Terms of Reference for STECF EWG-18-03 & 18-07 (EWG data check DCF fleet data and EWG for the production of the 2018 AER)

Background and general objectives

The AER has become one of the main sources of economic and social data for scientific advice on the performance of the EU fleets. It is also increasingly used by scientific bodies, national administrations and international institutions.

Given the increasing number of scientific uses of the AER and its growing complexity, there is a greater need to guarantee robust and precise data and their analysis as well as streamline the content of the report. This will be mainly achieved through:

- more concise and less descriptive chapters, supplemented by the JRC online data dissemination tool https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/da/fleet/
- the continued effort to provide more analytical outcomes, notably on drivers of profitability and trends at the EU and regional levels.

The trimming down of the AER is intended to achieve a more balanced effort/product exercise, concentrating on the core tasks of the AER on the one hand while freeing up some time and resources on the other so that EWG experts can focus on more applied economic analyses. Frequently asked questions following the publication of the AER include for example why a particular fleet segment has shown greater/lower profitability, what are the (possible/probable) underlining factors causing the increase/decrease in performance, etc.

In view of the above, the 2018 AER will provide a more in-depth look at the different factors driving the economic performance of the EU fleets with a special focus on the economic benefits of MSY (such as analysis of causality between stocks exploited sustainably and the improvement in the performance of the fleets), recovery of stocks and implementation of conservation measures. Other driver may include changes in first sale prices and operational costs, structural and marketing measures. The analysis will be done at EU, region (North Sea, Baltic Sea, etc.) and MS levels. The main socio-economic indicators, if possible and where relevant, should also be put into context with homologous figures at the EU and national levels, e.g., national average salaries, GDP, etc.

The 2018 AER will have specific section on the following fleet categories:

- a section on the EU small scale coastal. This section will investigate the factors behind the trends of the small scale coastal fleets, whether there are regional differences and the probable reasons for these differences.

- EU distant water fleets: this section will include an overview of the employment, profitability and salaries for the EU distant water fleets distinguishing main fishing areas (e.g. NAFO, ICCAT, IOTC).
- a section on the EU outermost regions. This section will include an overview of the employment, profitability and salaries across different outermost regions. It will also investigate the factors behind the trends identified.

- links between economic growth and resource use. This section will examine key drivers and indicators, in particular landings per unit of effort, gross value added by the different fleets, first sale prices, labour and capital productivity. It will examine for example trends in resource efficiency, i.e. fish landed per fishing day or day at sea, improvements in energy efficiency, etc.

**Specific objectives**

The specific objectives and priorities for the two working groups are:

- **EWG 18-03**: the first AER STECF meeting should lead to a data endorsement by the attending experts, detailed account of any data transmission issues (DTI) and the writing of concise national chapters. An economic forecast estimating performance for 2017 and beyond (if possible) should be attempted.

  As a matter of priority, the EWG is requested to ensure that all unresolved data transmission (DT) issues and failures encountered prior to and during the EWG meeting are recorded in the Excel Template for data transmission feedback provided by the STECF Secretariat https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guidelines

  The template must be completed and provided electronically to the JRC focal point by the closure of the EWG meeting. The JRC will ensure that the completed template is provided to EWG 18-07.

- **EWG 18-07**: the second AER EWG meeting will focus on developing applied economic analysis based on the submitted data. In particular, experts will produce a synthesis on the trends and economic results of the EU fishing fleet by sea-basin and aggregated at EU level, and identify the main factors behind these trends.

  As a matter of priority, the EWG is requested to review the Excel template for data transmission feedback arising from the EWG 18-03. Before the EWG disbands, the template should be amended to reflect any remaining or additional issues and failures identified during the EWG and provided electronically to the JRC focal point and to Venetia Kostopoulou and Oana Surdu, DG MARE Unit C3.
Outline of the AER

STECF is requested to provide the Annual Economic Report on EU fishing fleets for 2018 including, the following sections:

STECF OBSERVATIONS
EXPERT WORKING GROUP REPORT
EU FLEET OVERVIEW
• Fleet structure
• Fishing activity and output
• Employment and average salaries
• Economic performance
• Resource productivity and efficiency
• Summary of the main drivers and trends
• EU small-scale coastal fleet segments (key socio-economic indicators)
• EU distant water and outermost region fleets (key socio-economic indicators)
• Assessment of the economic performance for 2017 and 2018
REGIONAL ANALYSIS
• Baltic Sea, North Sea, North-east Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, EU Outermost Regions (distinguishing different outermost regions) and Other Fishing Regions (distinguishing main fishing areas such as NAFO, ICCAT, etc.).
NATIONAL CHAPTERS
• Including a brief section on small-scale coastal fleet segments (key socio-economic indicators) where relevant
• Including a brief section on EU distant water fleets (key socio-economic indicators) where relevant
• Including a brief section on socio-economic aspects where relevant including new social data and economic links with the main fishing communities,

