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# Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

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## Revision of the EU-MAP and Work Plan template (STECF-19-12)

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#### Abstract

Commission Decision of 25 February 2016 setting up a Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, C(2016) 1084, OJ C 74, 26.2.2016, p. 4–10. The Commission may consult the group on any matter relating to marine and fisheries biology, fishing gear technology, fisheries economics, fisheries governance, ecosystem effects of fisheries, aquaculture or similar disciplines. This report deals with the revision of the EU-MAP and Work Plan template. The Expert Group report was reviewed during the 2019 STECF November plenary meeting

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# SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)

## Revision of the EU-MAP and Work Plan template (STECF-19-12)

The report of EWG-19-12 was reviewed by the STECF at its 62<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting held in Brussels, Belgium, 11-15 November 2019.

### Background provided by the Commission to EWG-19-12

Prior to the EWG 19-12 meeting, a compilation of comments from RCGs and data end-users on the EU-MAP revision had been carried out, containing a summary of main recommendations and a very first draft EU-MAP and WP template. As background for current work, the EWG 18-18 report was used, on the state of play of STECF and other relevant fora's recommendations for revision of the current EU-MAP.

The EWG 19-12 was asked to:

- with regard to the EU-MAP:
  - (i) critically assess if the basic principles of the DCF recast and the major recommendations by STECF have been taken into account in the draft EU-MAP and suggest amendments, where necessary;
  - (ii) produce a draft EU-MAP incorporating the revision recommendations of RCGs, end users, etc., validated by STECF experts. Where a recommendation has not been taken up, the EWG is requested to provide an explanation in the final report on the reasons why, while taking into account cost/benefit considerations, (future) data needs for the scientific support of the CFP, possibility to further define data collection at regional level, among others;
  - (iii) give advice on items which should not be in the future EU-MAP but still must be put into the WP or, for voluntary collection, elsewhere (e.g. Guidance document);
- with regard to the WP template:
  - (i) critically assess the draft WP template and guidelines stemming from the work of the dedicated contract and improve it where necessary. The assessment shall be done taking into account the need to align the new WP template with the draft revised EU-MAP as well as end-user needs;
  - (ii) produce a draft WP template (standard tables) and guidelines to be assessed by the STECF plenary;
  - (iii) produce complementary documents to further elaborate on the structure of the template, namely: description of possible links between the different tables of the template; an explanatory note justifying and explaining the inclusion/exclusion of tables in the WP template. The focus of the exercise should be on simplification, user-friendly formatting and standardisation.

### Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to review the report of the STECF Expert Working Group meeting, evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations.

A number of issues were not finalised during the EWG. These are:

On EU-MAP: environmental impact of aquaculture, finalisation of Table 1D on sensitive species, further MS requests for clarification on the list of mandatory surveys at sea.

On Work Plan template: Table 5A on quality assurance framework for biological data, guidelines for the Work Plan template; Section on list of meetings, recommendations, data availability and bi-international agreements.

On Work Plan draft decision: a compilation of necessary substantial changes to the decision draft; a correlation table (annex II) relating new EU MAP draft decision sections and tables to new WP template sections and tables.

STECF is requested to finalise the pending issues listed above. Where STECF considers that the expertise available is not appropriate to address a request, a proposal for relevant expertise is needed.

STECF is also requested to reflect on the role conferred to the RCGs in the EU MAP and how to guarantee the EU data collection objectives are met should the regional coordination not deliver timely or suitable solutions. Additionally, the plenary is asked to verify if all Commission recommendations received in preliminary stages have been addressed in the final EWG 19-12 report.

### **STECF observations**

EWG 19-12 met from 16-20 September 2019 in Brussels. The meeting was attended by 29 experts, 2 participants from JRC and 3 from DG MARE. In addition, several participants from DG MARE and DG ENV attended the meeting part-time.

STECF observes that the main input provided for the meeting was a very useful ad-hoc contract report from July 2019. The report included a summary of replies from several MS, end-users and Regional Coordination Groups (RCG) to the provided consultation questionnaire (developed during STECF EWG 18-18). It also included options for the EU-MAP revision, proposals for EU-MAP tables & text and for national Work Plan templates and guidance. For the meeting there was additional input from COM (DG MARE, DG ENV) summarized in a second ad-hoc contract for the EWG meeting. STECF observes that EWG 19-12 was able to address all TORs regarding the revision of the EU-MAP. This included a draft of the Delegated Decision, the Draft Implementing Decision (Surveys & Thresholds) and Draft EU-MAP tables. EWG 19-12 did also finalise most of the Text Boxes and submission guidance for the Draft Work Plan templates. However, the EWG was not able to address all tables for the Draft Work Plan template and was only able to address a part of the Decision text on the Work Plan template due to lack of time.

STECF observes that EWG 19-12 followed the basic principles provided by DG MARE to draft the EU-MAP documents. STECF considers that the revised version has managed to keep the core requirements, to stabilise and simplify where possible, remain flexible to be able to adjust the data collection to end-user needs and to utilise fully the mandate of RCGs<sup>1</sup>. An example of such flexibility and simplification is the replacement of the tables with the list of species for RFMOs with a table of the legal documents (Table 1D) including the species. In the case a RFMO changes the species list in the legal document it becomes automatically valid for the EU-MAP without a necessity to also adjust a species list in the EU-MAP.

For the draft documents of the EU-MAP, the EWG took into account the DCF recast principles (2017), previous recommendations by STECF, end users, MS, RCGs/PGECON, background documents (e.g. project reports), the July contract work and COM inputs (DG MARE, DG ENV).

STECF observes that EWG 19-12 proposed the following changes to the EU-MAP:

- Chapter 1 Definitions: The EWG aligned the definitions to the CFP and DCF recast and updated the references.
- Chapter 2 Data collection methods: The EWG added a clause allowing data collection programmes to adapt to ongoing improvements in best practices in the sampling methodology.

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<sup>1</sup> The mandate (according to the DCF recast Reg. 2017/1004) includes that RCGs shall aim at developing and implementing procedures, methods, quality assurance and quality control for collecting and processing data. This includes a view to enabling the reliability of scientific advice to be further improved. For that purpose, RCGs shall aim to develop and implement regional databases. The RCGs shall include experts appointed by MS, including national correspondents, and the EU Commission. Regional coordination groups may prepare draft regional work plans, which shall be compatible with this Regulation and with the multiannual Union programme.

- Chapter 3 Data requirements: The EWG added catch and effort data of eel in inland waters of commercial fisheries as required by Reg. 1100/2007<sup>2</sup>.
- Chapter 3 Data sets: Biological data: Replacement of wording 'stocks' by 'exploited marine biological resources' because this is the official definition in the CFP Basic Regulation; and restructuring of the text to improve clarity.
- Chapter 3 Data sets: Ecosystem data: The EWG deleted the term 'pilot studies' from the text (as this term was open for interpretation and the data requirements on ecosystem data are already included now) and restructured the text related to a) incidental by-catch, b) marine habitats, c) other (e.g. predator-prey relationship, natural mortality).
- Chapter 3 Social and economic data: It was unclear to the EWG whether the DCF recast kept the data collection voluntary or made it mandatory again. DG MARE clarified that the data collection needs to be mandatory again and this is included in the revised version of the EU-MAP.
- Changes in Tables:
  - o The list of stocks was removed and only one list of management units is included
  - o For fishing activity kW/GT\*days-at-sea, No. of FADs/buoys/support vessels were added
  - o In the tables on economic data, the variable 'full-time equivalent (FTE)' was added under 'Employment' and some minor amendments made
  - o In the tables on social data of the processing industry, FTE by gender was added
  - o For fleet segmentation and geographical stratification, a dominance criterion was added
  - o Environmental data on aquaculture was deleted as the end-user needs were not clear and this data has to be collected via other legislations, such as hygiene and animal health regulations. (see also Add.1 below)
  - o For Surveys-at-sea, the new list from EWG 19-05 on mandatory surveys was included
- For the implementing Decision the following changes were made:
  - o The text was amended for clarity
  - o The threshold for collecting data on recreational fisheries was removed
  - o A sentence clarifying that 'No threshold shall apply to sensitive species' was added
  - o The threshold for participation in surveys-at-sea was increased from 3% to 5% of the target species TAC/landings. This means that MS are requested to participate in surveys only in cases their quota/landings share is minimum 5%. The recent cost-sharing exercise with the lower threshold of 3% raised concerns and proved hard to implement, so the EWG proposed to return to the 5% threshold successfully used before.

STECF observes that for the Work Plan template revision various amendments were issued for clarity and some tables were merged. There is, however, more work still needed regarding the biological data once the EU-MAP is finalised and also regarding the adjustment of the Work Plan template to the final contents of the revised version of the EU-MAP.

STECF observes that for economic data the EWG included a new geographical indicator for outermost regions and added the two possibilities - low and normal - for the activity indicator. A methodological report was added to give a comprehensive overview on methods. The EWG described the data quality assurance in text instead of in a specific table.

STECF observes that EWG 19-13 on the "Assessment of balance indicators for key fleet segments and review of national reports on Member States efforts to achieve balance between fishing opportunities and fleet capacity" (ToR 5.4 of this plenary report) proposed to include the indicator of Maximum days at sea (Maxseadays) as being mandatory instead of voluntary in the next EU-MAP. The reason for this is that in order to be meaningful the technical indicator (Vessel Utilisation Rate, VUR) requires that Member States provide an estimate of the Maximum days at sea (Maxseadays) for all fleet segments. At present, the provision of Maxseadays is voluntary and the absence of such information means the indicator value for many fleets is uninformative.

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<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel. OJ L 248, 22.9.2007, p. 17–23

STECF observes that the EWG proposes a more automated process for compiling figures for Work Plans and Annual Reports, based on data calls.

STECF observes that although there is still a bit of uncertainty remaining about the role and responsibilities of the RCGs, the outcome of the RCG meetings in 2019 show an increasing coordination of activities between MS in a region and hence show the value of the RCGs. The main uncertainty is about the collection of ecosystem data. It is not fully clear what should be collected by Member States under their national work plans against a more coordinated approach by RCGs where a regional Work Plan would be issued (See also Add.5 below). STECF also notes that the number of RCGs was reduced due to the recent merging of the North Sea and North Atlantic regions.

## **STECF conclusions**

STECF agrees with the EWG on the Drafts of the EU-MAP Delegated Decision and the Draft Implementing Decision as all comments on possible revisions from end-users have been taken into account. STECF concludes, however, that minor issues still need to be solved (e.g. Species list in Table 1). This can be done during the adoption process when a final check on all tables and lists will be performed by all parties (COM, MS, end-users).

STECF concludes that there are huge differences between areas regarding the usefulness/effectiveness of the collection of data on recreational fisheries. Some of the target species in the Baltic Sea, especially western Baltic cod and salmon, are targeted by both commercial and recreational fishers and, therefore, recreational catches can have a substantial influence on stock size. In the Mediterranean Sea, the target species are to a large extent different for recreational and commercial fishers. In particular, the most important stocks (e.g., priority species, stocks under Multi-Annual Plans) are not affected by recreational fisheries. Nonetheless, data on recreational data shall still be collected to investigate the interaction/competition between recreational fisheries and small-scale fisheries and assess their impact on coastal species, especially vulnerable species (e.g., groupers, brown meagre).

STECF concludes that the RCGs should issue regional case studies for the collection of data on recreational catches and provide at least a preliminary species list for important species which could be part of those studies.

STECF concludes that the next EWG on the evaluation of the DCF Annual Reports in 2020 should elaborate whether the Maxseadays indicator should be included as mandatory in the new EU-MAP. Regarding the remaining pending issues from the TORs, STECF concludes the following:

*Add.1. EU-MAP: Environmental impact of aquaculture, finalisation of Table 1D on sensitive species, further MS requests for clarification on the list of mandatory surveys at sea.*

STECF agrees with the proposal of EWG 19-12 to delete the indicators for environmental impact of aquaculture from the EU-MAP as those data are currently not requested by any end-user. Operators have to store specific data on e.g. mortality rates in the cages and use of antibiotics, and provide it if requested under other regulations (hygiene and animal health) within the EU. However, these data may not be the most relevant for the actual evaluation of the environmental impact of aquaculture. STECF acknowledges that environmental sustainability is an important requirement for aquaculture and concludes that there is a need to further elaborate what the objectives of environmental sustainability should be, which variables need to be collected to assess the achievement of those objectives and where and how to collect the necessary data.

STECF supports the EWG view that the list of relevant legislation on species protection in Table 1D should be checked on completeness by the Commission (DG MARE and DG ENV).

Further clarification regarding mandatory surveys was provided during the plenary meeting:

Spain requested to include the *Nephrops* survey UWTV30 in the list of mandatory surveys, by shading the row for UWTV30 in the updated Table 7 of the EWG 19-05 report provided by EWG 19-12. EWG 19-12 recognised this to be an obvious omission of the EWG 19-05 since the output of the Decision Support Tool (DST) used by EWG 19-05 clearly identified the UWTV30 survey as candidate for mandatory surveys. This row was shaded in the final version of the EWG 19-12 report during the Plenary.

Bulgaria requested to limit the list of target species in the Bottom Trawl Survey in the Black Sea (BTSBS) to turbot, while Romania requested to keep the list of target species proposed by EWG 19-05 (turbot, whiting and picked dogfish). STECF notes that turbot, picked dogfish and whiting



have been target species in historical bottom trawl surveys in the Black Sea since the 1980s, and keeping them in the BTSBS will assure the continuity of survey time series. Moreover, the data on biomass and density of those species are needed for the tuning of analytical stock assessments, as those are priority species. STECF is aware that in a recent exercise of standardisation of survey indices (within the RECFISH project), there was a lack of Bulgarian data, which caused incomplete coverage of EU waters. STECF notes that these three species were assessed by the GFCM in 2018. The fact that they occur rarely in the surveys can be linked to their status, the picked dogfish stock being assessed as depleted, while whiting is considered to be overexploited. Picked dogfish is listed in Annex II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) of Wild Animals, and considered as endangered in the latest IUCN assessment. Any information on this species that could be gathered from both fishery-dependent and -independent sources of information should be considered as very valuable.

STECF concludes thus that the three species should remain target species of the BTSBS and should be collected by all countries participating in the survey, regardless of the number of individuals that are caught during the survey.

*Add. 2: On Work Plan template: Table 5A on quality assurance framework for biological data, guidelines for the Work Plan template; Section on list of meetings, recommendations, data availability and bi-international agreements.*

*Add. 3: On Work Plan draft decision: a compilation of necessary substantial changes to the decision draft; a correlation table (annex II) relating new EU MAP draft decision sections and tables to new WP template sections and tables.*

*Add. 4: STECF is requested to finalise the pending issues listed above. Where STECF considers that the expertise available is not appropriate to address a request, a proposal for relevant expertise is needed.*

STECF concludes that the outstanding revision of the Work Plan template tables that could not be fully assessed by the EWG 19-12 will need to be addressed in 2020. STECF suggests to add this exercise to the upcoming EWG on the evaluation of the DCF Annual Reports which takes place in June 2020 (see pending issues 2-3 above).

