

STECF EXPERT WORKING GROUP EWG 19-11

Evaluation of fisheries dependent information for European Fleets

16-20 September 2019, Ispra

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Background

An STECF Expert Working Group on Fisheries Dependent Information will be convened from 16– 20 September 2019 in Ispra, Italy to review the data transmitted by Member States under the 2019 FDI data call to judge:

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

In addition, the EWG is asked to map the data on fishing effort obtained from the call for spatially disaggregated data.

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

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

Terms of Reference: see annex

Annex – Terms of Reference

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

1. As a matter of priority, the EWG is requested to ensure that all unresolved data transmission (DT) issues encountered prior to and during the EWG meeting are reported on line via the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) available at <https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/web/dcf/dtmt>. Such issues should be reported in full within 2 weeks of the end of the EWG.
2. Review outputs of ad hoc contract that provides a methodology to partition data (numbers at length) from Tables C and D (aggregations according to sampling programs) to Table A (detailed catch table), discuss and agree future methodology to be applied.
3. Review outputs of ad hoc contract that provides the catches, landings and discards, at a level of aggregation corresponding to the fleet, area and gear type as specified in each exemption of each discard plan for 2020.
4. Review data quality checks and produce National methodological chapters.

2 – In the interests of establishing common best practices, identify any aspects to answering to the data call that still need a common approach to be established.

1. Propose and agree practice for use of confidential data records. This includes treatment and presentation of data on the data dissemination site.
2. Review MS methodologies applied when deriving Table A from biological sampling programs.
3. Discuss other issues that are relevant to the FDI data call and where possible conclude on a common approach to be used.

3 – Test the compatibility between the data collected in the FDI database and the data collected in the Mediterranean and Black Sea database.

1. For data from 2017 and 2018 and FAO area 37, compare
 - a. Codes used in the FDI and Med&BS data calls (e.g. gear type, vessel length, metier, etc.).
 - b. Sums of effort (kWdays-at-sea, GTdays-at-sea, fishing days) at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Table G ‘Effort summary’ of the FDI database and the Table D ‘Fisheries effort data’ of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 1, Appendix 2.4 of the Med&BS data call).
 - c. Sums of landings (tonnes) and sum of discards (tonnes) at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Table A ‘Catch summary’ of the FDI database and the Tables B ‘Fisheries landings at length data’ and C ‘Fisheries discards at length data’ of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 1, Appendix 2.2 and 2.3 of the Med&BS data call). Comparison to be restricted to the species contained in Annex 1, Appendix 1.7 of the Med&BS data call.
 - d. Conditional on successful matching of the total landed weight and discards weight totals, compare numbers at length at the level of country-year-GSA area-gear type. The comparison is to be made between data held in Tables F MBS ‘Landings length data’ and D MBS ‘Discards length data’ of the FDI database and Tables B

‘Fisheries landings at length data’ and C ‘Fisheries discards at length data’ of the Mediterranean and Black Sea database (as described in Annex 1, Appendix 2.2 and 2.3 of the Med&BS data call). Comparison to be restricted to the species contained in Annex 1, Appendix 1.7 of the Med&BS data call.

4 – Produce dissemination tables and maps of spatial effort and landings by c-squares

1. Discuss and agree possible format of dissemination tables based on FDI data collected (considering confidentiality issues).
2. Produce maps of effort and landings by c-square for the following regions (as defined in COM-2016-134 for areas other than ‘distant waters’) and major gear types (as defined in appendix 4 of the data call):
 - a. Baltic; North Sea; North Western Waters; South Western Waters; Mediterranean and Black Sea; Distant waters¹
 - b. Trawls (except beam trawls) with mesh < 100mm; trawls (except beam trawls) with mesh ≥ 100mm; beam trawls with mesh < 120mm; beam trawls with mesh ≥120mm; seine nets; gillnets and entangling nets; dredges; hooks and lines; surrounding nets; pots and traps.

5 –Provide landings and discards data for exemptions in discard plans

STECF is asked to provide figures for landings and discards in 2018, at a level of aggregation corresponding to the fleet, area and gear type as specified in each exemption of each of the discard plans for 2020.

STECF is asked to assess and if possible, provide percentages of discards estimates below and above MCRS at a level of aggregation corresponding to the fleet, area and gear type as specified in each exemption of each of the discard plans for 2020.

Where there is insufficient discard data for the above task, the STECF is asked to provide estimated catches (landings + discards²) for 2018, if possible and enough data provided during data call.

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

² Discards are defined here as the fish/crustaceans thrown overboard.