

STECF EXPERT WORKING GROUP EWG 18-11

Evaluation of fisheries dependent information for European Fleets

10-14 September 2018, Ispra

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Background

An STECF Expert Working Group on Fisheries Dependent Information will be convened from 10– 14 September 2018 in Ispra, Italy to review the data transmitted by Member States under the 2018 New-FDI data call (Ares(2018) 2607160 - 18/05/2018) to judge:

- i) If data submitted is complete in terms of areas of fishing, types of fleet segment and gear operated and species identified.
- ii) If data submitted is complete in terms of type of data requested: capacity metrics, effort metrics, landings, unwanted catch and spatially disaggregated landings and effort.
- iii) The level of compatibility between the effort data in the FDI database and that submitted to the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call.
- iv) The level of compatibility between the landings data in the FDI database and that submitted to the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call for those species listed in the latter call.

In addition, the EWG is asked to map the data on fishing effort obtained from the call for spatially disaggregated data and to judge whether some or all data provided is sufficiently complete to be disseminated publically.

In considering the completeness of the data submitted the EWG is entitled to use external sources of data where necessary, as well as expert judgement.

One of the motivations behind a comprehensive transversal database was the possibility to rationalise the DCF data call process. The Mediterranean and Black Sea data call requests data for a considerable number of tables specifically aimed at allowing stock assessments but the ‘fisheries’ tables of catch and effort in principle should be directly comparable to those from the FDI. A reduction in the number of tables requested under the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call and reduction in workload for member states is possible if true compatibility between databases can be demonstrated.

Terms of Reference: see annex

Annex – Terms of Reference

1 – Review and document completeness of the data set and feedback from Member States on approaches used and problems encountered in responding to the data call.

1. As a matter of priority, the EWG is requested to ensure that all unresolved data transmission (DT) issues encountered prior to and during the EWG meeting are reported on line via the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) available at <https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/web/dcf/dtmt>. Such issues should be reported in full before the EWG disbands.
2. Report on the level of consistency of data provided in response to the data call with EUROSTAT statistics. For 2015 and 2016 data compare total landings to those found in the EUROSTAT database. Comparison to be made by country, main species caught and by FAO level 3 area, (level 4 for the Baltic and Mediterranean).
3. In the interests of establishing common best practices, identify any aspects to answering to the data call that still need a common approach to be established.
 - a. Review methodology applied to partition data (numbers at length and age) from Tables C-F (aggregations according to sampling programs) to Table A (detailed catch table).
 - b. Agree a common approach to determining if data is the subject of data confidentiality and propose best practice for use of confidential data records. This includes treatment and presentation of data on the data dissemination site.
 - c. Discuss other issues that are relevant to the FDI data call and where possible conclude on a common approach to be used.

2 – Test the compatibility between the data collected in the New-FDI database and the data collected in the Mediterranean and Black Sea database.

1. For data from 2016 and 2017 and FAO area 37, compare
 - a. Metier names used.
 - b. Sums of effort (kWdays-at-sea, GTdays-at-sea, fishing days) at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Table_G_EFFORT of the FDI database and the Table D EFFORT of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 2, Appendix 2.4 of the Med&BS data call).
 - c. Sums of landings (tonnes) at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Table_A_CATCH of the FDI database and the Table A CATCH of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 2, Appendix 2.1 of the Med&BS data call). Comparison to be restricted to the species contained in Annex 2, Appendix 1.7 of the Med&BS data call.
 - d. Sums of unwanted catch (tonnes) at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Table_A_CATCH of the FDI database and DISCARDS quantities held in the Table A CATCH of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 2, Appendix 2.1 of the

Med&BS data call). Comparison to be restricted to the species contained in Annex 2, Appendix 1.7 of the Med&BS data call.

- e. Conditional on successful matching of the total landed weight and unwanted catch weight totals, compare numbers at length at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Table_A_CATCH of the FDI database and Tables B 'Fisheries landings at length' and Table C 'Fisheries discards at length' of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 2, Appendix 2.2 and 2.3 of the Med&BS data call). Comparison to be restricted to the species contained in Annex 2, Appendix 1.7 of the Med&BS data call.

3 -- Produce maps of spatial effort and landings by c-squares

1. Produce maps of effort and landings by c-square for the following regions (as defined in COM-2016-134 for areas other than 'distant waters') and major gear types (as defined in appendix 4 of the data call):
 - a. Baltic; North Sea; North Western Waters; South Western Waters; Mediterranean and Black Sea; Distant waters¹
 - b. Trawls (except beam trawls) with mesh < 100mm; trawls (except beam trawls) with mesh ≥ 100mm; beam trawls with mesh < 120mm; beam trawls with mesh ≥ 120mm; seine nets; gillnets and entangling nets; dredges; hooks and lines; surrounding nets; pots and traps.
2. Identify areas and fleets where spatial data was not available and propose possible ways forward.

4 –Provide catches, landings and discards data for exemptions in discard plans

STECF is asked to provide figures for catches, landings and discards, at a level of aggregation corresponding to the fleet, area and gear type as specified in each exemption of each of the discard plans.

Where there is insufficient discard data for the above task, the STECF is asked to provide estimated catches (landings + discards²).

¹ Defined here as waters not covered by the previously listed areas.

² 'Discards' are defined here as both discards at sea and landings below minimum conservation reference size and therefore relate to the 'unwanted catch' field in the FDI data tables.