



To Mark Dickey-Collas, ICES ACOM Chair

9 November 2023

Dear Mark,

We are writing this with ease and effort at the same time. To relay the gratitude and respect we have for your work and the role you have played and continue playing in ICES is easy. However, parting with you takes effort because to many of us you have been the face of ICES' progressive policies toward a more inclusive, open, and transparent advisory process.

The Advisory Councils as fisheries stakeholder advisory bodies are one of the entities that have particularly benefited from ICES' policies under your leadership. Your dedication to sound fisheries and marine ecosystem science underpinning policymaking has been widely recognized and acknowledged. Your principled stance on various issues has made you an undisputed ambassador of robust evidence and salient advice required for the management of our common resources.

By communicating science in a way that is understandable to both experts and laypeople you have managed to engage stakeholders of various backgrounds. We share with you the belief that stakeholder involvement does not translate into weakened scientific advice. Instead, it strengthens its framework and its legitimacy. Your capacity to listen and accommodate even the most trivial of requests attests to the value you place on people above everything else. When needed, you are able to course-correct with humility and wisdom few can muster. Finally, your ability to prioritize strategically in the face of limited resources steered ICES' progress and evolution into a leading forward-thinking marine science organisation.

There is still much to do to bring about integrated ecosystem-based fisheries management, a concept ICES has advanced so much under your helm. As with so many other things, political will remains the key determinant of its realization.

Advisory Councils would like to thank you for your effort and commitment to solving the most pressing questions of marine ecosystems, and your welcoming attitude that made us, AC Chairs, members, secretariats, and observers eager to strengthen our engagement with ICES.

We wish you all the best with whatever you tackle next.



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