*Add. 5. 1<sup>st</sup> part: STECF is also requested to reflect on the role conferred to the RCGs in the EU MAP and how to guarantee the EU data collection objectives are met should the regional coordination not deliver timely or suitable solutions.*

STECF recognises that RCGs demonstrate an increasing role and responsibility in ensuring that all regional data requirements are met. STECF acknowledges the positive development of the RCGs and the increasing effort and commitment that participants of RCGs put into coordinating the regional activities. However, the RCGs are only a coordinating body and there is no legal obligation on the actual content and timeframe for the RCGs to deliver a regional Work Plan in case a coordinated regional data collection is considered preferable to coordinated national data collection efforts. In particular, STECF notes that there are uncertainties how the collection of ecosystem data will be included in the regional Work Plans across the various regions. For example, the RCG Mediterranean/Black Sea may apply the tools for regional data collection developed under the MARE/2016/22 Grant STREAM. The MS in the Mediterranean/Black Sea plan to issue pilot projects for 2020/2021 to have the results ready for the start of the new EU-MAP in 2022. This includes projects on data collection regarding stomach contents, monitoring of bycatch of vulnerable species and habitat impacts, and the monitoring of recreational fisheries. There is, however, a risk that those pilot projects will not be finalized or able to provide the expected results in due time, before the new EU-MAP is implemented. These risks are also relevant for the other RCGs, for example regarding the application of the tools developed in the FishPi<sup>2</sup> project.

STECF concludes that RCGs should develop a roadmap/plan of action in 2020 for a regional Work Plan which clarifies who in that region will collect the ecosystem data and how it should be done to fulfil end-user needs. Those regional workplans need to include clear responsibilities for each MS. In case the RCGs decide not to develop a regional workplan, the required data collection needs to be included in the national workplans. This would guarantee that the ecosystem data will be collected.

STECF further concludes that the RCG work should be further supported through EMFF direct management grants to ensure sufficient structural resources for efficient RCG work.

Add. 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> part: *Additionally, the plenary is asked to verify if all Commission recommendations received in preliminary stages have been addressed in the final EWG 19-12 report.*

STECF concludes that all Commission recommendations have been taken into account by the EWG.

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## **REPORT TO THE STECF**

### **EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON Revision of the EU-MAP and Work Plan template (EWG-19-12)**

**Brussels, Belgium,  
16-20 September 2019**

This report does not necessarily reflect the view of the STECF and the European Commission and in no way anticipates the Commission's future policy in this area

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

The STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) 19-12 met in Brussels, Belgium, from 16 to 20 September 2019, to (i) discuss the revision of the EU Multi-annual Programme for Data Collection (EU-MAP) and (ii) discuss the revision of the national Work Plan (WP) template.

The work was conducted by 29 independent experts (see the list of participants in section 4). The Terms of Reference are presented below and the agenda is included in Annex 1.

### **1.1 Terms of Reference for EWG 19-12**

#### *Background*

The Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 (recast) indicates in its Art. 4 that the Commission shall establish a multiannual Union programme (EU-MAP) for the collection and management of data. The current EU-MAP set in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 is in force for the years 2017-2019 and should therefore be revised. In view of ensuring sufficient time for its revision, the current EU-MAP has been extended for a period of two years through Commission Implementing Decision C(2019) 1001 of 18 February 2019 and Commission Delegated Decision C(2019) 1848 of 13 March 2019. The split of the current EU-MAP into a Delegated Decision and an Implementing Decision is guided as well by Art 4 of the DCF Regulation which also states under Art 4 (2) that such Decisions should be, prior to their adoption, sent for consultation to Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs), STECF and other bodies. The Work Plan (WP) Template, which helps Member States to plan their (multi-) annual data collection should also be updated to reflect the contents of the revised EU-MAP. The COM needs to provide Member States with a Template for the WP before the summer of each year, to allow for sufficient time for preparation.

In view of preparing a revised EU-MAP and WP Template for the period after 2020, STECF was requested to carry out the below tasks:

#### **Request to EWG 19-12**

EWG 19-12 was requested to:

- (a) provide expertise on outstanding issues of the future EU-MAP
- (b) provide expertise for the preparation of the WP Template

Prior to the EWG 19-12 meeting, a preparatory contract for the compilation of comments from RCGs and data end-users on the EU-MAP revision was carried out. The contractors produced a summary of main recommendations and provide a very first draft EU-MAP and WP template. A first report on the state of play of STECF and other relevant fora's recommendations for revision of the current EU-MAP has been finalised under the EWG 18-18 and should be used as background for the current work.

#### **Terms of Reference for the EWG 19-12**

The EWG 19-12 was asked to:

1. With regard to the EU-MAP:



- (i) critically assess if the basic principles of the DCF recast and the major recommendations by STECF have been taken into account in the draft EU-MAP and suggest amendments, where deemed necessary.
- (ii) produce a draft EU-MAP incorporating the revision recommendations of RCGs, end users, etc., validated by STECF experts. Where a recommendation has not been taken up, the EWG is requested to provide an explanation in the final report on the reasons why, while taking into account cost/benefit considerations, (future) data needs for the scientific support of the CFP, possibility to further define data collection at regional level, among others.
- (iii) give advice on items which should not be in the future EU-MAP but still must be put into the WP or, for voluntary collection, elsewhere (e.g. Guidance document).

## 2. For the WP Template:

- (i) critically assess the draft WP Template and Guidelines stemming from the work of the dedicated contract and improve it where necessary. The assessment shall be done taking into account the need to align the new WP Template with the draft revised EU-MAP as well as end-user needs.
- (ii) produce a draft WP template (standard tables) and guidelines to be assessed by the STECF plenary.
- (iii) produce complementary documents to further elaborate on the structure of the Template, namely: description of possible links between the different tables of the Template; an explanatory note justifying and explaining the inclusion/exclusion of tables in the WP Template. The focus of the exercise should be on simplification, user-friendly formatting and standardisation.

## **1.2 Structure of the report**

Sections 2 and 3 present the results produced by the STECF-EWG 19-12. Section 2 contains a description of the revision of the EU-MAP (ToR 1). In section 3, the EWG results regarding the revision of the Work Plan template are described.

## 2 REVISION OF THE UNION MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR DATA COLLECTION (EU-MAP)

### 2.1 Background information

To carry out its work, the EWG was provided with background documents on:

- Recommendations on EU-MAP revision prepared for EWG 18-18 (Oct. 2018)
- Information fiches on various EU-MAP topics (prepared for EWG 18-18)
- Relevant STECF EWG reports
- Recent RCG/PGECON reports
- Reports on MARE grants (FishPi 1&2, STREAM, SECFISH...)
- Summary of EU-MAP revision comments (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- Options on EU-MAP revision (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- EU-MAP draft text (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- EU-MAP draft tables (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- Legal documents (DCF recast, EU-MAP, Technical Measures Reg.,...)
- Input from COM internal consultation (Sep. 2019)

For a full list of background documents, see Section 6.

### 2.2 Formation of sub-groups and task allocation

The EWG was split into sub-groups and experts were allocated to each sub-group according to their expertise. Each sub-group was tasked with the revision of particular sections of the EU-MAP according to the table below.

**Table 1 – Allocation of EU-MAP sections by sub-group and expertise**

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Sub-group</b>	<b>Expertise</b>
Biological sampling of stocks and fisheries, by-catches	1	Biologists
Recreational fisheries, anadromous & catadromous species	2	Biologists
Research surveys at sea	3	Biologists
Fishing activity data, economic & social data	4	Economists
Thresholds	all SGs	all experts

### 2.3 Revision of the EU-MAP

#### 2.3.1 *Biological sampling of stocks and fisheries, by-catches*

#### **Delegated Decision**

#### **Chapter I**

All the proposed definitions were reviewed by the EWG 19-12, indicating the source where a definition is provided in a previous Regulation or Implementing Decision. Where the proposed definition is a sequence of words which are already defined separately (like 'end-user needs') These have been noted for exclusion. Where possible, the wording has been kept as consistent as possible with that of the recast regulation.

The following proposed definitions were removed:

- **Biological data:** Proposed definition removed because it is addressed in another section of the document.
- **Catches and releases by recreational fisheries:** This is a sequence of words, with each of the words not in need of definition.
- **End-user needs:**
  - COM comments: The proposed definition was said to be too restrictive as a) it should encompass all data collected under DCF (is socio-economic data 'scientific data?') and b) it should also allow use for purposes of environmental protection (e.g. to assess adverse effects of fisheries on the ecosystem, habitats and species). This term is not currently included in the Definition section of the Recast. In the CFP, we have a definition of 'end user of scientific data'
  - EWG: The definition has been removed. In order to address all concerns and align the definition of end-user with the CFP and recast regulation, the first instance of "end-user needs" in the delegated act was replaced by "needs of end-user of scientific data (referred hereafter as end-user needs)".
- **Sensitive species:** This definition has been taken out as it refers to the species protected under Union or international law, which is mentioned in the recast.
- **Small-scale coastal fishing:** The original proposal was discussed with the main comment being: For consistency COM would advise using the existing definition of small scale - in EMFF legislation ((EU) 508/2014 and proposal new EMFF); It should be noted that (EU) 508/2014 refer to towed gear definition as listed in Table 3 of Annex 1 to Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 – but this one got repealed, that is why in the proposal of EMFF reference is made to the MED Regulation: 'Small-scale coastal fishing' means fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as listed in Article 2(1) of Council Regulation (EC) 1967/2006.
  - This is a sequence of words with the term "costal" given to complicate the issue. This definition has been removed. There is no reference to Small-scale in the Delegated Decision (see notes on section 3 below).
  - The environmental impact section refers to the length-size regarding the small-scale fishing.

The following proposed definitions were modified:

- **By-catch:** Use dash, similar as in the recast and use of the FAO definition.
- **Catch fraction:** Definition of catch fraction is given in the previous EU MAP (Decision 2016/1251). Reference is added between brackets.
- **Days at sea:** Definition of days at sea is given in the previous EU MAP (Decision 2016/1251), which is in line with the control regulation. Reference to the control regulation is given between brackets (as this is the first document with the definition). A question was raised on whether the days at sea can start a any time of the day. The answer was that the period was relating to time alone, not to a calendar period of time.
- **Fishing days:** Definition of fishing days is given in Decision 2010/93/EU. Reference is added between brackets.

- **Fishing ground:** Definition of fishing ground is given in the previous EU MAP (Decision 2016/1251). Reference is added between brackets.
- **Fleet segment.** Definition of fleet segment is given in the previous EU MAP (Decision 2016/1251). Reference is added between brackets.
- **Metier.** Definition of metier is given in Decision 2010/93/EU. Reference is added between brackets.
- **Research surveys at sea.** Definition of research surveys at sea is given in the previous EU MAP (Decision 2016/1251). Reference is added between brackets.
- **VMS data.** Definition has been changed to the definition given in the Control Regulation. Reference is added between brackets.

## **Chapter II**

Proposed text: The best practices identified by the ICES workshop on sampling of by-catch and protected, endangered and threatened species, in particular Table 5 thereof, shall be followed and statistically-sound sampling methods implemented according to best available advice.

COM comment: We could also say that the data should serve for the purposes of the technical measures regulation.

EWG 19-12: Sentence has been deleted because we should follow best practices as described by the different bodies in all field of the regulation. There is no specification in the delegated act on what the data should serve for, other than the needs expressed by end-user of scientific data and art. 25 of the CFP is covering the issue.

Proposed text: To this end, the methods and the result of the application of the methods shall be examined every two years by independent scientific bodies in order to verify that they are appropriate with respect to the implementation of the common fisheries policy.

COM comment: How did this work in practice in the current MAP? Do we need to be more detailed on what happens with this evaluation? Maybe to add: Member States shall adapt their data collection programmes according to the results of this evaluation

EWG 19-12: mention on action to be done every two years is questioned. Replaced by regular intervals. Changed the text: "examined" by "evaluated", "that they are appropriate" by "their appropriateness", "implementation" to "management". Suggestion that 'Member States shall adapt their data collection programmes according to the results of this evaluation' was accepted and included in the text.

## **Chapter III**

EWG 19-12: The section 1.1 is meant to introduce the further headings of sections 2 to 6. In consequence, it is important that the headings of these sections and their presentation in section 1.1 concur. This has to be verified when drafting the final version.

### **Section 1.1 (a)**

COM comment: Definition refers to different fractions. Where is it specified which fractions are to be collected for which stocks?

EWG 19-12: Removed "by catch fraction". This is now included in section 2.a. The term "stocks" is confusing because when sampling, species are sampled. Stocks are assigned afterwards. In the implementing decision the text on thresholds refers to a species in a management area (can be one stock or several stocks), not to stocks. Therefore, need more general term which covers everything: The term "stocks" has been changed into "on exploited marine biological resources" (as defined in CFP, art 25). This section has been written in line with art. 25 in the CFP 1.a.

### **Section 1.1 (b)**

EWG: This section mirrors art. 25 in the CFP 1.b.

### Section 1.1 (c)

COM Comment: Missing: in Union waters and outside Union waters. If you decided to exclude this part, you need to highlight and justify

EWG 19-12: Comment has been addressed in the text.

### Section 1.3

COM Comment: Which Annex is referred in the text?

EWG 19-12: To avoid confusing "this annex" has been replaced by "this document"

### Section 2

Heading same as section 1.1a

#### Section 2 (a)

COM Comment: In the previous EU MAP, it was made explicit that all catch fractions (including discards and unwanted catches). Now, it is not made explicit anymore / why not? (better Regulation?) Taken into account the current situation on data availability on discards – the definition of catch fraction does include the part landed below the minimum conservation reference size, the part discarded below the minimum conservation reference size, de minimis discards or discards; but it says 'such as' – a stronger wording would be needed if not mentioned explicitly.

EWG 19-12: "for each catch fraction" has been included in (i) and (ii). "Mean weight" is moved to (ii). Remove suggested addition "at frequencies needed for scientific advice" in (ii) as it is covered by last sentence.

Point (iii) on diadromous fish included.

### Section 3

COM Comment: Is there a reason the paragraph order differs to the list in III.1 (1.1) where detailed data comes after environmental data? This paragraph is repeated again later in the 'correct' order.

