 'Developing indicators for emerging pressures: A marine litter example' (Thomas Maes, Cefas UK).
- 'Bringing benthic functional importance into the discussion on human impacts on marine ecosystems' (Andrew Gill, WGMBRED).
- 'Overview of benthic indicators and their role for ICES science and advice' (Steven Degraer, BEWG).

- 'Data poor, deep-sea areas: the importance of ecological and analytical tools for assessing Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in relation to fishing activity' (WGDEC, Neil Golding/Laura Robson)

➤ Brainstorm session to answer dedicated questions:

- What science is already available in or needed to be added to ICES EG's that could improve this process?
- How can we streamline this process, so maximising science into advice?
- How can we foster the integration of current approaches (structural and functional)?