

## **STECF EXPERT WORKING GROUPS EWG 23-05 AND 23-10**

### ***Evaluation of fisheries dependent information for European Fleets***

**30 May – 2 June 2023, Videoconference**

**11 - 15 September 2023, JRC – ISPRA**

**DG MARE focal person:** Evelien Ranshuysen (D3), Paulo Vasconcelos, Agnieszka Sadowska (C5), Ilaria Vielmini, Christoph Priebe (C1), Leonie O’ dowl (C3).

**JRC focal person:** Zeynep Hekim

**Chairs:** Arina Motova-Surmava and Antonella Zanzi

#### **Background**

Two STECF Expert Working Groups on Fisheries Dependent Information (FDI) will be convened:

- 1) EWG 23-05 Data methodology and dissemination
- 2) EWG 23-10 Evaluation of Fisheries Dependent Information for European Fleets to review the data transmitted by Member States under the 2023 FDI datacall to judge:
  - a. If data submitted is complete in terms of areas of fishing, types of fleet segment and gear operated and species identified;
  - b. If data submitted is complete in terms of type of data requested: capacity metrics, effort metrics, landings, discards and spatially disaggregated landings and effort.

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.

**[to be decided upon in STECF PLEN 23-01]** As concluded in STECF PLEN 23-01 there will be two final reports for the two EWGs: to be delivered after the EWGs take place and endorsed by STECF PLEN 23-02 and STECF PLEN 23-03

**Terms of References STECF EWG 23-05 and 23-10 included, see next pages**

## **Terms of Reference EWG 23-05 Data methodology and dissemination**

Based upon the

- STECF PLEN 22-03 conclusions on the STECF EWG 22-10 FDI;
- STECF PLEN 21-03 conclusions on the STECF EWG 21-10 Methodology;
- STECF PLEN 21-01 conclusions on the 7.3 preparation of the EWG 21-10 on Fisheries Dependent Information I;
- [STECF PLEN 20-02](#) conclusions on the 7.4 preparation of the EWG 20-10 Fisheries Dependent Information;
- [STECF EWG 20-10](#) conclusions including the establishment of common practices (use of confidentiality data records and dissemination tools), and the methodology concluded to partition data (numbers at length) from Tables C and D (aggregations according to sampling programs) to Table A (detailed catch table).
- The need stressed by the STECF PLEN 19-03 to develop a suite of methodologies for the dissemination of FDI data. Such methodologies will provide a visual and numerical indication of estimate robustness and coverage – in particular for discard estimates.

The STECF supports the proposal to hold a methodology meeting every second year, as requested by the EWG. These methodology meetings form an essential pillar to the functioning of the EWG as they facilitate the development of methods used to answer the data call and check the quality of the data. The experience of having such a meeting in 2021 ensured that such dedicated methodology meetings have clear positive effects on the quality of the data (and subsequent advice), and significantly reduce the time required for data checking during the advice meeting. These methodology meetings also provide a space in which historical data can be explored and investigated for stability and consistency across years. This feature of the meeting will become increasingly important as FDI will request more historical years in future data calls (pre-2013).

The STECF EWG is requested to:

### **1. Review approaches used by Member States responding to the FDI data call and if possible propose common best practice**

Discuss and review the following:

- 1.1. Follow up on methods used by Member States to partition biological sampling data to the level requested in Table A;
- 1.2. Any issues in preparing the data(call) with the new metier definitions used by Member States;
- 1.3. Follow up on allocation of landings to c-squares using VMS/logbook data;
- 1.4. The data call request to specify the UK EEZ indicator for areas that have a borderline between EU and UK. The EWG is requested to review the approach used (or planned to be used) by Member States to provide this information;
- 1.5. Discuss if FecR package produced at the 2nd Workshop on Transversal Variables held in Nicosia, Cyprus on 22-26 February 2016 (Castro Ribeiro et al., 2016) is used for data preparation and how it could be maintained.
- 1.6. Quality indicators for discard estimates
- 1.7. The experts are invited to prepare a presentation on their methodology as changed since 2021 discussion in STECF EWG 21-10 in the respective Member State that will be given in the first days of the EWG.

**2. Review outputs of the ad hoc contract 1: trial on data transfer procedures to transfer biological data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call into the FDI database**

Discuss and agree on the necessary steps to transfer the biological data from Mediterranean and Black Sea data call into the FDI format/database. Review the ad hoc contract results for transferring the biological data of the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call to the FDI data format.

**3. To review in detail the script (available in Annex 4 of EWG 22-10) that is used to disseminate the biological data in tables C, D E and F by merging with table A.**

As discussed in STECF PLEN 22-03, the script to merge the catch data and the biological tables still maintains the underlying assumptions of the raising procedures and avoid any false assumptions of length/age composition availability at a very fine resolution. This script is available in Annex 4 of the EWG 22-10 report and was made publicly available as an electronic annex, noting that the script is still considered to be under development. The EWG is requested to review the script outputs based on 2022 published data and further develop clear guidance for the end users.