EWG 19-12: Order has been adjusted. Header is now coherent with section 1.1.b (used to 1.1.c). "VMS" has been replaced by "positional data, such as VMS data,", so now vessels under 12m are also included. Proposed text "including for under-12m vessels" has been removed. The 12 metres is not consistent across all regions (varies between 12m and 15m). This is all linked to the control regulation and the alignment with the one currently under revision will have to be eventually done.

### Section 4

EWG 19-12: Header changed to be the same as section 1.1.c

#### 4 (a) incidental by-catch

EWG 19-12: Text has been kept simple. Removed "For all types of fisheries" as the scientific observer trips cover all types of fisheries. Removed "absence in the catch" as this should be included in the methodologies which are coordinated at regional level. The results of the risk assessments and methods for new or improved data collection shall be coordinated at marine regional level.

#### General response to COM comments made on by-catch section:

The DCF is designed to support the fisheries management under the CFP requirements. Monitoring is now executed under statistically sound sampling practices (a.k.a. 4S). The introduction of sampling programme on incidental by-catches should be considered with caution and not be disruptive of the 4S principles. It should be noted that a sampling programme on incidental by-catch, by default, requires a dedicated sampling scheme and methodology, different from those applied under the DCF. It is recalled that during normal on-board catch sampling, all incidental by-catch is recorded. There is the possibility to adjust sampling allocation following the ongoing risk assessment analysis. Improvements in both the methodology and means of data collection of incidental by-catches should be evaluated within the relevant RCG and coordinated within the corresponding marine regional level based on the needs of end-users of scientific data.

It is emphasised that monitoring programmes of incidental by-catch can be covered under other articles within the EMFAF 2021-2027 such as Article 27.

#### 4 (b) Impact on the Marine habitats

COM Comment: This is also very restricted. How can a MSFD competent authority have access to data to assess the impact of fisheries?

EWG 19-12: There are several data calls available asking for such specific data (By-catch: ICES WGBYC; fishing footprints, VMS: ICES WGSFD; vulnerable habitats, VMEs: ICES WGDEC). If these data are not sufficient, these WGs can formulate their own data calls pass them to the end user of scientific data (e.g. ICES) in order to have them circulated to MS.

COM Comment: Assessment of impacts cannot be restricted to variable in control reg.

EWG 19-12: Data collected according to other legislation can be made available. Text was modified with the addition of other relevant EU legislation: "data recorded under Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 (see section 3) and other relevant EU legislation..." under control regulation and other relevant legislation those recorded under EU regulations"

COM Comment: Why use this term ('fishing activity') when metier is used in the definitions?

EWG 19-12: Fishing activity at level 6 is equal to metier. Sentence has been removed.

COM comment: Logbook records are inadequate for recording bycatches of sensitive species.

EWG: Mention of logbook recordings of by-catch has been removed.

#### 4 (b) Predator-prey and natural mortality (stomach analysis)

COM Comment: Who would be users of this data?

EWG 19-12: ICES WG for multi-species assessment, MSFD Descriptor 4. Text on pilot studies has been removed. Added text that stomach data "shall be coordinated at marine region level and based on end-user needs".

Comment: Maybe you would like to consider plural (i.e. methodologies). Should there be a logical link between para (i) and (ii)? Do they link? Are they completely dissociated? Can they both apply at the same time?

EWG 19-12: (i) refers to current monitoring which is in place in the scientific observer trips, while (ii) refers to any new monitoring that may be executed in the future. "Methodology" in (ii) has been replaced with "Proposals". In section (i) to Table 1D was added.

COM Comment: It appears a bit 'out-of-place' to refer to data collection and not data itself. It does not logically link to '*Such data shall consist of the following:*'

EWG 19-12: Have changed sentence (c) into: "On the impact of..". Heading (b) changed into "Marine habitats"

## Table 2

COM comment: Please provide explanation on COM comment to keep length classes, as it serves different management purposes

EWG 19-12: The vessel length classes for economists are embedded in the definitions of the fleet segments (Table 7), and for biologists, the length classes may be used to answer the needs of the end-users in a flexible manner, since the length of the sampled vessels are always noted(recorded??).

## Implementing Decision

### Chapter II

Comment: "stock" has been replaced with "species". It is an important change. Where does this come from?

EWG 19-12: adjustment was made, and "fish species" was replaced by "species or stocks".

Indeed the choice is species in a management area vs stock. Species in a management area has been chosen as the basis for table 1 because it is the only solution to compute the TAC shares of EU MS, whereas stock is commonly used for providing data to end-users.

EWG 19-12: "No biological data have to be collected where, for a certain fish species" replaced by "it is not mandatory to collect biological data where, for certain species or stocks:" Reason is that some ambiguity was raised on the possibility or not to include data collection for a species/stock under the threshold

EWG 19-12: At the end of section 2, "Large pelagic species" replaced by "species under tuna RFMOs requirements". The reason is that tuna RFMOs are also assessing pelagic sharks and tuna species of relatively small size and "Large pelagic species" are not defined and/or listed as such in this legislation or CFP.

COM Comment: Why the threshold for stocks under a MAP were deleted? Some justification is required.

EWG 19-12: Recovery plans are phased out. The intention is that there should be multi-annual plans in place for all stocks. When multi-annual plans are in place and keeping this reference in the text (i.e. no threshold shall apply to MAPs) would mean there would be no threshold at all which is not the intention.

## **Tables**

### **Table 1A: Stocks in Union waters (New Table 1)**

#### July contractors

##### Main option

- Merged with Table 1B and 1C
- Built on the basis of species, region, management area (TAC area).
- No priority species field
- Should contain only GFCM G1, ICCAT high priority and sub-regional species under management plan in the Med&BS

##### Alternative options

- Keep separate from Table 1C
- Merged but separated by end users
- Include also Medium priority or priority of 2nd order from RFMOs

Proposal transcribed in Excel table

Should this list be exhaustive and by that eventually exclude species that might occur but are not listed?

When revising the table, the lines with several areas separated by a / (e.g. Va/VIb indicating 2 stocks) were split in as many lines as different areas/stocks. The objective is to be able to use this table as a reference for computing analysis. All species-area combinations were checked against TAC (management) units in the latest TAC & Quota regulations. When they matched management areas, they were marked with a 'x' in the right column.

EWG 19-12: Adjust from ad-hoc report main option, last bullet point: should contain GFCM G1, **G2** and ICCAT.

In the proposed merged Table the named regions are different from the regions named for the RCGs. For simplicity the regions should be similar to the naming of the RCGs. The subgroup decided to follow the region list from the Liaison meeting 2012. The region list was adapted (some adjustments were made on the outermost regions and other regions) into:

- The Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d)
- The North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIIId, the Eastern Arctic (ICES areas I and II), the ICES divisions Va, XII, XIV and the NAFO areas
- The North Atlantic (ICES areas V-X, excluding Va and VIIId),
- The Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea,
- Outermost regions,
- Other regions where fisheries are operated outside EU waters by Community vessels and are under reporting obligations to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO) or regional fisheries bodies to which the Community is contracting party or observer.

Note that this list differs from Regulation (EU) 1380/2013. In the Regulation, area VII belongs to the North-western Waters, while in the proposed region list, area VIIId is assigned to the North Sea. Also, NAFO and ICES areas XII and XIV are not included since they are not EU waters.

PET species have been removed from the Table, since they should be addressed in Table 2.

For outermost regions, no RCG needs to be assigned, but the identification for the region has been included, i.e. outermost EEZ. Since, a lot of the species subject to sampling is following RFMOs requirements (ICCAT, IOTC, WECAFC, CECAF, ...), it should remain under outermost EEZ only the species of national interest and/or species with a high probability of being further included in a RFMO priority list.

Sub-region header 'Kattegat, Skagerrak', 'North Sea', 'Eastern Arctic' and 'North Atlantic' have been merged in order to avoid duplication of species with management areas larger than a sub-region. This has caused a large number of modifications to EU-MAP Table 1A in an attempt to ensure that duplication is avoided where possible and will require checking to ensure all area allocations are correct at the species level in the final version.

Header column C adjusted into RFMO area (e.g. ICES area, GFCM subarea, CECAF convention area).

The subgroup has agreed that when there are sub-TACs of particular species within an area (e.g. Nephrops Functional Units), this species is presented as a single line in Table 1. The principle to keep the rays separately for the different stocks has been agreed upon within the subgroup.

Where possible, the use of spp as a grouping rather than individual species name has been avoided.

To ensure correct allocation by species to area, work on Table 1 was finalised after the end of EWG 19-12.

### **Table 1D: Species to be monitored under protection programmes in the Union or under international obligations (New Table 2)**

#### July contractors

##### Main option

- To be deleted
- Replaced by a list of Regulations on protected species

##### Alternative options

-

This proposal was transcribed in the Excel table. The replacement by a list of Regulations on protected species could be done in the text of the regulation.

EWG: The question remains if only international legislation or also the national legislation should be included,

- Species on National list deleted until further clarification
- IUCN list added (feedback from the Mediterranean)
- Deepwater legislation updated with new link (Reg. 2016/2336)
- New technical measure legislation added (Reg. 2019/1241)

All other links were tested and checked if legislation is up-to-date. This list should be checked by the Commission (DG ENV?) whether all relevant legislation is now included.

### **Table 2: Fishing activity (metier) by region (New Table 4)**

#### July contractors



Main option

- Vessel length classes to be deleted

Alternative options

-

Proposal transcribed in Excel table

Target assemblages were extracted from the main table to constitute a footnote-like information.

EWG 19-12: Variable length classes has been deleted.

COM comment: Please provide explanation on COM comment to keep length classes, as it serves different management purposes

EWG 19-12: Data on vessel length are collected at each sampling event, and the reporting of vessel length classes can be adapted to any end-user needs.

Level 5 (target assemblage) has been put in as a footnote, rather than in the table.

Footnote c adjusted into: "to be distinguished between fishing aggregating devices (FADs) and free schools for tropical tunas".

**Table 4: Fishing activity variables (New Table 5)**

July contractors

Main option

- kW\*Days at sea
  - GT\*Days at sea
- should be added in the Table 4.

The reference should be added to the variables

- "kW\*Days at sea" and "kW \*Fishing Days" – use of active gears only.
- "GT\*Days at sea" and "GT\*Fishing days" – use of passive gears only.
- "Number of fishing operations; Number of nets/Length; Number of hooks, Number of lines; Number of pots, traps" – use for the appropriate gear.

Alternative option

Suggestions from PLEN 19-02

- Soaking time
- Mediterranean Sea:
  - Number of FADs deployed
  - Number of FADs visited,
  - Number of FADs for which net is deployed

The kW\*Days at sea; GT\*Days at sea annually requested in the frame of the Economic data call and should be listed in Table 4.

The soaking time is requested under the Control Regulation and could be included to the Table 4. The inclusion of additional variables for Mediterranean Sea should be discussed in the group.

EWG 19-12: For effort RCG large pelagics demand to add the number of FADs. Therefore, include:

Variable = Number of FADs/Buoys/support vessels, Unit=Number

For purse seine tropical tuna fisheries, nowadays information from instrumented FOBs (floating objects) called as FADs (fishing aggregating devices instrumented with GPS buoys equipped or not with an echosounder) is essential to improve the assessment of targeted stocks (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye) and quantify the impact of FADs on both bycatch and endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species.

It is therefore crucial that the relevant scientific bodies have regular access to this information. For that purpose, MS are strongly encouraged to take the necessary steps with the concerned industry in order to facilitate this access.

## Table 5C: Geographical stratification by Region (New Table 1 in Implementing Decision)

### July contractors

#### Main option

- The following reference should be added to the Table 5C:

“The dominance criteria shall be used to allocate each vessel to a Supra region based on the number of Days at sea spent in the Supra region. If vessel spends more than 50% Days at sea of its time in the supra region, the vessel shall be allocated to that Supra region.”

#### Alternative option

-/-

The inclusion of a footnote to reinstate the definition from Decision 2010/93/EU. The proposal is provided in the Excel Table 5C.

EWG: This table should ideally provide geographical stratification for all EU-MAP sections and Table 1 should mirror the regions as specified here.

### *2.3.2 Recreational fisheries, anadromous and catadromous species*

Delegated Decision, Chapter I, Definitions (the following points have been modified or added)

- Catches by recreational fisheries
- Diadromous species
- Waterbody

### Delegated Decision, Chapter III, Data requirements

#### 1. Data sets

Catch and effort data for eel according to Article 10 of Regulation No 1100/2007

For the European eel, fishery-based data are used to assess yearly recruitment and, in some countries, to estimate current silver eel escapement. According to latest ICES advice (ICES 2018), total landings and effort data for eel are incomplete but vary, depending on the respective country.

ICES do not have the information needed to provide a reliable estimate of total catches of eel. Furthermore, the understanding of the stock dynamic relationship is not sufficient to determine/estimate the level of impact that fisheries (at the glass, yellow, or silver eel stage) have on the reproductive capacity of the stock. Information on fishing effort and the capacity of the fisheries is lacking, but is necessary to fully evaluate changes in landings data over the years and produce indicators for changes in abundance of the standing stock and silver eel escapement.

Under the Eel regulation 1100/2007, Article 10 is stated that member states shall “establish a control and catch monitoring system adapted to circumstances and to the legal framework already applicable to their inland fisheries, which shall be consistent with the relevant provisions set out in Regulation (EEC) 2847/93.” Here it obligates member states to collect logbook data including fishing time, used gear and catch data.

Table 4 has been updated with the recommended variables.

## 2. Biological data on stocks

### (a) (iii) Catch quantities for recreational fisheries

### (a) (iv) Biological data by recreational fisheries

The EWG 19-12 considers that standard and harmonized monitoring programmes for recreational fisheries are not yet regularly implemented in all European countries. The choice of a recreational fishing survey method depends on various factors, including the survey purpose, the scale of the fishery in relation to stock status, the available sampling frames (e.g. license systems), the distribution or intensity of fishing effort, the types of fishing methods used by fishers and the target species. Flexibility is needed to allow for differences between countries in the types of methodologies that are appropriate or feasible. Based on the above, the EWG 19-12 considers that target species, data collection methods, regions where data collection have to take place, catch data, as well as biological data should be coordinated at marine regional level based on end-user needs. Henceforward, the EWG 19-12 suggests deleting Table 3 and proposes that RCGs will identify target species for data collection based on recommendations from the ICES Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys (WGRFS) and GFCM working group on recreational fisheries.

### (b) Diadromous species, points (i)-(iii)

The EWG 19-12 considers it important to keep Table 1E (for data collection in freshwater) and also keep diadromous fish in Table 1A when relevant, i.e. for areas where there is a marine commercial fishery on diadromous species. This is in accordance with the conclusions made by the RCG Diadromous Subgroup (DSG) as reported in Reports on Intersessional SubGroup (ISSG), Annex 8, from June 2019.

