Report from the Intersessional Group on the revision of the EU-MAP

Gent, Belgium

6th May – 8th May 2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The EU multiannual Union programme for data collection – EU-MAP (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251) expires at the end of 2019. The new Data Collection Framework Regulation 2017/1004 has been adopted after the entry into force of the 2017-2019 EU-MAP Decision and a new EU-MAP needs to take into account the new legal framework for data collection. In order to allow for proper consultations of all relevant parties, the current EU-MAP provisions has been prolonged unchanged for a period of one-two years.

The new DCF Regulation foresees a split between EU-MAP: biological, environmental and socio-economic data should be adopted by the Commission through a delegated act, while the list of surveys and the thresholds for data collection should be adopted through an implementing act. Both the renewal of the 2017-2019 EU-MAP provisions and the review of the EU-MAP after 2019 reflects this legal separation. The Commission decision of establishing the list of mandatory research surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors was adopted in the beginning of 2019.

Revision of the EU-MAP has been started and the aims are to integrate the results from consultations with Member States through RCGs, STECF, other relevant end users and stakeholders. The first step has for the Regional Coordinating Groups (RCG's) to establish an intersessional RCG group to review any misunderstandings, errors or inappropriateness's of the present EU-MAP as well as suggestions for changes of the EU-MAP. The outcome of the interssesional group will be discussed at the upcoming RCG meetings in 2019. In addition, DG MARE aims at organising specific discussions on the EU-MAP revision in various STECF Expert Working Groups. An STECF EWG dedicated to the revision of the list of surveys is scheduled for first part of 2019 and the rest of EU-MAP provisions for revision will be discussed in appropriate fora by September 2019. RCGs are expected to deliver their final recommendations on the EU-MAP revision by June 2019.

DG MARE has planned that national correspondents will be individually consulted on the revised provisions once a draft has been developed with the help of STECF experts and will be able to comment on the text itself before starting the decision process, towards the end of 2019.

The RCG Intersessional Group for the Revision of the EU-MAP meet 6 – 8 May, 2019 in the VAC Virginie Lovelinggebouw, Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein, Gent, Belgium and the meeting was hosted by ILVO, Belgium. Unfortunately, the PGECON meeting 2019 has been scheduled to be held in the same week as the RCG Intersessional Group for the Revision of the EU-MAP. Therefore, no input on the part of the legislation the social and economic issues have been reviewed by the group.

1.2 Terms of reference

The terms of references for the meeting were the following:

a) Consider and propose on the basis of input from the RCG's and the recommendations given in the document "Recommendations for the revision of the Multiannual Union Programme for the

collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (EU-MAP), priority issues and outstanding questions, October 2018" and the consequences any new data collection may have for the present data collection.

b) Assess any new requests from end-users providing scientific advice for the management of the CFP and the consequences any new data collection may have for the present data collection.

c) Assess any new additional data collection and consider any related cost implication and the consequences any new data collection may have for the present data collection.

d) On the basis of evaluations in ToR a-c propose any changes to the present EU-MAP.

1.3 List of participants

The meeting had the following participants

Name	Member State	E-mail
Jørgen Dalskov, chair	Denmark	jd@aqua.dtu.dk
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2 General remarks

As a starting point for the review of the present EU-MAP each participants presented their general view on what is working and what is not working. Furthermore, their view on whether the revision of the EU-MAP should be of a more fundamental character or whether the revision just should be minor changes.

The general opinion was that the revision of the EU-MAP just should be minor changes and that the changes should aim to improve the process of transforming legislation text to setting up national data collection work plans. Moreover, the revision should also include correction of errors and improvement of the text for clarity reasons.

Therefore, comments made and suggestion for changes to the present EU-MAP should be seen in this context.

3 Review of feedback from data end-users

The RCG Subgroup on the revision of the EU-MAP addressed the biological questions as raised in the EU Consultation document on the potential revision of EU-MAP biological and socio-economic data. Prior to the Subgroup, input was requested from RCG chairs and participants. The input provided was summarized in a matrix, covering all questions and responses. The RCG subgroup reviewed the input and prepared a draft general RCG response to the document. This draft response is send to all RCGs for consideration and to finalize the response. The RCGs will respond to the prepared draft response, whether they agree or not, if not, why. The subgroup prepared a response matrix for the respective RCGs. The subgroup chairs will follow-up on the responses by each RCG and send the final version to the Commission as input to the September 2019 EWG in preparation.

The proposed response format (is made in Excel)

Consultation	Subgroup response	Impact on EU MAP	Baltic	NSEANA	MED	LDF	LP	ECON
Biological data								
Question 1								
Question ...								
Socio-Economic data								
Question 1								
Question ...								

The feedback to the questions can be found in appendix 1 as well as the comments from the RCG Subgroup and suggestions on how to take the comments into account when revising the EU-MAP.

4 Review of the present EU-MAP legislation

In addition to the review of the question provided by DG MARE to the end-users a review was made on EU-MAP legislation. The following documents were reviewed:

Annex to the Commission Delegated Decision on the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socio-economic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. (appendix 2).

Annex to the Commission Implementing Decision on the list of mandatory research surveys and thresholds for the purposes of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. (appendix 3)

The outcome of the review and the suggestion for changes of the legal text is made in the two above mentioned documents. The suggestions is made with trach changes on Word documents.

As it appears most of the suggested text changes relates to simplification and to reducing any ambiguity of the legal text. Unfortunately, the time did not allow changes of table 1A, 1B and 1C as well as minor changes to some of the other tables. It was agreed that at the RCG meetings held in June and July 2019 will aim at delivering suggestions for tables to be revised including revised tables.

5 AOB

The time at the meeting did not allow any other issues in relation to the revision of the EU-MAP to be discussed.