

STECF EWG 23-16

Evaluation of work plans for data collection and data transmission issues

Virtual meeting, 23-27 October 2023

Terms of Reference (ToR)

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Background

Article 6 of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 1004/2017¹ requires the Member States to submit to the Commission a national Work Plan (WP) for approval. It requires the Commission to request STECF to evaluate the WPs prior to their approval.

Article 9 of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 1004/2017 allows the Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) to submit to the Commission regional Work Plans (RWP) for approval. It requires the Commission to request STECF to evaluate the RWPs prior to their approval.

Article 11 of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 1004/2017 requires the Member States to submit to the Commission an annual report (AR) on the implementation of their national Work Plans (WPs); and requires STECF to evaluate the quality of the data collected by the Member States.

In preparation for the STECF assessment, STECF EWG 23-16 will be convened on 23-27 October 2023. EWG 23-16 will evaluate revised WPs 2024(-2027), and 31 data transmission issues from the 2023 Fleet Economics data call (EWG 23-03 and EWG 23-07). All issues have been reported in the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT).

The number of submitted WPs will be confirmed on 17 October, as the submission deadline is 15 October 2023. First regional work plans (RWP) for several RCGs will be submitted for the STECF evaluation.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008. ([consolidated version of 14.07.2021](#))

In the first half of 2023, one STECF expert group reported 31 data transmission issues: EWG 23-03 on data from the 2023 Fleet Economics data call. The data were used by EWG 23-07 to draft the Annual Economic Report.

Request to EWG 23-16

EWG 23-16 is requested to:

ToR 1: Evaluate the revised WPs 2022-2024(2027) and RWPs

Experts are requested to evaluate the WPs submitted by MS and the RWPs submitted by the Regional Coordination Group, in accordance with Article 10 of Regulation (EU) No 2017/1004, considering:

- the conformity of the WPs with the contents of Articles 6 and 9 of the DCF Regulation, and with the EU MAP from 2022 onwards,
- the scientific relevance of the data covered by the WPs for the purposes laid down in Article 1(1) of the DCF Regulation, and the quality of the proposed methods and procedures,
- the conformity with the format and guidelines on the WP template (for the national work plans).

The experts should pay particular attention if the MS considered the comments provided by STECF EWG 21-17 and the Commission during the WP 2022-2024(2027) assessment, as well as the STECF assessment of the WP amendments (EWG 22-18), and of 2022 AR (EWG 23-08). The experts should agree on evaluation criteria and format for the Regional Work Plans.

During the EWG 23-16, the experts will communicate to the MS (via the Commission) outstanding issues that require clarification and/or resubmission. The MS will provide explanations and resubmit the WPs if necessary. The communication will be streamlined in a dedicated feedback table, provided in Teams by the Commission. The exchanges with the RCG will take place after the EWG 23-16.

The experts will use the evaluation grid (background document 2). They should make sure that the language used in the evaluation is neutral, subject-related and that the comments are self-explanatory and clear. The comments are to be based on factual data. More guidance is

included in the stand-alone document of assessment criteria (background document 3), and in the guidelines on the WP/AR templates (background document 4).

ToR 2: Evaluate DTi from the 2023 Fleet Economics data call (EWG 23-04 and EWG 23-07)

Regarding data transmission issues (DTi), EWG 23-16 is requested to focus on the issues from the 2023 Fleet Economics data call (EWG 23-03 and EWG 23-07) recorded in the DTMT (31 issues reported).

The experts are requested to use the DTMT guidelines for the evaluation, and to provide feedback on the guidance if necessary. The DTMT table and guidance have been modified in 2023, to better capture the follow-up that MS undertake to address the recorded issues.

Tor 3: Test and provide input on the DCF IT platform

In 2021, the Commission initiated an IT project to build a DCF platform for submitting and evaluating the work plans and the annual reports. In September 2023, the platform was tested by a group of users from several Member States, and in October, it was deployed in the production environment. The Commission intends to further test the use of the platform during the real assessment cycle, involving the STECF experts, and requests EWG 23-16 to participate in this exercise and to provide feedback on the experience.

EWG 23-16 report

The EWG should produce a Word document with general explanations and an Excel file with the assessment and comments of each WP. The document should include an overview of the assessment and overall evaluation of the Work Plans (horizontal issues, spanning many MS/ sea basins).

- 1) Per Member State (National Work Plans):
 - a) an evaluation of the WP content (compliance with DCF Regulation and EU MAP) and format (compliance with the template guidelines) in general and per WP section
 - b) MS-specific issues relating to data collection as described in the WP
 - c) regarding Data Transmission issues (DTi):
 - i. An overall evaluation of Member State performance, of main and recurring issues by Member State.
 - ii. An evaluation of Member States' responses via the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool online platform to issues raised by end users of scientific advice. The EWG is requested to evaluate DTi, and close issues which have been clarified. The data sets affected shall be underlined.

- iii. Identify in the evaluation per Member State the comments which require a reaction from Member State (draft a summary list) and those points which are for information only.
- 2) Per region (Regional Work Plans):
 - a) an evaluation of the coverage for the region/fishery for the specific section submitted and
 - b) an evaluation of the planned regional coordination in research surveys and other data collection activities.
 - 3) At EU level:
 - a) feedback on the DCF IT platform testing.

In their report, EWG 23-16 should identify the comments that require a reaction by the MS(s) or RCG(s) (resubmission of the WPs/RWPs or further clarification to the Commission), and those that are for potential future amendments or for information only.

The evaluation will be based on the evaluation grid and criteria (background documents 2 and 3). The EWG should pay particular attention that the submitted WPs:

- address the issues raised in the assessment grids during past evaluations
- address the issues raised in COM assessment grids
- consider RCG and STECF recommendations, in particular the recommendation concerning the RCG secretariat.

Background documents

For WP assessment ToR 1:

1. WP 2024(-2027) submitted by the MS (folder 01)
2. WP evaluation grid (approved by EWG 21-17)
3. Stand-alone document for WP evaluation (approved by EWG 21-17)
4. Guidance on WP/AR templates (COM Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/39)
5. 2021 COM assessment grids (folder 02)

For DTMT assessment ToR 2:

6. https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/d/dcf/DTMT_Guidance-Version_2023-04-06
7. DT issues recorded in the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool: https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/dtmt_en (Excel export file will be provided)

8. STECF EWG 23-04 AND EWG 23-07 report (Annual Economic Report)

For DCF platform ToR 3:

9. <https://acc.work-plans-reports.dcf.ec.europa.eu/>

Additional background documents:

The experts should consider relevant assessment files from previous STECF EWGs, including STECF EWG 21-17 (WP), EWG 22-18 (WP), EWG 23-08 (AR).

The experts may also consult previous WPs and ARs:

https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/wps-and-ars/work-plans_en

https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/wps-and-ars/annual-reports_en

and other relevant documents (e.g. ICES reports for meetings relating to the relevant data calls, Liaison Meeting and RCG recommendations etc.)