(i). This point has been simplified and details on variables to be collected have been omitted to make the data collection more flexible and adaptable to end-user needs. It is now stated that biological variables should be selected on a regional level based on end-user needs, which is in accordance with recommendations in Reports on Intersessional SubGroup (ISSG), Annex 8, point 2.2.

(ii) and (iii). Salmon and Sea trout are now mentioned in point (ii) separately from eel (iii) because of differences in data needs.

### c) Research surveys on diadromous species

Sea trout has been included among diadromous species that are monitored during different life stages. This change was discussed in detail at the EWG 19-12 and a brief summary of this discussion follows below. There are strong end-user needs of abundance data on sea trout from rivers that exit in the Baltic Sea as concluded in several reports from the ICES Working Group on Salmon and Trout in the Baltic Sea (WGBAST), as well as in the report from the Study Group on data requirements and Assessment Needs for Baltic Sea Trout (SGBALANST) in 2011. Data needs for sea trout in the Baltic Sea has also been highlighted in Reports on Intersessional SubGroup (ISSG), Annex 8. In the near future, also data needs for sea trout in the north Atlantic will become updated as a result of work carried out by the Working Group with the aim to develop assessment models and establish biological reference points for sea trout (anadromous *Salmo trutta*) populations (WGTRUTTA), which potentially imply that also water bodies outside the Baltic Sea should be included in the next revision of EU-MAP.

Regarding eel, the EWG 19-12 concludes that it is reasonable to keep the information about monitoring parameters for different life stages in the regulation, as suggested also by DG MARE Unit D3. Moreover, the definition of European eel management units in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 implies that national institutes constitute important end-users and may collect data on eel that fulfill requirements for stock assessment on a management unit scale. To make it possible to monitor life stages of eel (yellow and silver eels) also in coastal waters, the

text has been modified so that research surveys become possible in any relevant habitat, to be decided at the RCG-level according to end-user needs.

### 2.3.3 Research surveys at sea

EWG 19-12 reviewed all input regarding the proposed list of mandatory surveys as well as the survey sections of Implementing Decision 2019/909. The following sections describe the respective inputs as well as the EWG response and conclusions.

#### **Proposals gathered by contractors dealing with proposed Table 10**

Contributions to Q. 16. (of the consultation questionnaire) "What are the concrete points of revision for Table 10?" Revision in place under future STECF EWG on surveys. This has been covered by RCG comments on EWG 18-04 in preparation for a survey review in 2019.

#### Proposal 1:

*Table 10 only mentions whether surveys are used for the collection of data on commercial fish species. It could be specified in the table whether surveys collect data contributing to MSFD indicators.*

*It will be helpful to adopt a unique acronym for each survey to be proposed by RCGs and adopted by end users.*

#### EWG 19-12 response:

No added value is anticipated by including this information in the Implementing Decision, as MSFD data collection is not the driving force for the sampling design of these surveys (it is not a mandatory element for the survey).

We propose to identify all the additional data collected during the survey and that could be used for other regulations (MSFD) or management advices for an EBFM (end users such as GFCM) in the DST survey database (EWG 19-05 report: link to the STECF 19-05 report and Annexes: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/dcf-dcr>). This would, however, require ensuring the databases are kept up-to-date. This is in line with the suggestions by EWG 19-05 on future use of the databases. Work is ongoing on a standardised nomenclature of survey names

#### Proposal 2

*It is difficult to explore the table, the linkage between "Survey LinkID" and "Survey names used by EGs ..." is especially not easy to understand.*

#### EWG 19-12 response

ICES is working on a standardised nomenclature of survey names.

#### Proposal 3

*We should take care of the consistency of the naming of the surveys with responsible of surveys and end users*

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG agrees. Standardised acronyms have been proposed for all the survey for inclusion in the new EU-MAP.

#### Proposal 4

*The revision on Table 10 has its own process and is a major process itself.*

#### EWG 19-12 response

Already done through a dedicated STECF revision process and also by finalisation during EWG 19-12.

#### Proposal 5

*Data collected in surveys that are included in the new Table 10 should be made available and stored in international databases.*

EWG 19-12 response

Storing all data in international databases is the preferred option. But as a second choice, when there is no international database for a survey, data has to be stored in national database and made available on demand/ through the regulation procedure. It should be noted that in the ICES area, most survey data are already stored in international databases and work is ongoing to enable the inclusion of the remaining surveys.

Proposal 6

*RCG survey Sub-group: Table 10 only mentions whether surveys are used for the collection of data on commercial fish species. It could be specified in the table whether surveys collect data contributing to MSFD indicators. It will be helpful to adopt a unique acronym for each survey to be proposed by RCGs and adopted by end users. (ICES)*

EWG 19-12 response

See response 1

Proposal from RCG Med-BS

*The STEFC EWG already discussed this issue and it was agreed list of surveys.*

EWG 19-12 response

See response 4

***Proposals from STECF EWG 19-05***

Proposal 1

*Survey revision process needed*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 proposes a second table with potential mandatory surveys to be considered in the evaluation revision process. The criteria for selection of these surveys should be based on the same criteria as for other surveys. The evaluation can then be done through the DST.

Proposal 2

*Standardised survey acronyms*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG has checked that standardised survey names have been applied to the proposed list of mandatory surveys.

Proposal 3

*Precise the target species list in Table 10*

EWG 19-12 response

Based on the work by EWG 19-05, the column specifying the target species for the surveys on the list of mandatory surveys has been expanded. In line with the findings by EWG 19-05, these target species can be used as the basis for cost-sharing exercises as stipulated in the Implementing Decision.

Note that 'target-species' is not to be interpreted as the definitive list of target species for a survey. The survey can have more species defined as its target, by design, but the species listed in the table are the species identified by the DST that a specific survey provides crucial data for in the advisory process.

Proposal 4

*Proposition to delete the "period" column in Table 10*

EWG 19-12 response

EWG 19-12 agrees with EWG 19-05. This information is unnecessarily restrictive and often inaccurate. Also the information is not required for planning or evaluation purposes.

#### Proposal 5

*The group identified Medias and Medits surveys as potential duplication during the DST evaluation based on stock and GSA area.*

#### EWG 19-12 response

MEDIAS and MEDITS should not be seen as a duplication as the survey stock coverage is associated to different areas and different methodologies and further clarification needs to be undertaken during the next DST survey evaluation.

#### Proposal 6

*Include the survey RCG governance in Table 10*

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed that the RCG coverage should be a part of the table to clarify which RCG is the governing body for the specific RCG and should e.g. facilitate cost-sharing discussions. EWG 19-12 added this information to the proposed table.

### ***MS requests evaluation demanded by COM***

The Commission asked the EWG 19-12 to take in consideration all the requests sent by MS dealing with the evaluation of mandatory survey based on DST during EWG 19-05.

#### Request from Spain

*Modification of the areas covered by the Tunibal survey*

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation given by Spain and the survey area has been modified accordingly in the proposed Table 10 (see excel sheet).

#### Request from Italy

*Specify which GSA is covered by the Solemon survey*

#### EWG 19-12 response

Area survey has been specified in Table 10 (see excel sheet)

#### Request from Ireland

*Include Irish Anglerfish and Megrin Survey*

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by Ireland regarding the Irish Anglerfish and Megrin Survey (IAMS\_IRL). The survey is accepted for inclusion as mandatory survey after evaluation according to DST, using complementary elements brought by Ireland following EWG 19-05.

The EWG 19-12 notes that the documents provided by Ireland were very clear and well structured. These documents could serve as a template for future requests.

#### Request from Portugal

*Nephrops Survey Offshore Portugal has to be separated from UWTV surveys*

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by Portugal. The NepS is now separated from the UWTV surveys in table 10 as it is a trawl survey (see excel sheet) rather than a UWTV survey. The explanatory table as produced by EWG 19-05 required an update to reflect this finding. See below for an updated table.

#### Request from UK

*Anglerfish Survey (SIAMISS) has to be dispatched between Northern Irish survey and the rest of the surveys*

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by the UK. The Irish part of the survey has been identified separately in Table 10. For consistency purposes, the full name of SIAMISS survey

has been modified from "Anglerfish Survey" to "Anglerfish and Megrin Survey" (see excel sheet)

Request from UK

*Western Channel Celtic Sea Pelagic Survey (PELTIC)*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by the UK. The survey has been accepted as a mandatory survey based on approval of UK request (see excel sheet)

Request from UK

*Irish Sea 'ISAS; herring acoustic survey'*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by the UK. The survey has been identified in EWG 19-05 but not evaluated as mandatory because no international coordination could not be confirmed as the survey was incorrectly labelled. In fact, this survey has international coordination (WGIPS). The survey has been integrated as mandatory survey (see excel sheet)

Request from UK

*Delete 'Scottish' in the survey name from NA IBTS\_Q1 (Scottish Western IBTS)*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by the UK. Name of the survey has been homogenised with "Western IBTS 4th quarter (including Porcupine survey)". New name is therefore "IBTS 1st Quarter". "Scottish" has been deleted from the name of the survey because it includes Northern Irish survey - NIGFSQ1; Northern Irish Groundfish Survey (see excel sheet)

Request from UK

*Nephrops UWTV - 'FU14' survey*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 agreed to the explanation by the UK. The survey has been added in UWTV surveys (see excel sheet). The EWG 19-05 result highlighted that this survey should be included but in the final proposal this survey was omitted. The explanatory table as produced by EWG 19-05 required an update to reflect this finding. See Section XX for an updated table.

Request from UK

*Rockall haddock survey to be included in NA IBTS\_Q4*

EWG 19-12 response

EWG 19-12 found that the survey has been integrated as mandatory survey under the IBTS Q4 as described by EWG 19-05.

***Revision of the Implementing Decision (July version)***

The EWG 19-12 evaluated propositions from Commission + integrated proposals from the EU-MAP revision subgroup (Gent, May 2019) dealing with chapter 2 of the Implementing Decision 2019/909.

Considering 3 - current text

*(3) Member States shall provide catch estimates from existing recreational fishery surveys, including those carried out under the Data Collection Framework or from an additional pilot study. These surveys will be used to assess the share of catches from recreational fisheries in relation to commercial catches for all species in a marine region for which recreational catch estimates are required under this multiannual Union programme. The subsequent design and extent of national surveys of recreational fisheries, including any thresholds for data collection, shall be coordinated at marine region level and shall be based on end user needs.*

Comment from DG MARE D3



The wording of this paragraph is still confusing: 'surveys' and 'pilot studies' can mean different things. Also, if there is no definite list of recreational species, this paragraph does not have good 'anchoring'.

EWG 19-12 response

see section 2.3.2

Proposed version

(3) Member States shall provide catch estimates from existing recreational fishery surveys, including those carried out under the Data Collection Framework or from an additional pilot study. These surveys will be used to assess the share of catches from recreational fisheries in relation to commercial catches for all species in a marine region for which recreational catch estimates are required under this multiannual Union programme. The subsequent design and extent of national surveys of recreational fisheries, including any thresholds for data collection, shall be coordinated at marine region level and shall be based on end user needs.

Section 2.2 - current text

*Without prejudice to more specific provisions relating to international obligations under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, no biological data should be collected where, for a certain internationally exploited fish stock other than stocks of large pelagic or highly migratory species, the Union's share is less than 10%.*

Proposal from RCG intersession group on EU-MAP revision (Gent meeting, May 2019)

*The way this section is written may lead to the conclusion from some MS that no threshold for large pelagic or highly migratory species can be understood as 0% threshold, leading to no necessity of collecting data for the related species*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 suggests to remove the reference to large pelagic or highly migratory species from this section. Proposition to create a section 2.9 (see below).

Proposed version

Without prejudice to more specific provisions relating to international obligations under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, no biological data should be collected where, for a certain internationally exploited fish stock, the Union's share is less than 10%.

Section 2.6 - current text:

*A Member State's participation (physical or financial) in research surveys at sea listed in the list of surveys at sea of this Annex is not mandatory when its share of a Union TAC of the survey target species is below a threshold of 3%. Where no TAC is set, a Member State's participation (physical or financial) in research surveys at sea is not mandatory when its share of the total Union landings of the preceding 3 years of a stock or species is below a threshold of 3%. Thresholds for multispecies and ecosystem surveys may be defined at marine region level.*

Proposal from RCG intersession group on EU-MAP revision (Gent meeting, May 2019)

*Given the complex nature of the cost sharing exercise, the expert group propose to increase the threshold from 3 to 5%.*

*There is a need to make a reference to Table 1(A) species in this section.*

EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 supports the proposal by the Gent group.

No reference to table 1A is necessary because the new Table 10 lists target species for each survey.

#### Final proposed version

A Member State's participation (physical or financial) in research surveys at sea listed in the list of surveys at sea of this Annex is not mandatory when its share of a Union TAC of the survey target species is below a threshold of 5%. Where no TAC is set, a Member State's participation (physical or financial) in research surveys at sea is not mandatory when its share of the total Union landings of the preceding 3 years of a stock or species is below a threshold of 5%. Thresholds for multispecies and ecosystem surveys may be defined at marine region level.

#### Section 2.8 - current text

Notwithstanding points 2 to 7, within the same marine region, Member States may agree on alternative thresholds.

#### Proposal from RCG intersession group on EU-MAP revision (Gent meeting, May 2019)

The agreement has to take place during a regional level meeting

#### EWG 19-12 response

The EWG 19-12 supports the proposal by the Ghent group and also wishes to exclude the possibility to set alternative thresholds for large pelagics, diadromous species and species subject to recovery plans. EWG 19-12 proposes to add a section to circumvent this option.

#### Final proposal

Notwithstanding points 2 to 7, within the same marine region, alternative thresholds may be agreed upon at regional level

#### Section 2.9 proposition from EWG 19-12 survey at sea subgroup

No threshold should be applied to

- (a) large pelagic species
- (b) diadromous species
- (c) species subject to recovery plans

#### ***Proposition of Survey names under Table 10 and national surveys that are included (from EWG 19-05, corrected by EWG 19-12)***

The EWG 19-12 has integrated all the proposals from above in a new Table 10 (see excel sheet) A track change version and a clean version are available in the electronic annexes.

#### ***Proposition of Survey names under table 10 and national surveys that are included (from EWG 19-05, corrected by EWG 19-12)***

The EWG 19-12 proposes to define precisely the list of national surveys that are identified in the mandatory surveys presented in Table 10, based on EWG 19-05 proposals.

#### **Update to Table 7 by EWG 19-05**

Having reviewed the requests above, the EWG noted that Table 7 from the EWG 19-05 required an update to correct omissions by the EWG. The updates have been made to:

- Include UWTV14 in the list of mandatory surveys
- remove the UWTV28-29 SubSurvey from the table as the Portuguese NepS survey (trawl survey for *Nephrops*) was incorrectly identified as an UWTV survey. The NepS has been included in the proposal for the updated table of mandatory surveys as a separate entity.

