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## ICES Overviews planning, next generation Ecosystem Overviews and Integrating Overviews

### 1 Purpose

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To update MIACO on planning for the ICES Overviews in 2025, including revision processes and strategic developments for optimisation and integration. MIACO are invited to comment on development priorities for each of the overviews, on the purpose of WKEO4, and on the proposed plan for integrating overviews. MIACO are also asked to confirm interest in engaging with WKEO4 and the overviews integration process.

### 2 Background

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ICES Overviews provide the context for ecosystem-based management of human activities affecting the marine environment and marine living resources throughout the ICES region.

ICES has published [Ecosystem Overviews](#) for eleven ecoregions in the Northeast Atlantic and for the Central Arctic Ocean ecoregion. [Fisheries Overviews](#) have been published for all ecoregions of the Northeast Atlantic where commercial fishing occurs. [Aquaculture Overviews](#) have been published for four ecoregions.

By the end of 2025, ICES will have released all three Overviews (Ecosystem, Fisheries and Aquaculture) for five ecoregions: the Celtic Seas, Norwegian Sea, Faroes, Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, and the Greater North Sea.

The original aim was for Ecosystem Overviews and Fisheries Overviews to be fully revised every 5 years, combined with regular updating. This process has revealed areas for improvements, both in terms of alignment with management needs and operational productivity.

### 3 Overviews development and planning 2025

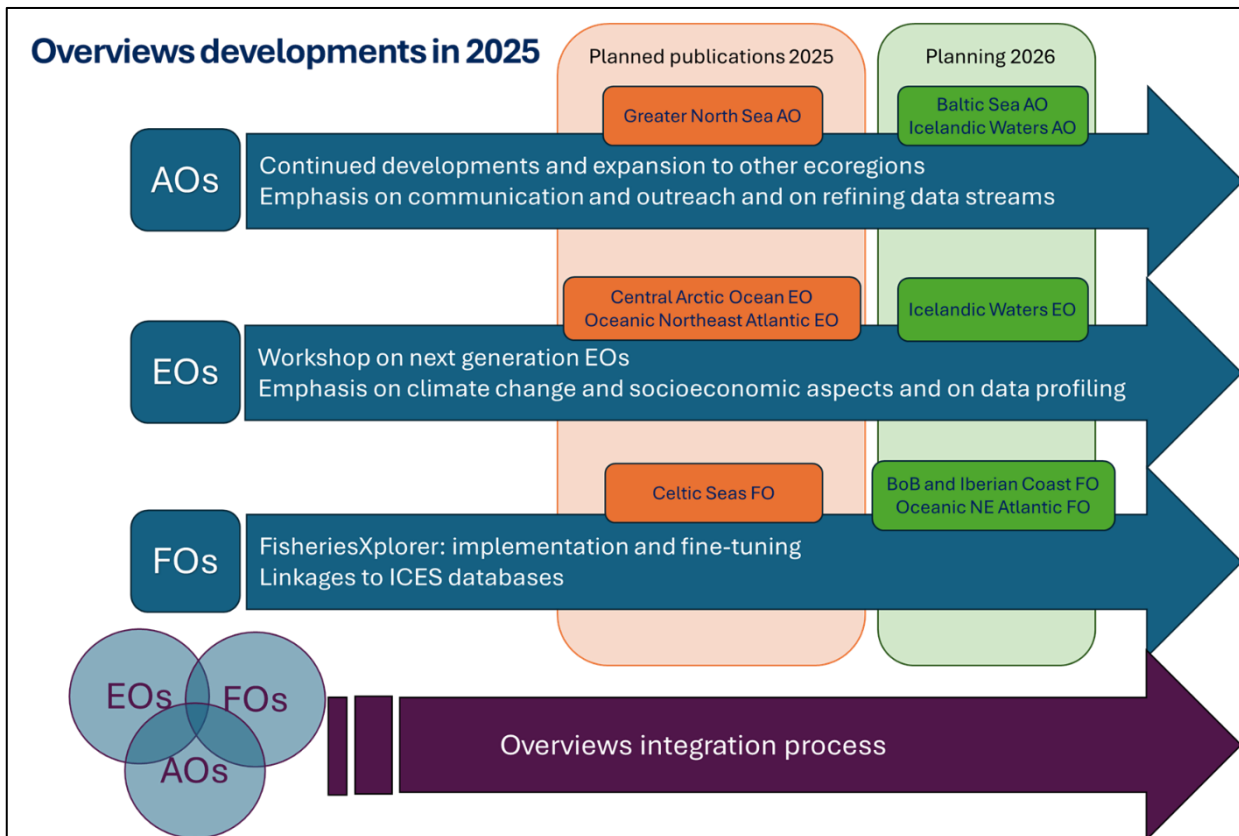
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Overviews development in 2025 will focus on integration and on the optimisation of both content and format to improve their relevance for decision makers and managers. Strategic developments will also be used to streamline the overviews production process within the ICES network and Secretariat.

