

# Navigating the ICES Foundation Safely in the Midst of Rapid Geopolitical Change

Without getting involved in politics!?

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# A reminder about the aims of the ICES Foundation

- ICES provides a forum to *highlight* and *review* the generation, analysis, and dissemination of data and models for better understanding and managing Earth systems, especially as they are affected by natural disasters, industrial accidents, energy use, and climate change
- Also, ICES seeks to identify funding sources for its various projects, traditional (as in EU funding) or non-traditional (e.g., Go Fund Me)
- It is with these aims that we have to think about “navigating” ICES

# Some issues of concern to ICES affected by changing geopolitics

- Climate change impacts and adaptation  
drought, wildfires, floods, sea level rise, receding glaciers, extreme weather, etc.
- The energy transition  
from the age of hydrocarbons to the age of renewables; sustainability investing
- Ecosystem and land degradation
- Species extinction
- Overfishing and ocean pollution
- Pandemics
- Rising world population—7.9 billion and growing
- Natural disasters—earthquakes (QLARM), hurricanes

# Some topics where ICES concerns are entangled with geopolitics

- The rise of disinformation, e.g. compliance with intl agreements, related to energy supply or water data
- Scientific collaboration, e.g., with Russia and China
- Theft of cutting-edge technology, AI, advanced research or product development
- Accuracy and adequacy of data—and how bad data can affect geopolitical decisions
- Data sharing and access—not so easy if not on speaking terms
- Decreasing flow of & access to information—Splinternet?
- Anti-science views increasing in some countries

# Navigating the dangers

- Geopolitics in essence all about competing national interests and therefore...
  - Conflict, disputes, tension, and struggle
  - So there is a need for awareness of the reality of the political world
  - And of the importance of steering clear of conflict in the activities ICES undertakes
- Michael Armitage to spotlight present and future dangers that can affect ICES
- David Lawson has some thoughts on how scientists and policymakers may better share their views and conclusions

# Discussion Questions

- How can ICES make its views known to policymakers (and do so by steering clear of politics)?
- At what scale (sub-national, national, or international) does ICES have the best opportunities for making a difference? Why?
- What emerging global issues should ICES be giving more attention to? Why? And how should it do so?