EWG 19-05 report Table 7 updated

Shaded rows indicate sub-surveys that are included in the set of UWTV surveys that are included in the proposed for new mandatory surveys.

SubSurveyName <sup>1</sup>	"Old" Survey Name	Stock	Country	Comments
UWTV10	Nephrops TV survey (FU 10)	nep.fu.10	GBS	
UWTV11-13	Nephrops UWTV survey (offshore)	nep.fu.11, nep.fu.12, nep.fu.13	GBS	
UWTV14	Nephrops UWTV Irish Sea east	nep.fu.14	GBN	
UWTV15	Nephrops UWTV Irish Sea west	nep.fu.15	GBN	
UWTV16-17, 19, 20-22	NEP-UWTV-Subarea7 Ireland	nep.fu.16, nep.fu.17, nep.fu.19, nep.fu.20,21, nep.fu.22	IRL	fu 17 and 20-22 included in table 10
UWTV30	ISUNEPCA	nep.fu.30	ESP	
UWTV33	UWTV-FU33	nep.fu.33	DNK	
UWTV34	Nephrops TV survey (FU 34)	nep.fu.34	GBS	
UWTV3-4	UWTV-FU3&4	nep.fu.3-4	DNK, SWE	
UWTV5	Nephrops TV survey (FU 5)	nep.fu.5	GBE	
UWTV6	Nephrops TV survey (FU 6)	nep.fu.6	GBE	
UWTV7	Nephrops TV survey (FU 7)	nep.fu.7	GBS	
UWTV8	Nephrops TV survey (FU 8)	nep.fu.8	GBS	
UWTV9	Nephrops TV survey (FU 9)	nep.fu.9	GBS	
UWTV23-24	Nephrops TV survey (FU 2324)	nep.fu.2324	FRA	
		nep.fu.25		No UWTV survey included in the Surveys database
		nep.fu.2627		No UWTV survey included in the Surveys database
		nep.fu.31		No UWTV survey included in the Surveys database
		nep.fu.32		No UWTV survey included in the Surveys database

<sup>1</sup> Field name in the Stocks databases

2.3.4 Fishing activity data, economic & social data

Regarding variable names, removal and additions, several decisions were made in **COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2019/910**. See amended tables for full details below:

- Debt was renamed to **Gross debt** and changed in the Tables 5A, 7 and 10.
- Engaged Crew changed to **Paid labour** in the Tables 5A, 7 and 10 to exclude redundantly reported Unpaid labour inside the variable Engaged Crew.
- Change of Net Investment to **Investments in tangible assets** in Table 5A, 7 and 10. Removal of 'Net' in line with PGECON recommendation.
- Recommend keeping **Number of hours worked** optional due to inclusion of the mandatory variable **Full-time Equivalent**.
- The "Units" in the Table 6 for the social variables provided as "**Numbers**" for all variables across all sectors and reporting parameters as well as definitions should be outlined in the (PGECON/JRC) Guidance Document.
- **FTE by gender** was added in the Table 10 for the social data collection in processing.
- For variable **Employment by nationality** the nationality in the reporting aggregation should be in line with Table 6 social data in Fisheries and Aquaculture, definitions and aggregation proposed by PGECON (National, EU, EEA, Non-EU/EEA).
- Variable **Employment by education level** in the Table 10 provided as optional for fish processing.
- Variable '**Value of raw material (optional)**' was added as optional, along with the data for weight of raw material.
- Fishing activity variables **kW\*Days at Sea and GT\*Days at Sea** were added in Table 4 due to Economic data call requirements.
- Size categories for aquaculture to be included in PGECON Guidance document, but not to the EU-MAP tables.
- **Definition for SSF** was changed from vessels less than 10 meters to **vessels less than 12 meters using static gears**.

SSF in the European Union are vessels of less than 12 meters using static gears. According to the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund and the EU Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 on European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 'small-scale coastal fishing' is defined as "fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as listed in Table 3 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004".

Regarding the EWG 19-12 detailed discussion, the following comments were made:

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/909; Chapter II; Thresholds**

Reference	Thresholds (4)
Issues:	Text on thresholds needs to be simplified.
EWG 19-12 Comments:	Text updated on Commission Implementing Decision 2019/909.
EWG Justification:	The types of thresholds are presented in a clearer manner.

**COMMISSION DELEGATED DECISION (EU) 2019/910**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Table 5B – Fleet Segmentation</b>
Issues:	The following reference should be added to the Table 5B for the clustering of segments “In cases where a fleet segment has less than 10 vessels: (a) Clustering may be necessary in order to design the sampling plan and to report economic variables; (b) Member States shall report which fleet segments have been grouped at the national level and shall justify the clustering on the basis of statistical analysis; (c) In the Annual Report, Member States shall report the number of sampled vessels for each fleet segment regardless of any clustering made to collect or provide the data.” (PGECON 2019)
EWG 19-12 Comments:	The description of clustering was moved to the Work Plan COM Implementing Decision 2016/1701.
EWG Justification:	The paragraph for the clustering description was included to the Text Box 3A in the WP Guidelines.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Text in Chapter III; Table 6 – Social Data</b>
Issues:	Frequency for the Social data collection could be changed to a frequency of every 2 or 5 years. Current frequency - every three-year starting in 2018 when first data was collected for 2017 should be kept (PGECON 2019).
EWG 19-12 Comments:	Social variables as indicated in table 6. <i>Social data</i> shall be collected every three years starting in 2021 with the reference to the previous year. The text was added to the text Chapter 3 for social data collection in fleet, aquaculture and fish processing.
EWG Justification:	Current frequency was deemed appropriate and is in line with PGECON recommendations.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Table 6 –Social data. Refinement of existing variables and additions</b>
Issues:	<b>Proposed Additions:</b> Suggestion from STECF 19-03: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ratios of share fishers to contract fishers,</li> <li>● new entrants or recruitment to the industry,</li> <li>● unpaid labour by family members or others both onboard the vessel and ashore,</li> <li>● Age ( 5-year age brackets),</li> <li>● Inclusion of the part of the most active vessels,</li> <li>● Vocational/Technical training,</li> <li>● Social/Community structure,</li> <li>● Specific job descriptor e.g. owner, skipper, first mate, engineer, cook, deckhand etc.;</li> <li>● Contributing family members on board,</li> <li>● Family members involved in fishing activities on-shore,</li> <li>● Kind of fishing activities of family members on-shore.</li> </ul> Suggestion from WECAFC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● count of fisherfolks - Number of fisherfolks actively taking part to fishing activities,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>count of fisherfolks x days fishing; Number of fishers, multiplied by number of fishing days (intensity of fisherfolks involvement in fishing activities).</li> </ul>
EWG 19-12 Comments:	The discussion centred around the inclusion of new variables suggested by EWG 19-03. The utility of these variables needs to be discussed at PGECON (the final EWG 19-03 report was not available for PGECON 2019). PGECON may decide that these data could be collected through regional pilot studies and may be addressed by conducting a separate study which would be independent from the regular data collection.
EWG 19-12 Justification:	The end-users need to be clear as to why these data are needed and how they will be used. At this time the EWG 19-12 propose that these issues need to be discussed at PGECON.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Table 6 – Social data. “Unit” Clarification</b>
Issues:	Units are not consistent and only give levels of aggregation for some variables.
EWG 19-12 Comments:	Under table 6 it is recommended to provide ‘number’ under the column “Unit” for all variables. There should be reference in a footnote to follow PGECON Guidance Document and QAF Handbook on how to collect and report these variables.
EWG 19-12 Justification:	“Unit” should be number for all variables to keep them consistent.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Text Chapter III, Table 8 – Environmental Data</b>
Issues:	The section for Environmental data collection should not be addressed under the economic and social part of EU MAP (ref. STECF 18-18; PGECON 2019).
EWG 19-12 Comments:	<p>This should not be part of the economic data collection. As reported in many PGECON reports due to this is outside the remit of the socio-economic data collection. It is recommended to delete the Environmental data collection from new EU-MAP. If it is to be maintained in the EU-MAP then the specific purpose of the environmental data collection should be clarified, and the following provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the clarification of the aim of data collection,</li> <li>- the identification of end user,</li> <li>- development of the definitions and methodology for data collection, and</li> <li>- cost-benefit analysis of the effort of data collection against utility and purpose of the data.</li> </ul>
EWG 19-12 Justification:	<p>The EWG 19-12 stated that environmental data collection should not be included in the frame of the economic and social data as it is outside the remit of these data and its end-user needs are not clear.</p> <p>The issue about environmental data collection was addressed under the separate Terms of Reference to PGECON 2017 and 2019 and it was concluded the following: <i>“PGECON do not have the competence at this meeting to establish a specific PGECON sub-group on aquaculture sustainability data collection. PGECON recommends to Commission Expert group to establish a separate sub-group on the same level as PGECON to deal with aquaculture sustainability and environmental data collection”</i> (Ref.No recommendation 18 of PGECON 2017).</p>

	<p>PGECON 2019 states "... data on the number of recirculating aquaculture systems, extensive operating aquaculture farms (species: carp; fish farming technique: ponds) and organic aquaculture is already collected under EU Regulation Nr. 762/2008 and Nr. 834/2007 in all MS and provided to Eurostat. In particular, the last two can be seen as undisputed providers of ecosystem services according to scientific literature. Their share in the total production might be a meaningful indicator for environmental sustainability".</p> <p>However, the environmental impact in the aquaculture should be assessed according to the Regulation (recast) 2017/1004. The EWG 19-12 stated that the issue should be addressed to the relevant expert groups where environmental data could be available due to other regulations requirements (e.g. 2006/88/EG down laying rules on hygiene and health protection for aquaculture).</p>
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<b>Reference</b>	<b>Table 9 – Aquaculture segmentation</b>
Issues:	Unit A4 comment 'Table 9: To include microalgae in the aquaculture segmentation. This way it would be seaweeds (macroalgae) and microalgae in 2 different segments. If confidentiality (i.e., low number of companies), they could be placed together'
EWG 19-12 Comments:	A similar comment was raised by JRC, as a result of the discussions in the latest (2018) STECF EWG on aquaculture. It was considered that it is very important to start reporting for microalgae (when possible). Currently this segment would be only relevant for few countries, but its importance will increase in the future. IMO, more relevant than tuna, eels or sturgeon eggs segments. EWG 19-12 does not agree with the inclusion of the segment at this stage. Leave table 9 as it currently stands until the inclusion on the microalgae segment can be discussed at PGECON.
EWG 19-12 Justification:	The issue about inclusion of the new segment for microalgae should be discussed at PGECON or the planned workshop on aquaculture segmentation. This will then be clarified in PGECON guidance document.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Table 10 - Fish Processing</b>
Issues:	Segmentation and definition of population
EWG 19-12 Comments:	Definition of size classes was moved to WP Guidance Document and reporting of data by size category according to the EU-MAP is optional. For size categories, refer to SBS categories (The definition of size categories should be in line with the Eurostat definition for SBS where the number of persons employed (16.11.0) is: ≤ 9; 10-49; 50-249; ≥ 250). SBS 11 11 0 according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 251/2009 of 11 March 2009 implementing and amending Regulation (EC) No 295/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the series of data to be produced for structural business statistics and the adaptations necessary after the revision of the statistical classification of products by activity (CPA) (Text with EEA relevance)
EWG 19-12 Justification:	Provision of data by size categories is optional in the EU-MAP.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Table 10 – Fish Processing</b>
Issues:	Data collection on “Raw material in the Table 10 variable group “weight of raw material (OPTIONAL).”
EWG 19-12 Comments:	Data collection on “Weight of raw material” remain optional in the Table 10 variable group “weight of raw material (OPTIONAL)” in the EU-MAP. An additional optional variable “Value of raw material (optional) was added.
EWG 19-12 Justification:	Pilot studies on the collection of raw material data demonstrated limited success in collecting data due to limited industry participation. Without industry participation, it will be very difficult to collect data and provide data at a level of quality that are required for a more in-depth analysis used for further investigation of the sector. Furthermore, the benefit for collecting these data, from an industry perspective, seems relatively limited compared to the cost.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Chapter 3, Table 10 – Fish Processing</b>
Issues:	There was a discussion on the <b>voluntary nature of processing.</b>
EWG 19-12 Comments:	It is unclear if processing should remain voluntary or mandatory from the recast. There needs to be clarification from COM regarding this point. EWG feel they cannot make this decision and it needs to be made by DGMARE.
EWG 19-12 Justification:	The table 10 in COM Del Decision should be consistent with the Regulation 2017/1004.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Recreational Fisheries</b>
Issues:	STECF 18-18: “Socio-economic data collection on recreational fisheries ICES WGRFS (2018) mentions the idea of a socio-economic data collection on recreational fisheries. The EWG 18-18 states that this idea is too premature to further comment on it. Given the expected extra effort and costs imposed by such a programme, WGRFS should firstly detail the end user of such data, the required frequency, and the content. Moreover, a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of such a programme should be provided. The SECFISH project report highlighted reiterated these concerns stating that “ <i>In designing an economic data collection programme, it is important to identify the end use of the data and then the methodology can be develop</i> ”. SECFISH recommends as a first step to focus on the collection of trip expenditure data to describe the economic contributions to coastal communities from expenditures by recreational anglers. To collect this type of information, different survey methods can be used such as in-person angler intercept surveys, mail surveys, telephone surveys, or a combination of these. It may be possible to collect expenditure from anglers alongside existing surveys done annually, but then carry out a more detailed survey every 5 years to assess marginal values and impacts of changes in fish stocks. Information on social/societal benefits of recreational fishing can also be gathered through existing or bespoke surveys at intervals of several years.”
EWG 19-12 Comments:	There should be no socio-economic data collection added to recreational fisheries.



EWG 19-12 Justification:	It is too early to add these types of data collection. Clear justification of these data additions, identification of end-use data need, usage and cost analysis need to be determined.
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<b>Reference</b>	<b>References to PGECON Guidelines and QAF</b>
Issues:	For several tables there needs to be a reference to PGECON Guidance Document (defining variables definitions and collection aggregations) and QAF Methodologies document (Handbook). These documents are supposed to be "living document(s)", i.e. whenever amendments have been regarded necessary, the documents should be updated accordingly by PGECON. Any changes to these documents should then be approved by STECF.
EWG 19-12 Comments:	Text has been included in the Del. Decision under paragraph 5 <i>"MS Quality Assurance Framework of economic and social data collection in fisheries, may/shall be implemented by the establishment and use of the Methodological report as a separate document complementary to the National Workplans with comprehensive description of methods and procedures applied in data collection. Preparation and revision (approval?) of MS Methodological reports should be carried according to the procedures agreed in PGECON (indicating PGECON as we agreed for guidance documents."</i>
EWG 19-12 Justification:	This gives clear indications of where MS should refer to variable guidance.

