ACKNOWLEDGING the worldwide move towards ecosystem-based management of marine resources, a training course on "Using Ecosystem Modelling for Fisheries Management" was conducted at ICES HQ in Copenhagen 8-12 March 2010.

The training course was attended by 27 participants from 14 different countries and planned as a five-day intensive activity intended for scientists having prior experience with ecosystem modelling. Participants were expected to have at least a cursory familiarity with the Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) software.

The course organisers, Villy Christensen, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia and Steve Mackinson, CEFAS, UK said: "Considering the diverse backgrounds of the participants, it was a challenging task to set the right level of the course. However, based on feedback from participants, we managed to strike a suitable balance that enabled all participants to follow on different levels.

The atmosphere throughout the course was highly enthusiastic and intensive. Participants worked long hours showing keen interest in the topic with no sign of being overwhelmed. We were particularly successful in engaging the participants in key aspects of ecosystem-based management and related questions.

For further information on this course, please see here. Read more about ICES Training Programme here.