

# The Ugly Duckling that Turned into a Beautiful Swan (ICES Stock Assessment Database)

Once upon a time, there was an organization whose kingdom had dozens of loyal databases. The organization was very proud of them.



However, in one dark corner of the kingdom there was one database that wasn't really a database at all. Instead of being in a relational database, it was in a spreadsheet. This was the ugly duckling database, different from all the other databases.

Its data was highly sought after, and used to produce fish stock assessment graphs, which every year were used in management advice by the sea lords from the seven seas.

Once the data had been used, it was locked away and returned to the dark corner of the kingdom.



Two guards were posted at the entrance to the database. No loyal subjects in the organization's kingdom could query past stock data without first being challenged to a long cut-and-paste battle.

The organization searched high and low for an answer, and a brave knight and a noble lady came to their aid and were charged with creating an enchanted SQL server database, so all the kingdom could marvel at the stock assessment data.



And so it came to pass that a database was made, and the data was made available on the kingdom's website <http://sg.ices.dk> where dragons, magicians and the occasional scientist could download data or use the web services to their heart's content.



This ugly duckling became the pride of the organization and no longer hides in the dark corner of the Kingdom - everyone could now easily access all the stock data!

And it continues to grow, as the Queen's guards are developing an R library for other loyal subjects to access the database from their own kingdoms:

<https://github.com/ices-tools-prod>

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