### 3 REVISION OF THE NATIONAL WORK PLAN TEMPLATE & GUIDANCE

#### 3.1 Background information

To carry out its work, the EWG was provided with background documents on:

- Summary of proposals for WP template revision (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- Draft WP template tables (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- Draft WP guidance (from the ad-hoc contract, July 2019)
- Legal documents (COM Implementing Decision 2016/1701 on WP template)
- Relevant STECF EWG reports (on WP/AR evaluation, e.g. EWG 19-09 report)

For a full list of background documents, see Section 6.

#### 3.2 Formation of sub-groups and task allocation

The EWG was split into sub-groups and experts were allocated to each sub-group according to their expertise. Each sub-group was tasked with the revision of particular sections of the Work Plan template according to the table below.

**Table 2 – Allocation of Work Plan sections by sub-group and expertise**

Sections	Sub-group	Expertise
Biological sampling of stocks and fisheries, by-catches	1	Biologists
Recreational fisheries, anadromous & catadromous species	2	Biologists
Research surveys at sea	3	Biologists
Fishing activity data, economic & social data	4	Economists
Data availability (section 6); Coordination (section 7)	all SGs	all experts

#### 3.3 Revision of the Work Plan templates & guidance

##### 3.3.1 Biological sampling of stocks and fisheries, by-catches

General comment for all tables: Instead of providing examples for each column in the tables, the option has been taken to list all possible entries for each field. This work will need to be finalized at the end of the process.

General comment for the resubmission of a NWP: When a recommendation from the RCG is followed (that alters the sampling responsibility of a MS for a given stock), MSs do not have to resubmit the NWP as long as this does not change the design of the sampling scheme. When quotas go up or down, the MS needs to explain in the AR why it is collecting less than what was planned.

##### Table 1A

In Table 1A, columns **A-F** should mirror Table 1 of the new EU-MAP; the column naming should be identical to Table 1 of the EU-MAP.

- Column **B** 'Statistical reference period' changed into 'Statistics reference period'.
- In order to mirror Table 1 from the EU-MAP, column **F** 'Area/Stock' should be changed into 'Area'.
- When filling the cells for Columns **L** 'Threshold rules used' and **G** 'Average landings in the reference years (tons)' actual values should be inserted and not '<200 t' or '<10%' as is actually mentioned in the guidelines.
- Column 'Data source' was split into two columns: **H** 'Data source used for average landings' and **K** 'Data source for EU landings' as it is possible that two different data sources are used to calculate the two information.
- Column **M** 'Regional coordination arrangement' changed into 'Regional coordination agreement'.
- Column **O** 'Selected for sampling' changed into 'Selected for sampling of biological variables'. When this is filled in as "Y" then there should be an entry in Table 1B. *This should be highlighted in the future guidance document.*
- Column **N** 'Covered by a commercial sampling scheme for length' added to make the link with Table 4A. See also explanation in the new Table 1B section below.

#### Table 1B (merged from Tables 1B and 1C)

##### Columns A-F mirror Table 1A

- In column **B** 'Sampling year', MS need to make an entry for each sampling year of the NWP period. This is understood to create a large number of entries in the table, but better match a database structure.
- Column **G** 'Variable' includes only the biological variables, i.e. age, individual weight, maturity, sex and fecundity. There was discussion in the EWG whether length measurements should be included in this table. The EWG noted that the planned number of length measurements by species (as was previously reported in Table 1C) is not needed in the NWP, as MS do not know beforehand how the species and fisheries will evolve. As the MS should be able to indicate if length sampling data collection will be performed for the selected species in a management area, the column 'Covered by a commercial sampling scheme for length' has been added in Table 1A. The number of length measurements by species, catch fraction and sampling frame needs to be reported in the Annual Report (a specific Table 4C for the AR to be designed) which then can be linked to Table 4A of the NWP. This is a strong modification from previous requirements in Tables 1B and 1C.
- Column **H** 'sampling protocol' changed into 'sampling scheme'. There was a lengthy discussion in the EWG whether information on fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent surveys should be both in Table 1B or in separate tables. It was argued that, following the logic from a database structure, when the information reported for fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent surveys follows the same structure of table, this information should be in the same table. Only when the information that is reported for the fisheries-dependent surveys differs from the information that is reported in the NWP for the fisheries-independent surveys, two tables can be used. It was decided to put both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent surveys in Table 1B. For the fisheries-independent surveys, the survey acronym (formerly Table 10, now Table 2 in the Implementing Decision) is included as a sampling scheme. Table 1B will only be restricted to the target species for the survey acronyms which are defined in the Implementing Decision. The fisheries-dependent sampling schemes in this table are linked with Table 4. The fisheries-independent sampling schemes in this table are linked to Table 1D.
- Column **J** 'Source' needs to be used when linking Table 1A with 1B (source=commercial).
- Column 'planned minimum number' from Table 1C has been changed into two columns in Table 1B: **K** 'Average number of individuals sampled of last 3 years' and **L** 'Planned minimum number'. For each line, the MS fills in one of the two columns. *A future guidance document should explain the rationale, i.e. Member States can opt to use different values to the average numbers sampled of last 3 years, to account for changes in fisheries.*

#### Table 1C

This table has been merged with Table 1B.

#### Table 1F

MS have a reporting obligation. The subgroup proposed to include the relevant information of Table 1F in Table 4A.

#### Table 4A

This table describes all the sampling schemes related to the collection of fisheries dependent biological data.

Columns **A-E** mirror columns **A-D,F** in Table 1A

- When regional sampling plans are in place, the column 'MS participating in sampling' is not needed in the NWP. Sampling that is executed together with another country, should be agreed upon by the RCGs after which it is included in the WP and becomes a regional sampling plan in a regional workplan (RWP). In transition before such RWP comes to reality, it is proposed to use the field 'Comments' (Column **O**) to indicate if a regional sampling agreement is in place and list the MS participating.
- Change column **B** 'Statistical reference period' to 'Statistics reference period'.
- Column **F** 'Scheme' changed into 'Sampling scheme'. The reference to sampling schemes should be consistent throughout all the tables where this column appears.
- Column **G** 'Stratum ID code' changed into 'Sampling frame ID code'. As for sampling scheme, the reference to sampling frame should be consistent throughout all tables where this reference appears.
- Column **H** 'Stratum' changed into 'Sampling frame title'
- Options for 'Catch fraction covered': possible entries are: Landings (HUC fraction), Landings (IND fraction), Landings (BMS fraction), Catches (DIS fraction), Catch (all fractions), Recreational catches (all), Recreational catches (release), Recreational catches (retained), Catches (PETS species). It is important to determine to which factions the sampling scheme refers to. It is also important to note that Table 4A gathers all sampling schemes in place for variables issued from all fisheries-dependent data collection.
- Column **L** 'Average Number of PSU during the reference years' changed into 'Average number of PSU during the reference period'
- Integration of Table 1F in Table 4A:
  - o Column 'Group of vulnerable species' from Table 1F has been deleted. In the EU-MAP, no distinction is given for different groups of vulnerable species. As the Regulation states that MS have to record every occurrence of incidental by-catch, there is no need to group any vulnerable species.
  - o The proposed column 'PETS specific survey' has been removed, as this is covered in the sampling scheme and in a text box of the WP.
  - o Column 'Expected occurrence of recordings' from Table 1F has been changed into **N** 'PETS observation covered within the sampling scheme'

The EWG 19-12 did not follow on the proposal to merge Tables 4A and 4B. The attempt made by the July contractors showed that there was too much text required in single Excel cells. In consequence, it was decided to move the description of sampling frames into a textbox rather than in an Excel table. Indications on how to fill this textbox remain to be developed. All information of Table 4B not included in the new setting of table 4A should then be part of the textbox, and table 4B is deleted.

#### Table 4C (new Table 4B)

Tables 4C and 4D describe the population.

- Column **F** variable change from 'Fleet segment / Metier' to 'Sampling frame'.
- Column **E** added for variable 'Sampling schemes'.  
Need to include all sampling schemes and sampling frames in this table, including the part of the population remained unsampled. For the latter, indicate 0 in the quantitative fields if all parts of the population are covered by a sampling frame.
- Remove variable 'Sub-area / Fishing ground' as variable 'Sampling frame' describes the area.

#### Table 4D (new Table 4C)

This table is meant to describe the population for onshore sampling.

- Column **F** variable 'Landing locations(s)' changed in to 'Sampling frames'
- Statistical reference period moved to left to be in accordance with the other tables.
- Column **D** 'Sub-area / Fishing ground' changed into 'Area'

#### Table 5A

The EWG did not discuss Table 5A. This table was briefly touched upon during plenary. It was suggested to replace Table 5A with a quality document describing the protocols, including the links to the protocols and documentation. This approach would be consistent with the move by the economists to replace Table 5B. This suggestion deserves more discussion and preparation before an agreement can be reached.

#### WP guidelines

The EWG 19-12 did not have time to look at the WP guidelines for the biological part (sampling of commercial fisheries & stocks). This work remains to be done once all tables settings are finalised.

### *3.3.2 Recreational fisheries, anadromous and catadromous species*

#### **Changes in Table 1D and guidance document**

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column C in new version)

Change: Variable "Region" has been added.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column D in new version)

Change: EMU has been replaced by Management unit to cover for all potential species. In the WP guidance document, description how to report for salmon and sea trout has been added.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column E in new version)

The table is the same, but EIFAC has been added in the WP guidance.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column F in new version)

The table is the same, but "latin" has been substituted with "scientific name", reference to table 3 has been omitted.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column F in old version)

Column has been omitted because this is not relevant anymore when table 3 has been removed.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column G in new version)

Included new variable "Survey ID" in order to allow presenting the survey reference.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column H in new version)

Included new variable "License" and description in the guidance document.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column I in new version)

Table the same, but guidance updated to take into account the species list from the RCGs.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column J in old version)

Deleted because thresholds are not applicable.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column J in new version)

Included new variable "Agreed at RCG", with relevant description.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column K in new version)

Change of the variable name to "Annual estimate of total catch" as a clarification.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column L in new version)

Change of the variable name to "Annual percentage of catch released alive" with a relevant description.

-> Guidance document & Table 1D (Column M in new version)

Change of the variable name to "Collection of stock-related variables" as a clarification.

### **Changes in Table 1 E and guidance document**

-> Guidance document/ General comment

The EWG changed the phrasing in order to provide for better specification of relevant habitats (now also covering coastal waters) fulfilling EU-MAP paragraph 2 (c) for fisheries-independent sampling.

-> Guidance document & Table 1E

The EWG changed the term "Management unit" to "Management unit / River" for better compliance with diadromous management terminology, also for salmon and sea trout.

The EWG changed the term "Area" to "Region" in table 1 E and the guidance document in order to be able to assign the respective region to the RCGs and improve regional coordination.

The EWG added the term "variables" and its definition in the guidance document and added a column in Table 1E for specification of the collected variables. This supports the assessment of compliance with EU-MAP requirements.

The EWG added the definition of the term "Waterbody" in the guidance document and moved this column in Table 1E next to the spatial specifications Region & Management unit / River for better spatial resolution.

-> Guidance document

The EWG changed the definition of the term "Unit" and "Planned nos" in the guidance document for better understanding.

### 3.3.3 Research surveys at sea

The EWG 19-12 reviewed all input regarding the proposed guidance template, focusing on surveys, with the objective of revising Implementing Decision 2016/1701. The following sections describe the respective inputs as well as the EWG response and conclusions.

#### Proposals from the summary document produced by ad-hoc contractors (July 2019)

Table 1G proposal from STECF-EWG-17-11:

*Region – Member State shall refer to the naming convention used in Table 5(C) of the implementing decision 2016/1251. This provides a reference for the appropriate RCG.*

The EWG 19-12 agrees to this proposal. Note that the final and current naming convention shall be referred to.

Table 1G proposal from STECF-EWG-17-11:

*A column needs to be included to assign a survey to a region. If a survey covers more than one region each region (and the relative contribution of the survey to that region) should be indicated by a line.*

The EWG 19-12 agrees to this proposal. See the proposed update of the table 1G. Note that the final and current naming convention shall be referred to. Having the region specification will facilitate future automatic evaluation of the annual reports as this will allow to make a distinction between similar surveys in different regions.

Table 1H proposal from STECF-EWG-16-16:

*The EWG 16-16 suggested another field to record whether the data is used in advice. This EWG recommends that the review of compulsory surveys should also provide with those surveys a list of the main target stocks and indices they are designed for.*

The EWG 19-12 noted that the information on the use of the survey is available through the output of the EWG 19-05 on the revision of the list of mandatory surveys. The information shall be kept up to date outside the WPs. Also, listing whether data is used or not is not useful as this would yield a long list of data not used in assessment, however this information might still be used elsewhere without registering that use in the WP. For evaluation purposes, this variable provides limited information as the severity of a non-conformity can't be judged upon this value.

Secondly, based on the work of EWG 19-05, the target species (rather the species a survey delivers data for the advisory process for, contrasting the target species listed in the respective survey handbooks) are already listed in the table with the mandatory surveys.

Table 1H proposal from STECF-EWG-16-16:

*For consistency, the survey planning groups (ICES area: WGBIFS, IBTSWG, WGMEGS, WGBEAM, WGIPS, WGIDEEPS; MED&BS: MEDIAS and MEDITS WGs) should provide the reference for the core variables required for this table.*

The EWG 19-12 proposes to delete Table 1H. Specification of core or additional variables does not have an added value for the evaluation of the planned nor the executed work as the parameters to collect are prescribed through the survey protocols.

Table 1H additional field from contractors:

*Species – Member State shall report (in Latin) the name of the species/stocks for which biological variables sampling is required according to the Tables 1(A), 1(B) and 1(C) of the multiannual Union programme, for all areas where the Member State's fishing fleet is operating.*

The EWG 19-12 does not agree as for the mandatory surveys, the list of species subject to the survey is already known. For the non-mandatory surveys, MS can add the targets (if needed) under the "type of data collected", e.g. "distribution of blue mussel" in Table 1G. Table 1C specifically details the biological data collected under a survey for the mandatory species.

EWG 19-12 proposes to add a new variable to Table 1C named "sampling scheme". For surveys, the sampling scheme would be the acronym of the survey. In the "data source" column, the source "survey" can be kept, so no modification is proposed. This will facilitate easy filtering between commercial and survey data and future automatic evaluation of the annual reports.