**4. Discuss ICES RDBS development progress and its alignment to FDI data call.**

WGRDBESGOV (ICES) has formed a subgroup to investigate the possibility of the RDBES to be used to fulfil the FDI data call. The subgroup revised the Fishery Dependent Information data call tables and compared them with the corresponding tables in the RDBES Data Model and InterCatch, The output of this work (WGRDBESGOV 2022) lists the variables that are proposed to be added to the CL and CE tables of the RDBES. There is also species list that proposed to be added to the FDI specifications and issues that shall be taken into account in the alignment of RDBES and FDI data calls. The group is invited to discuss the outcomes of WGRDBESGOV and provide feedback if appropriate.

## **Terms of Reference EWG 23-10 Evaluation of Fisheries Dependent Information for European Fleets**

**DG MARE focal person:** Evelien Ranshuysen (D3), Paulo Vasconcelos, Agnieszka Sadowska (C5), Ilaria Vielmini, Christoph Priebe (C1), Leonie O’dowd (C3).

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### **Background information**

EWG 23-10 Evaluation of Fisheries Dependent Information for European Fleets to review the data transmitted by Member States under the 2023 FDI datacall to judge:

1. If data submitted is complete in terms of areas of fishing, types of fleet segment and gear operated and species identified;
2. If data submitted is complete in terms of type of data requested: capacity metrics, effort metrics, landings, discards and spatially disaggregated landings and effort.

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.

**The STECF EWG is requested to:**

### **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.**

1.1 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 listed in compliance to the DTMT Guidance.

1.2 Review outputs of ad hoc contract 2 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 delegated regulation specifying the details of implementation of the landing obligation for 2023.

1.3 Review data quality checks and produce National methodological chapters.

### **2 – Provide landings and discards data for exemptions in discard plans.**

Based upon the previous work and method established in STECF EWG 20-10, STECF EWG 21-12, STECF EWG 22-10 and the output of ad hoc contract 2:

2.1 STECF is asked to provide figures for landings and discards in 2022, at a level of aggregation corresponding to the fleet, area and gear type as specified in each exemption of each of the delegated regulations specifying details of implementation of the landing obligation for 2024.

2.2 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 delegated regulations specifying details of implementation of the landing obligation for 2024.

2.3 Where there is insufficient discard data for the above task, the STECF is asked to provide **estimated catches** (landings + discards<sup>1</sup>) for 2022. Only if this is possible and sufficient data is available for such estimation.

### **3 – Review dissemination formats and produce dissemination tables and maps of spatial effort and landings by e-squares**

3.1 Discuss if there are any changes needed in the data dissemination format agreed in 2022.

3.2 If GIS technical skills are available in the EWG, produce maps of effort and landings by e-square (to be inserted in the EWG report) 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 Seas; Distant waters
- 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 trap.

### **4 – Discuss data submission results following recent changes in the data call and definitions, assess feasibility to provide updated time series.**

### **5 – Follow up on the comparability between the data collected in the FDI database and the data provided to the AER**

EWG 21-10 (report EWG 21-12) has analysed the consistency of the activity data between the two sources – AER and FDI data set. For this task, AER data sets published on the STECF website (<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports>) were compared with data submitted (2017 and 2018) to FDI database during 2020 data call. The data analysis showed an improvement in data codification between both data calls and consistency between different data sets with the same information, however some discrepancies between the data sets remains. Most of the data inconsistencies identified were due to: timing in data exports to answer the data call, possibility to report to FDI confidential data (that is not available in AER) and due to the clustering of fleet segments used in AER data set.

Additionally, the RCG ECON has requested EWG 23-05 to:

- i) Test that the coding of fleet segments are consistent on national levels between AER and FDI data submissions;
- ii) Check latest submitted data with overlapping years between the data calls. Are the coding of fleet segments consistent on MS level;
- iii) Compare the Capacity, Landings and Effort data sets between AER and FDI data calls;
- iv) Repeat analysis from FDI 2021 on newly submitted data (2020 data);
- v) Evaluate any suggestions for changes in data calls provided by the RCG ISSG. If there are any input from the ISSG, these should be considered
- vi) Follow up on DTMT issues reported in STECF EWG-21-12 report in relation to AER and FDI comparison.

### **6 – Provide recommendations on possible future use of the ‘Shinyapp’ on overall trends in discard patterns using the FDI data.**

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Discards’ are defined here as the fish/crustaceans caught and thrown overboard back into the sea

The STECF EWG is invited to provide recommendations and feedback to the external contractors who will be present during the EWG to present the Shinyapp with updated time series of FDI data (2020 & 2021) – or a very advanced prototype – to the EWG members, more specifically to conclude if it would be possible to annually update the Shinyapp by the STECF EWG. The Shinyapp is under development and not publicly available yet. Any dissemination issues can already be signalled by the STECF EWG.