Figure 1 summarises development priorities/emphasis for each of the Overviews, revisions to be published in 2025, current planning for 2026, and introduces a parallel process on the integration of overviews, which is set to begin in 2025 (see item 5 below).

Ongoing developments and expansion of Aquaculture Overviews (AOs) to other ecoregions will continue. A workshop on the next generation Ecosystem Overviews (EOs) will take place in 2025 (item 4 below). For Fisheries Overviews (FOs), the emphasis will be on the implementation and fine-tuning of the

FisheriesXplorer app (i.e. the interactive online portal for the FOs). Work is being undertaken to link FisheriesXplorer directly to the ICES databases (SIS, SAG and ASD). This will enable the updating of FOs figures directly in FisheriesXplorer, as new advice is being released.



**Figure 1.** Overviews development priorities in 2025, including Aquaculture Overviews (AOs), Ecosystem Overviews (EOs) and Fisheries Overviews (FOs). Planned publications indicate ecoregions for which a revision of the overview will be published in 2025. Planning for 2026 indicates ecoregions for which revision work has started or is being considered/discussed. A parallel process on the integration of overviews is introduced below (item 5).

#### 4 Workshop on fourth generation Ecosystem Overviews (WKEO4)

A strategic workshop on the next generation EOs will take place on 16-20 June 2025 at ICES HQ (hybrid meeting). The main purpose of the workshop will be to 1) advance and propose a structure for the inclusion of climate change and social and economic considerations in the EOs; and 2) develop recommendations to improve the utility of the EOs to meet ecosystem and climate-informed advisory and decision-making needs.

The workshop will take into account the [ICES Framework for Ecosystem-Informed Science and Advice \(FEISA\)](#), and will include a review and updating of priority and emerging topics to be considered in EOs (e.g. biodiversity), as well as the

development and fine-tuning of summary schematics and other interactive tools/formatting elements to improve communication and accessibility.

## 5 Integrating Overviews

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An ACOM subgroup discussed the potential merging of the overviews in 2024. The subgroup evaluated the content of the three overviews in terms of similarities and specificities and concluded to substantial overlap in the information delivered in Ecosystem and Fisheries Overviews. Two parallel options moving forward were proposed and discussed by ACOM:

- 1) A revision of the structure and content of the overviews to remove overlaps and better integrate relevant sections
- 2) The creation of a more holistic overview, including the definition of management objectives and use of available EOs, FOs and AOs indicators to evaluate performance relative to objectives and subsequent risks to meeting management objectives

ACOM approved the creation of a subgroup tasked with initiating the process of integrating overviews in 2025. Initial tasks will involve conceptual planning, selecting one or more ecoregion(s) as a test case for integrating overviews, and undertaking conversations with advice requesters and other partners to ensure alignment with management needs. The following aspects/tasks will be considered by the subgroup:

- 1) Dynamic integration through the use of online/interactive components
- 2) Development of case study examples to inform iterative developments and discussions
- 3) Objectives mapping at the ecoregion-level (e.g. conservation and sector-specific objectives including fisheries, aquaculture, ORE, and other ocean uses) and assessment of indicators suitability relative to objectives (e.g. are the current EO, FO and AO indicators fit for purpose in evaluating objectives?)

A stepwise procedure initially prioritising the integration of Fisheries and Ecosystem Overviews may be considered. The subgroup will be led by ACOM Vice-Chair and include members from Secretariat, ACOM and SCICOM (i.e., SG Chairs). The Overviews integration will be a results-oriented and participatory process guided by the [ICES Framework for Ecosystem-Informed Science and Advice \(FEISA\)](#).