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International Council for
the Exploration of the Sea
Conseil International pour
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“Ecological Basis of Risk Analysis for Marine Ecosystems” symposium taking place in Finland in June

The world’s marine ecosystems are facing an increasing number of challenges. Fishing intensity is high, and there are several other risks such as possible oil spills from drilling and transportation, climate change, eutrophication, and risks associated with aquaculture. The aggregate analysis of multiple interacting risk factors is a challenging task for scientists. While risk assessment methods are well established in scientific areas like finance, health, and insurance, they are less so in areas like resource management, and climate change.

The ICES/PICES Symposium on “Ecological Basis of Risk Analysis for Marine Ecosystems”, to be held 2-4 June 2014, in Porvoo, Finland, will tackle this challenge. The symposium will explore how science can identify and quantify uncertainty, and develop methods to better deal with this uncertainty so that resource management may be more effective.

“If scientists leave out some risk factors from scientific advice, the overall risk associated with implementing this advice—or achieving its desired outcomes— may be underestimated. Moreover, it is important to identify which factors can be effectively managed and which can only be taken into account. For example, weather variability cannot be managed by any tools, but there are many approaches in fisheries management that can be used to manage multiple risks,” says symposium co-convener, Professor Sakari Kuikka from the University of Helsinki.

Abstract submission for the symposium is open until 28 February 2014. The symposium is organized jointly by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), and the FB ECOKNOWS project (Effective use of ecosystem and biological knowledge in fisheries). Visit the [symposium website](#) for more information.

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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 competent authorities (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.

[The North Pacific Marine Science Organization \(PICES\)](#) coordinates and promotes marine scientific research in the temperate and sub-Arctic region of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas. PICES is an intergovernmental scientific organization with 6 member countries, and its goals are to (1) advance scientific knowledge and capacity available for the member countries, including information on human activities affecting, and affected by marine ecosystems, and (2) provide a mechanism for collaboration among scientists in addressing timely and critical scientific questions.

[ECOKNOWS](#) is EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) focusing on the development of stock assessment methods. Especially, it aims to better use of all biological knowledge, including learning of biological parameters between stocks and species to be able to answer to challenges of ecosystem based fisheries management, including by-catch problems where data may be limited. The project has 13 partners from 10 countries.

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