Table 1H additional field from contractors:

*Area/Stock – Member State shall indicate the area of the mentioned species/stock, in accordance with Tables 1(A), 1(B) and 1(C) of the multiannual Union programme (e.g. GSA 16; ICES areas I, II; ICES areas IIIa, IV, VIIId, etc.).*

The EWG 19-12 does not agree, as the species/stock specification doesn't have an added value for the evaluation of the planned nor the executed work on a survey level. For the data collection on species level, this information is already described in the list of mandatory surveys as well as in the updated Table 1.C.

Table 1H additional field from contractors:

*(Used in advice (Y/N) – Member State shall indicate by 'Y' (yes) or 'N' (no) whether, for the mentioned variable is used in assessments for advice.)*

The EWG 19-12 does not agree as the information doesn't have an added value for the evaluation of the planned nor the executed work. EWG 19-12 also noted that the information on the use of the survey is available through the output of EWG 19-05 on the revision of the list of mandatory surveys. The information shall be kept up to date outside the WPs.

Also, listing whether data is used or not is not useful as this would yield a long list of data not used in assessment, however this information might still be used elsewhere without registering that use in the WP. For evaluation purposes, this variable provides limited information as the severity of a non-conformity cannot be judged upon this value.

TextBox 1G proposal from STECF-EWG-17-11

*Guidelines and text box modifications (section text box 1G) in red: Include a graphical representation (map) of the distribution of types of sampling activities.*

The EWG 19-12 is of the opinion that maps have very limited, if any, added value for evaluation purposes for the WP as well as the AR. Thus proposes not to include maps. Should maps however



be required, to improve readability, maps can be added as annexes. The annexes shall be listed in the text box. For international surveys, the map preferably represents the total survey coverage rather than the MS part of the survey only. The MS share can then be highlighted in the over-all map.

Textbox 1G proposal from STECF-EWG-17-11

*Question 2 in textbox 1G needs to be adjusted to also cover the design of surveys.*

The EWG 19-12 revised Question 2 in the text box 1G.

#### Revision of the Implementing Decision related to WP template

Based on the Implementing Decision 2016/1701 of 19 August 2016 laying down rules on the format for the submission of work plans for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, the EWG 19-12 concluded the following:

- In line with the proposal to remove Table 1H, this table shall no longer be referred to in the Decision.
- Also, upon approval, the proposals to adapt table 1.C and 1.G shall be reflected in the Decision.
- Under Article 1.3(f), add cost-sharing agreements to the list of examples
- Under Article 7.3, add "The details of cost- and/or task-sharing agreement shall be stated in Table 7.C.

An Excel file (based on the contractors' version) presents the way tables 1C, 1G and 1H (proposed to be deleted) would be presented in the Annex of the Implementing Decision.

#### *3.3.4 Fishing activity data, economic & social data*

#### **Table 2A (Fishing activity variables data collection strategy) and new Table 3A\_2 (Fleet total population and clustering)**

For the fishing activity information, provided in Table 2A, data collected under the Control Regulation (CR) shall not be included. The CR does not cover the fleet below 12 meters vessel length. However, according to the new amendments of the CR, logbooks could also be used for small-scale vessels. Surveys undertaken by MS to collect fishing activity data for the vessels below 12 meters shall be included in the WP Table 2A.

The EWG discussed ways how to develop Table 2A with a design for the database approach when data for the vessels below 12 meters are collected from different data sources – surveys and obtained from the CR. A case was presented when MS has two data sources for one fleet segment. A new table with total population and clustering schemes was suggested to be added to the WP Excel templates (Table 3A\_2 FLEET TOTAL POPULATION AND CLUSTERING). The Tables 2A and 3A\_2 should have the option of a 'GEO indicator' (see below) and specific columns for the Activity indicator. Tables 2A and 3A\_2 on population could be also used by JRC to crosscheck the segments clustering in the Annual Economic Report (AER). Table 2A includes the description of data sources, information about the number of vessels not covered by the CR for the small-scale fleet and complementing data collection.

The EWG 19-12 suggests that the new columns in the Tables 2A, 3A\_1 and 3A\_2 should not be deleted in order to prevent that the links break between the tables for the “database approach” (see below).

**New column “GEO indicator”**

Tables 2A, 3A\_1 and 3A\_2 were redesigned to include an additional column with a 'GEO indicator'. In addition to the geographical stratification by supra-region, two extra-layers of detail need to be added: the geographic indicator and the fisheries-specific indicator.

The geographic indicator distinguishes fleet segments operating in outermost regions and fleet segments operating exclusively in non-EU waters (international waters + third country – fishing partner agreements). If a geographic indicator is not relevant for a fleet segment, the NGI code can be used.

In addition, and on a voluntary basis, the fisheries-specific indicator provides information of a fleet operating in a specific fishery. Hence, this indicator helps to report separately the fleets working in different RFMOs (e.g. ICCAT, IOTC), under SFPAs, under a certain fishing technique (e.g. to differentiate hook long-liners from other hooks), or even differentiate the fleets with low activity (i.e., with a more recreational behaviour).

Name of the variable	Guidance
<b>GEO indicator</b>	The 'geographic indicator' distinguishes fleet segments operating in outermost regions and fleet segments operating exclusively in non-EU waters (international waters + third country – fisheries partnership agreements). If a geographic indicator is not relevant for a fleet segment, the NGI code can be used.

**GEO indicators:**

Code	Name	Definitions
NEU	Non-EU waters	more the 50% of activity occurs in non-EU waters
IWE	International waters exclusively	100% of activity occurs in non-EU waters
NGI	No geographical indicator	National waters, EU waters
P2	Madeira	Portuguese outermost region (autonomous region)
P3	Azores	Portuguese outermost region (autonomous region)
IC	Canaries	Spanish outermost region (autonomous community)
MA	Morocco Coastal	Most of the activity occurs in 34.1.1
GF	French Guiana	French outermost region (overseas department)
GP	Guadeloupe	French outermost region (overseas department)
MQ	Martinique	French outermost region (overseas department)

MF	Saint-Martin	French outermost region (since 2009) (overseas community)
RE	Reunion	French outermost region (overseas department)
YT	Mayotte	French outermost region (overseas department)

### **New column "Activity indicator"**

Tables 2A, 3A\_1 and 3A\_2 were redesigned to include an additional column with an "Activity indicator". From 2013 to 2018, PGECON held number of workshops to prepare a common methodology how the activity level of the fleet can be distinguished in different MS and could be comparable at EU or regional level. The activity levels are introduced to improve the meaning and quality of the resulting estimate as well as the ability to conduct a proper economic analysis on the fleet with normal economic activity. The final recommendation with the common methodology of application of activity level was provided in PGECON 2018. Activity level can be used only for the reporting of the collected data, meaning that the total population of the fleet is covered by the data collection. However, if MS apply activity level for the particular fleet segments, more efficient distribution of resources and efforts of data collection can be used between different activity levels. This means that for the part of the fleet with low economic activity, lower sampling rates can be applied, whereas for the 'normal activity' fleet, which has a major impact on the fleet segment performance, higher sampling rates can be used.

<b>Name of the variable</b>	<b>Guidance</b>
<b>Activity indicator</b>	If the MS is using activity indicator and dividing the fleet segment into different activity levels, use "L" for the low activity vessels and "A" for the normal economic activity vessels. Be aware that the sum of the vessels with "L" and "A" activities should be equal to the total population of that segment. Methodology of how to apply activity level is provided in the Recommendation 5 of PGECON 2018. If activity level is not applied, the column of activity indicator should be left blank.

### **Methodological Report**

In the Text Boxes 2A, 3A\_1, 3B and 3C, the EWG 19-12 provides only a general description of the methods used for the data collection, whereas the comprehensive information should be found in the MS Methodological Report. PGECON 2019 recommends "to use a Handbook on 'Methodologies on sampling designs and estimation methods for fleet and aquaculture economic data collection' that was produced under the SECFISH project WP 2 as a reference for National Work Plans to justify the described methodologies." STECF 18-18 also recommends: "The Methodological Report is recommended to be submitted by MS accompanying Work Plans and Annual Reports. The Methodological Report by each MS shall be prepared according to the structure and guidelines provided by PGECON before the EU-MAP after 2021 comes into force.

### **Quality Assurance Framework**

Information on how data collection processes in MS comply with the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) was available by introducing the Table 5B in the WP template which served as a self-assessment tool. The follow-up of the self-assessment is the identification of weaknesses and implementation of improvement actions to further assure quality of data collection processes. For the evaluation of these actions, the EWG 19-12 proposes to shift to the second QAF stage and develop a descriptive template of how processes of data collection quality are assured and improved. Therefore, the main QAF principles were selected from Table 5B and transferred to the WP text part to provide descriptive information. The EWG 19-12 agreed to focus on these QAF principles: Confidentiality, Sound methodology, Accuracy and reliability, Accessibility and clarity. Additionally, in the QAF section, it is requested whether methodological documents are available with a requirement of an active web link where methodological and other documentation can be found. Request to describe the selected QAF principles were transferred to the WP sections of the fleet, aquaculture and fish processing Text Boxes 3A, 3B and 3C, respectively. A part of the QAF requirements will be covered by the preparation and use of the Methodological Report accompanying Work Plans and Annual Reports (AR).

Furthermore, sections with descriptions about data quality assurance should be moved from the grey-shaded areas in the current AR template (Text Boxes 3A, 3B and 3C) to the WP templates accordingly. The AR template - for the consistency with WP - should include a paragraph "Deviations from the WP Quality Assurance Framework". The information should be provided in the AR grey-shaded area in the Text Boxes 3A, 3B and 3C. MS should report only improvements in the QAF. The clear specific questions about improvements should be incorporated in the AR Guidelines. In case there are no changes detected for the QAF, the MS should report "No deviations" in this section.

### **Automation of the reporting process**

Various EWG meetings<sup>3</sup> recommended an automated system which would provide the better link between EU-MAP requirements, National Work Plans (NWP), Annual Reports (AR) and Data Transmission (DT). A more robust solution involving databases and online reporting tools is required to make significant progress in simplifying and improving the efficiency of the current AR reporting system, which is time-consuming and error-prone. The system implies that WP tables should be requested for submission together with NWP document version. Later on, the AR tables should be aligned to NWP tables and should be maintained in an online tool to allow for comparison, cross-checking and assessment of the level of execution. With system implementation, the linkage between the EU-MAP, NWP, AR and DT will be improved. One option to achieve this goal is to

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<sup>3</sup> **STECF 16-01 (EWG 15-15)** *Evaluation of Proposals to Revise DCF National Programmes for 2016*: "A better link between Annual Reports and Data Transmission should be seen as a pragmatic short-term fix. A more robust solution, involving databases and online reporting tools, is required to make significant progress in simplifying and improving the efficiency of the current system which is time consuming and error prone."

**STECF 16-12 (EWG 16-08)** *Evaluation of DCF 2015 Annual Reports & Data transmission to end users in 2016 in 2015 Quality assurance procedures*: "Section on quality should also include methodologies applied to determine sample rates and should better describe the quality indicators reported in the relevant table. EWG evaluation could greatly benefit from implementing a database for AR tables."

**STECF 16-25 (EWG 16-16)** *Evaluation of DCF National work plans for 2017-2019*: "Furthermore, STECF notes that the inconsistencies in the naming convention between the tables, and even within the same table, complicated and lengthened the evaluation process. The filling of these tables with fixed entries in a database(-like) system would ease the evaluation process and enable multi-year analyses of MS's WPs. The proposed a number of amendments to the respective WP tables that should be considered when improving the Work Plan template in future. As a general comment, most common problems were inconsistent coding, sometimes missing or inappropriate variables. These issues could be easily solved with a database (-like) system to allow the filling of tables with fixed entries. The present design of the work plan does not allow for checking whether MS adequately cover all existing fleet segments including number of vessels, and aquaculture segments."

**STECF 17-10 (EWG 17-07)** *Evaluation of DCF 2016 Annual Reports & Data Transmission to end users in 2016 & preparation for the new assessment of Annual Reports and Data Transmission*: "AR tables should be aligned to NWP tables and should be maintained in an online tool to allow for comparison, cross-checking and assessment of the level of execution. The linkage between the AR and DT should be improved. One option to achieve this goal is to develop a database with all the metadata currently available in the present AR and in the official data calls lunched by the Commission. Another option could be to revise AR tables in order to add additional fields with a more direct link to DT issues. The latter option would be only possible if a database for AR tables can be developed and implemented."

develop a database with all the metadata currently available in the present AR and in the official data calls launched by the Commission. Another option could be to revise AR tables in order to add additional fields with a more direct link to DT issues. The latter option would be only possible if a database for AR tables can be developed and implemented.

The EWG 19-12 states that the "database approach" for the information flow between IT systems in relation to AR, DT and NWP could be implemented in the near future. The system could be based on the information submitted in the frame of Economic data calls to the JRC database.

The following tasks should be completed for the 'database approach' development:

- The information completeness for the requested data should be evaluated. The required information should include the list of variables identical to the variables provided in Tables 5A, 6, 7 and 10 of the COM Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/910. The fleet segmentation based on fishing gears and vessel length should be the same as in Table 5B of the COM Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/910. The minimum of the quality parameters should be provided according to the recommendations by STECF SG-ECA 09-02. The current design for the Economic data calls should be revised according to the new EU-MAP format and requirements.
- The specification with the list of tasks for the 'database approach' development should be created. The specification should include a detailed description about the links between data tables; possible design for the database queries; the coding list and the structure for the outcomes. The outcomes should be structured like the NWP and AR economic section 3: *Economic and Social Data*.
- The possibility to change the current online 'Tableau' system for the new 'database approach' should be evaluated.

The EWG 19-12 has put a focus on streamlining tables for the use in databases. This applies to the design of the tables (e.g. no merged cells) as well to the structure, i.e. avoidance of redundancy and compliance within the template and with external sources (e.g. JRC database, AER data). Moreover, the EWG-19-12 checked the variables requested in the current templates for relevance and recommends cancelling certain variables.

The main purpose of the WP is to provide information on MS activities with respect to completeness and appropriateness. In the field of economics, the check for completeness is supposed to be rather straightforward as it is in most cases well defined which data have to be collected. Furthermore, the evaluation of WP will have to address clustering schemes and the appropriateness of sampling schemes and, in the long run, quality aspects.

In the following, the suitability of some redesigned WP tables (fleet economics) is illustrated.

