newly nominated experts. We will come back to the ideas identified during the brainstorming session of the 2018 BICEpS colloquium and priority actions. Since then, a website hosted by ICES has been created. It serves as a central node for information for our community. There, you can find the annual report of activities, announcement of our activities, the newsletter and soon, a compilation of mini CV's of our experts. At the end of 2018, a reflection was initiated on the opportunity for Belgium to take her turn in hosting the ICES Annual Science Conference. The group will also be invited to position himself on this opportunity. No doubt the 2019 edition of the colloquium will raise new ideas, set priorities and get more researchers in ICES sphere!

(2)   Good to know from ACOM – ICES Advisory Committee

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The **Advisory Committee (ACOM)** translates ICES science into advice on the sustainable use and protection of marine ecosystems. All advice produced is based on the precautionary principle and the ecosystem approach, and is reached by consensus. During 2018, ICES gave advice on fishing opportunities for 224 stocks, which represents approximately 90% of all fish catches in the North East Atlantic and Baltic Sea. 38 special requests & 9 technical request were additionally taken in by ICES, on impact of fisheries, in-year advice of fishing opportunities, F_{msy} ranges, MSFD guidance, pressures and impact on bycatch, mixed fisheries, fishing footprints, data quality, MSFD, VMEs&MPAs, biodiversity, etc. Additionally, 45 Advice Drafting Groups (ADG) and 51 ACOM WebEx took place. The ADG attendance has improved in 2018, mostly due to the new development of allocating nations to ADGs. Communication between the expert groups and ADGs is seen to be a perennial issue that could still be improved.

In 2019, a discussion started within ACOM, different from past ones aiming at the creation of a framework for ecosystem advice, not fisheries advice but advice that concerns the whole picture and has a fisheries part. Assessing the impact of the implementation of the advice becomes clearer when considering that this framework will be used to advise on management of human activities. Presenting ecosystem risks and trade-offs to management is different to including ecosystem parts into fisheries advice.

The new ICES Strategic Plan consists of a Science Plan and an Advice Plan. The Advice Plan has the objective to translate the knowledge created on science. ICES advice aims to **effectively meet** societal needs based on credibility, legitimacy, trust & transparency, quality and relevancy & reachability. For the new Advice Plan, six priority areas are proposed: assuring quality, incorporating innovation, profiling benefits, sharing advice, evolving advice and revealing needs.

The key areas to be further developed on the short term for ACOM are:

Mixed-fisheries and multi-species: the work on mixed fisheries is an important direction for ICES and is progressing.

Fisheries and Ecosystem Overviews new Fisheries and Ecosystem Overviews need to be highlighted further to show how important these are to the stakeholders. A clearer direction for the Ecosystem Overviews is needed, whilst the Fisheries Overviews are more on track.

Benchmarks, ADGs and guidelines. The importance of the benchmark system is fundamental to ACOM. There are still difficulties in explaining the big changes in advice after a benchmark and this needs to be properly addressed.

ICES need to work further on the technical guidelines, particularly concerning what is a rule and what is a guideline.

The ICES community: there is a need to train new alternates to support a national ACOM member. This requires the investment of considerable time and it is not always evident to find experts willing to become alternates, as there is quite some workload required for an alternate, as well.