

Strengthening stakeholder engagement with ICES

14th August 2013

Dear Regional Advisory Councils,

Recent discussions among ICES scientists, senior advisors and yourselves have been supportive of ideas for establishing a forum within the ICES WG structure to facilitate stronger working relationships between scientists and stakeholders. The RACs recent common position paper on the functioning of the RACs (15th April 2013) provides yet further justification.

Over recent months, discussions have led to the ICES Working Group on Maritime Systems (WGMARs), chaired by Dorothy Dankel, as being an ideal forum. WGMARs (formerly WG Fishery Systems) has a long history of working on fisheries governance related issues, and many of the scientists involved have experience in projects involving collaboration with stakeholders.

To move forward, the next steps are

1. RACs to reply to this correspondence, advising of their interest to be involved in establishing the forum within WGMARS.
2. Agree specific Terms of Reference for guiding the work of WGMARS. To catalyse input, we have taken the liberty to propose some Terms of Reference (ToR, Appendix 1) and ask kindly for your input to refine them prior to the meeting.
3. For stakeholders to participate in the next meeting, scheduled for 4-8 November at the Stockholm Resilience Centre in Sweden. It is proposed that Monday the 4th will cover issues on stakeholder integration.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Dorothy Dankel (chair WGMARS) and Steven Mackinson

Appendix 1. Proposed Term of Reference

ToR C. Stakeholder integration: establishing a forum within the ICES WG structure to facilitate stronger working relationship between the scientists and stakeholders

- **ToR C1.** Develop a strategic view on stakeholders research needs over the medium-long term.
- **ToR C2.** Establish best practices in stakeholder engagement in EU funded research projects. Provide an overview of relevant research projects, how they approach stakeholder engagement and how this could (or could not) fit into the RAC agendas.
- **ToR C3.** Jointly define future multi-annual Terms of Reference that promote sustained dialogue with stakeholders on strategic research issues and how to couple it to the delivery mechanisms for research and management. For example: supporting stakeholders and scientists to engage in research projects in ways that best supports their needs; establishing research science information standards for collaborative research; engagement models and protocols for WGs; knowledge co-construction and common language.