Table 2A contains information on the collection of effort and landings data:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
MS	Supra region	Geo-indicator	Region	Activity indicator	SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of clustering)	Variable	Data source	Data collection scheme	Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation	Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data collection (% of number of vessels fishing trips)	Reference year
ABC	Other regions	NGI	EUMAP Table 5(C) (level II)	A	TBB1012*	EUMAP Table 4 [Variables]	Questionnaires etc.	Probability Sample	4	50	2019

Table 3A\_1 contains information on the collection of fleet economic data:

MS	Supra region	Geo-indicator	Activity indicator	SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of clustering)	Variable	Data Source	Type of data collection scheme	Planned sample rate %	Reference year	Comments
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1012*	Gross value of landings	accounts	B - Probability Sample S	20%		
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1012*	Income from leasing out quota or other fishing rights	questionnaires	B - Probability Sample S	20%		
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1012*	Other income	administrative data	B - Probability Sample S	20%		only vessels v
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1012*	Personnet costs	financial accounts	B - Probability Sample S	20%		only vessels v

The newly introduced Table 3A\_2 contains information on fleet segment size and on clustering:

MS	Supra region	Geo-indicator	Activity indicator	Fishing technique	Length class	SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of clustering)	Total population (WP)	Reference year	Comments
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	Beam trawlers	1012	TBB1012*	8	2019	
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	Pelagic trawlers	1012	TBB1012*	3	2019	

These three tables can be joined in a database, so that the information e.g. on the size of a fleet segment can be used in all related tables.

The population Table 3A\_2 allows calculating the population of clusters ("Clu\_Sum\_population"):

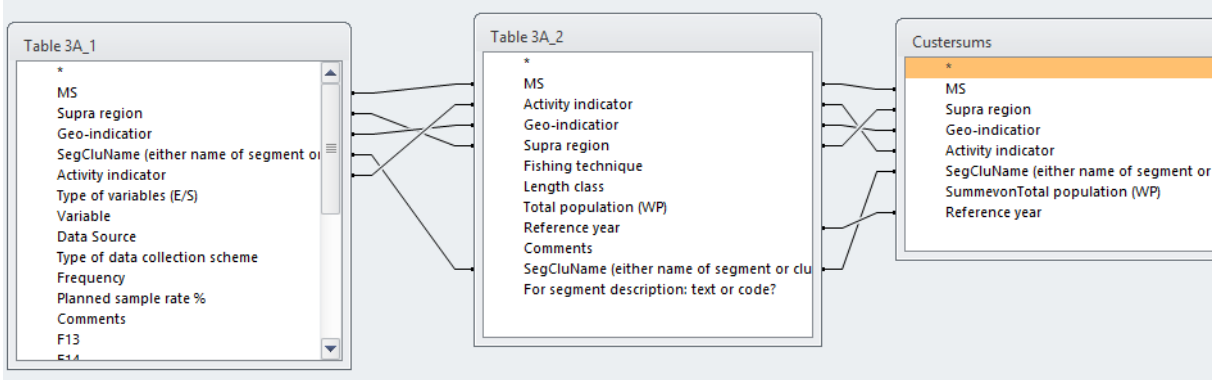
MS	Supra region	Geo-indicator	Activity indicator	SegCluName (either n	Clu_Sum_population	Reference year
Table 3A_2	Table 3A_2	Table 3A_2	Table 3A_2	Table 3A_2	Table 3A_2	Table 3A_2
Gruppierung	Gruppierung	Gruppierung	Gruppierung	Gruppierung	Summe	Gruppierung
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SELECT** [Table 3A\_2].MS, [Table 3A\_2].[Supra region], [Table 3A\_2].[Geo-indicator], [Table 3A\_2].[Activity indicator], [Table 3A\_2].[SegCluName], **Sum**([Table 3A\_2].[Total population (WP)]) AS **Clu\_Sum\_population** (WP), [Table 3A\_2].[Reference year]

**FROM** [Table 3A\_2]

**GROUP BY** [Table 3A\_2].MS, [Table 3A\_2].[Supra region], [Table 3A\_2].[Geo-indicator], [Table 3A\_2].[Activity indicator], [Table 3A\_2].[SegCluName], [Table 3A\_2].[Reference year];

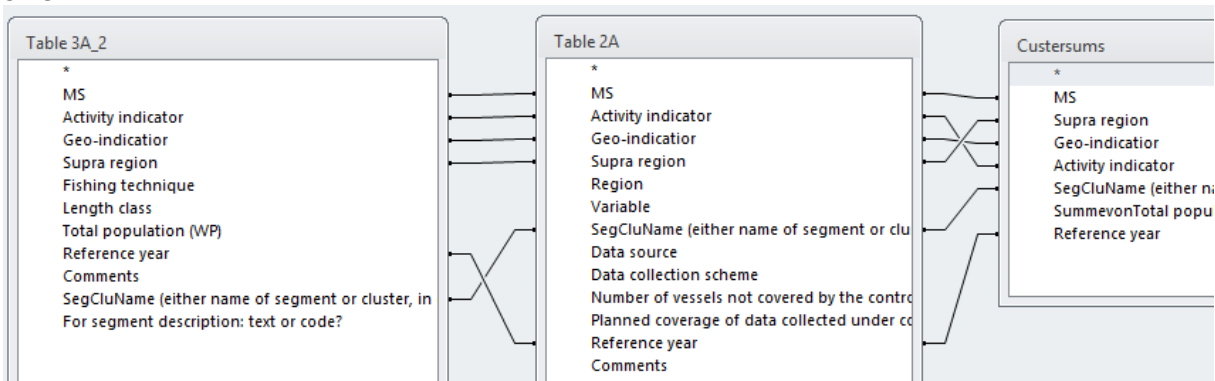
MS	Supra region	Geo-indicator	Activity indicator	SegCluName	Clu_Sum_pc	Reference year
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	DFN1218*	14	2019
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	PG0010	380	2019
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1012*	11	2019
ABC	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1218	18	2019
ABC	Other regions	NGI	L	PG0010	480	2019



Here, the planned sample rate is joined with the segment population ("Clupop"), and the planned sample size (Pla\_splN) is calculated in parallel:

MS	Supra region	Geo-indicator	Activity indicator	SegCluName	Variable	Data Source	Type of	Planned sample rate	Clupop	Pla_SplN
ABC	Other regions	NGI	L	PG0010	Employment by gender			100%	480	480
ABC	Other regions	NGI	L	PG0010	Employment by nationality			20%	480	96
ABC	Other regions	NGI	L	PG0010	Energy consumption			20%	480	96
ABC	Other regions	NGI	L	PG0010	Energy costs			100%	480	480

Moreover, new tables can be generated, containing calculations of certain figures or ratios of numbers, such as planned sample number, planned sample rate within a cluster, or total sample size:



MS	Referr	Supra region	Geo-in	Acti	SegCluNam	Variable	CluPop	CRPop	NonCRPop	Planned coverage	PlanNsurve	totalN	PlaRateClu	Region
ABC	2019	Other regions	NGI	A	DFN1218*	EUMAP Table 4 [Vari	14	8	6	50	3	11		79 EUMAP Ta
ABC	2019	Other regions	NGI	A	PG0010	EUMAP Table 4 [Vari	380	140	240	20	48	188		49 EUMAP Ta
ABC	2019	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1012*	EUMAP Table 4 [Vari	11	7	4	50	2	9		82 EUMAP Ta
ABC	2019	Other regions	NGI	A	TBB1218	EUMAP Table 4 [Vari	18	8	10	30	3	11		61 EUMAP Ta
ABC	2019	Other regions	NGI	L	PG0010	EUMAP Table 4 [Vari	480	120	360	10	36	156		32 EUMAP Ta

**SELECT** [Table 2A].[Reference year], [Table 2A].[Supra region ], [Table 2A].[Geo-indicator], [Table 2A].[Activity indicator], [Table 2A].MS, [Table 2A].[SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of cluste)], [Table 2A].Variable, Custersums.[SummevonTotal population (WP)] AS CluPop, [Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)]-[Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation] AS CRPop, [Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation] AS NonCRPop, [Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll], [Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]\*[Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll]/100 AS PlanNsurvey, [Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]\*[Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll]/100+[Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)]-[Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]) AS totalN, Round(100\*([Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]\*[Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll]/100+[Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)]-[Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]))/[Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)],0) AS PlaRateClu, [Table 2A].Region

**FROM** ([Table 3A\_2] INNER JOIN [Table 2A] ON ([Table 3A\_2].[Reference year] = [Table 2A].[Reference year]) AND ([Table 3A\_2].[SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of cluste)] = [Table 2A].[SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of cluste)]) AND ([Table 3A\_2].[Supra region] = [Table 2A].[Supra region ]) AND ([Table 3A\_2].[Geo-indicator] = [Table 2A].[Geo-indicator]) AND ([Table 3A\_2].[Activity indicator] = [Table 2A].[Activity indicator]) AND ([Table 3A\_2].MS = [Table 2A].MS)) INNER JOIN Custersums ON ([Table 2A].[SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of cluste)] = Custersums.[SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of cluste)]) AND ([Table 2A].[Reference year] = Custersums.[Reference year]) AND ([Table 2A].[Supra region ] = Custersums.[Supra region]) AND ([Table 2A].[Geo-indicator] = Custersums.[Geo-indicator]) AND ([Table 2A].[Activity indicator] = Custersums.[Activity indicator]) AND ([Table 2A].MS = Custersums.MS)

GROUP BY [Table 2A].[Reference year], [Table 2A].[Supra region ], [Table 2A].[Geo-indicator], [Table 2A].[Activity indicator], [Table 2A].MS, [Table 2A].[SegCluName (either name of segment or cluster, in case of cluste)], [Table 2A].Variable, Custersums.[SummevonTotal population (WP)], [Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)]-[Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation], [Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation], [Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll], [Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]\*[Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll]/100, [Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]\*[Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll]/100+[Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)]-[Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]), Round(100\*([Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]\*[Table 2A].[Planned coverage of data collected under complementary data coll]/100+[Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)]-[Table 2A].[Number of vessels not covered by the control regulation]))/[Custersums].[SummevonTotal population (WP)],0), [Table 2A].Region;

The implementation of the 'database approach' could facilitate faster annual reporting, evaluation of the quality for the collected data and data transmission due to following reasons:

- The Excel tables for the NWP section 2 and section 3 could be automatically submitted by MS to the database. The NWP tables could be updated annually by additional submission before 31<sup>st</sup> of October.
- The tables for the AR could be generated automatically based on the information stored in the JRC database. The information about the collected variables and data quality could be extracted from the submitted data in the frame of the economic data calls.
- The automated comparison between transmitted variables in the frame of economic data calls and variables planned for the collection in the NWP could improve the evaluation for the annual Data Transmission.
- The 'database approach' could facilitate the NWP, AR and DT evaluation during the STECF evaluation meetings and eliminate the need for the pre-screening before the evaluation meetings.

### **New file - WP guidance codes for economic and social variables**

It was proposed by the EWG 19-09 that "according to the Guidelines, all variables from the EU-MAP should be listed. However, there are several cases where one or few variables are not listed, most probably for typing errors. It would be useful to include in the excel template the complete list of variables. In addition, a sheet with all the reference lists for all variables/segments/supra-regions, etc. could be helpful."

A first version of the new file with codes linked to the EU-MAP tables and WP templates was developed (see electronic annexes). For linking data transmission with EU-MAP and WP requirements, the file could be improved in future and codes from economic data calls could be added in the appropriate tables. Also, the table structure could be changed (e.g. for a database approach, one single table could be compiled from the Tables 5A, 6, 7 and 10 for fleet, aquaculture and processing variables and then the sector could be indicated as "fleet", "aquaculture", "fish processing" in an extra column. Three-letter codes in Table 5B could be suggested to include one on fishing technique and a code for length classes in the respective table "VL0010", VL40XX" etc. in order to make it all more database-compliant.) The listed codes could facilitate the fulfilment of the WP as well as be applied for the automation of the reporting process and "database approach" development.



#### 4 CONTACT DETAILS OF EWG 19-12 PARTICIPANTS

<sup>1</sup> - Information on EWG participant's affiliations is displayed for information only. In any case, Members of the STECF, invited experts, and JRC experts shall act independently. In the context of the STECF work, the committee members and other experts do not represent the institutions/bodies they are affiliated to in their daily jobs. STECF members and experts also declare at each meeting of the STECF and of its Expert Working Groups any specific interest which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to specific items on the agenda. These declarations are displayed on the public meeting's website if experts explicitly authorized the JRC to do so in accordance with EU legislation on the protection of personnel data. For more information: <http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/adm-declarations>

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## 5 LIST OF ELECTRONIC ANNEXES

Electronic annexes are published on the DCF dedicated report section of the STECF website on: <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/dcf-dcr>

List of electronic annex documents:

- EWG-19-12 – Annex 1 – Draft EU-MAP text, Delegated Decision (Word file)
- EWG-19-12 – Annex 2 – Draft EU-MAP text, Implementing Decision (Word file)
- EWG-19-12 – Annex 3 – Draft EU-MAP tables (Excel file)
- EWG-19-12 – Annex 4 – Draft tables of the Work Plan template (Excel file)
- EWG-19-12 – Annex 5 – Draft guidance and text (boxes) for Work Plans (Word file)
- EWG-19-12 – Annex 6 – Work Plan codes for economic and social variables (Excel file)

## 6 LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background documents are published on the meeting's web site on: <http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/web/stecf/ewg1912>

List of background documents:

- EWG-19-12 – Doc 1 – Declarations of invited and JRC experts (see also section 4 of this report – List of participants)
- EWG-19-12 – Doc 2 – Recommendations on EU-MAP revision, prepared for EWG 18-18 (Oct. 2018)
- EWG-19-12 – Doc 3 – Summary table of EU-MAP revision comments (July 2019)
- EWG-19-12 – Doc 4 – Options on EU-MAP revision (July 2019)
- EWG-19-12 – Doc 5 – Draft EU-MAP text, Delegated Decision (July 2019)
- EWG-19-12 – Doc 6 – Draft EU-MAP text, Implementing Decision (July 2019)
- EWG-19-12 – Doc 7 – Draft EU-MAP tables (July 2019)

EWG-19-12 – Doc 8 – Draft guidance text and draft text (boxes) of the Work Plan template (July 2019)

EWG-19-12 – Doc 9 – Summary of proposals for Work Plan template revision (July 2019)

EWG-19-12 – Doc 10 – Draft tables of the Work Plan template (July 2019)

EWG-19-12 – Doc 12 – Input files from internal consultation of the European Commission (September 2019)

EU-MAP:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D1251&from=EN>  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019D0909&from=EN>  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019D0910&from=EN>

Work Plan template:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D1701&from=EN>

Relevant STECF EWG reports:

<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/dcf-dcr>

RCG/PGECON reports:

<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/docs/rcg>  
<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/docs/pgecon>

MARE project reports:

<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/docs/regional-grants>

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## STECF

The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has been established by the European Commission. The STECF is being consulted at regular intervals on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations.

## The European Commission's science and knowledge service

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## JRC Mission

As the science and knowledge service of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre's mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.



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