



JRC SCIENTIFIC AND POLICY REPORTS

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

## STECF Opinion on the adoption of Member States' National programmes for Data Collection 2014-2016 (STECF-13-09)

Edited by John Casey & Hendrik Doerner

This report was reviewed by the STECF by written procedure in May 2013

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

### **STECF Opinion on the adoption of Member States' National programmes for Data Collection 2014-2016 (STECF-13-09)**

**THIS REPORT WAS ISSUED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE IN MAY 2013**

#### **Background**

The Commission is in the process of adopting an EU Multi-annual Programme for data collection for 2014-2016 which will contain the same provisions as the current EU Multiannual Programme 2011-2013 (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU), We aim to have this Commission Decision adopted by June 2013.

In accordance with Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008, Member States shall submit their national programmes for approval to the Commission. On this basis, and on the basis of the EU Multi-annual Programme for data collection for 2014-2016 referred to above, the Commission will adopt Member States' National Programmes for 2014-2016 by way of a Commission Decision. To ensure continuity, it is important to conclude this exercise by June 2013, given the uncertainty over the legal basis for Member States' National Programmes, which may be repealed in the summer or autumn. To meet this deadline, and to facilitate the work to be carried out by the Member States, the Commission proposes to maintain the contents of the 2011-2013 programmes, in the version most recently updated by Member States. Any modifications of the contents of the current National Programmes would risk causing delays and could result in a gap in data collection in 2014.

If STECF considers that the modification of certain National Programmes is necessary, this can be done in parallel, such that a modification of the 2014-2016 National Programme can be adopted after the National Programmes are adopted in June 2013. In practice, in order to adopt National Programmes by June, the Commission needs to launch the adoption procedures at the latest by mid-May, for adoption early June by the Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

#### **Request to the STECF**

The STECF is requested to provide its opinion on the Commission's proposal to extend the provisions of the EU Multi-annual Programme for data collection for 2011-2013 for the period 2014-2016. The STECF is requested to provide its response by 13 May 2013.

#### **STECF response**

STECF notes that the Commission is in the process of adopting an EU Multi-annual Programme for data collection for 2014-2016 which will contain the same provisions as the current EU Multiannual

Programme for the period 2011-2013 (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU). To ensure continuity in data collection, it is important to conclude this exercise by June 2013.

To meet this deadline, and to facilitate the work to be carried out by the Member States and to avoid any risk of causing delays which could result in a gap in data collection in 2014, the Commission proposes to maintain the contents of the most recent versions of the 2011-2013 National Programmes for the period 2014-2016.

STECF also notes that the provision to make modifications to Member States' National Programmes for 2014-2016 will remain and any such modifications to the 2014-2016 National Programmes can be adopted subsequent to the adoption of the Commission's proposal to retain the most recent versions of the 2011-2013 National Programmes in June 2013. STECF advises that where a MS has not changed its NP 2011-2013 since the first submission in March 2010, when ranking of métiers and stocks for sampling was based on the reference period 2007-2008, the MS should review their rankings of métiers and stocks for sampling using the most recent fisheries statistics. Where significant changes in rankings are observed, the consequences for sampling should be discussed and agreed in the relevant Regional Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs) and the MS's NP for the subsequent year should be amended accordingly.

Given the above considerations and noting that the most recent versions of Member States' 2011-2013 National Programmes were reviewed by the STECF in December 2012 and judged to be scientifically justifiable, STECF considers that a Multi-annual Programme for data collection for 2014-2016 which contains the same provisions as the EU Multiannual Programme for the period 2011-2013 (Commission Decision 2010/93/EU) is also justifiable from a scientific perspective.

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#### Abstract

The STECF commented on a Commissions proposal to maintain the contents of the DCF 2011-2013 national programmes, in the version most recently updated by Member States by written procedure in May 2013.

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