ANNEX (METHODOLOGIES, GLOSSARY, ETC)

EWG structure, workflow and outputs
The first meeting will focus primarily on data quality and coverage. All data issues that may impact the quality and robustness of the analyses in the AER, and associated STECF reports (e.g. Balance) will be reported in the Data Transmission template. Any outstanding data issues not covered by EWG 18-03 will be followed up by EWG 18-07. This may occur if MSs resubmit revised data after EWG 18-03. That is, according to the data handling procedure, data submission may occur up to two weeks after the first meeting upon request of STECF or the JRC. EWG 18-03 will also produce final draft national chapters. The formulation of the national chapters is an integral part of the data checking process. Data and time-permitting, preliminary analyses for the EU overview chapter will be carried out.

EWG 18-07 will continue on from EWG 18-03 and produce final EU overview and Regional chapters. National chapters will be finalised if needed. Forecast projections for 2018 (Atlantic and Mediterranean) will be completed and incorporated into the various chapters. To produce the various expected outputs, the invited independent experts will be divided into 4 sub-groups during EWG 18-03. (Tentative planning):
Sub-group 1: Data quality and coverage issues (DT): Main output - detailed account of all data transmission issues by Member State, using the DT template provided. Support documents and tools - JRC data dissemination online tool in Tableau (‘Data Check reports); complementary Excel files if applicable; draft national chapters (in Word and Excel) produced by JRC prior to meeting. Process – during the first stage, national experts will review and assess their own MS data. If a MS is not represented at EWG 18-03, an expert will be assigned to assess the quality and coverage of the MS data submission and revision should be done in collaboration with the focal person from the MS in question via email, where possible. The second stage will include an independent review by a different expert. This independent review should not be undertaken in collaboration with the national expert in question. Time frame – day 1 to 3 for first stage (national expert review); day 4 and 5 ‘independent’ review and final output production (DT file).

Sub-group 2: Production of National chapters: Main output – final draft national chapters. Support documents and tool – the JRC data dissemination online tool in Tableau (National Chapter reports), draft national chapters in Word and Excel files produced by JRC prior to meeting, based on last year’s chapters (text) with updated tables and graphs. Process – while undertaking the data checking exercise, national experts will update and complement the draft national chapters provided by the JRC. Time frame – day 1 to 5, EWG 18-03 (+ day 1, EWG 18-07 if applicable)

Sub-group 3: Projections and Forecasts: Main output – review of the models (BEMEF and JRC database) used to project y-1 and y-0 and preparation/provision of preliminary estimates. Final estimates to be incorporated into the JRC database before EWG 18-07. Support documents and tool – DCF fleet data by fleet segment and preliminary projections produced by the JRC database, TACs and quotas for 2017 - 2018 (FIDES). Process – a small group of experts will review and update the methodology/models, including sensitivity analyses, and critically assess model outputs. Time frame – day 1 to 5, EWG 18-03

Sub-group 4: Complementary and additional analyses: Main output – selection and analysis of several important fleet segments / quota TAC units by MS and context socio-economic indicators at the EU and national levels to be inserted into national chapters, EU overview and regional chapters. Support documents and tool – MS and EU level Excel data files, TAC Dependency online tool, TACs and quotas for 2017 - 2018 (FIDES), Eurostat. Process – a small group of experts will review and analyse results from the TDI (TAC Dependency Indicator) and select several important TAC units and fleet segments by MS, review the results and comment. The group will also put into context several socio-economic indicators for the EU fishing fleet and MS fleets, such as employment, average salaries, GVA (GDP), etc. Time frame – day 1 to 5, EWG 18-03 + day 1 to 3 EWG 18-07

All relevant documentation and data are available on the DCF_JRC or STCF websites or will be made available on a dedicated EWG FTP.
Relevant documents:

- The Economic Performance of the EU Fishing Fleet (2017 AER)
- Assessment of balance indicators for key fleet segments and review of national reports on Member States efforts to achieve balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities
- Member States Annual Report on the National Data Collection Programmes
  http://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ars/
- Data-handling procedure for STECF Expert Working Groups
  http://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu