

DRAFT Terms of Reference EWG 24-05 Social Data in Fisheries

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Background information

One of the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy¹ (the CFP Regulation) is to promote social sustainability. The current legal framework refers to labour conditions, health and safety, as well as to job creation and training, social inclusion and a fair standard of living. Fisheries throughout Europe have undergone major structural changes, leading to important social consequences for both individual fishers as well as for fishing communities. In a number of fishing communities and regions of the EU, the social importance of the fisheries sector outweighs its direct economic contribution.

The collection of data for calculating the social indicators for **the EU fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing industry** is required under the Data Collection Framework (Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 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 CFP). The multiannual program for data collection (Decisions (EU) 2021/1167 and 2021/1168) specifies social variables² to be collected every three years from 2018 onwards:

- Employment by gender
- Full Time Employment (FTE) by gender
- Unpaid labour by gender
- Employment by age
- Employment by education level
- Employment by nationality
- Employment by employment status
- Total FTE National

This data was last collected for the EU Fishing fleet in the STECF 22-06, for the EU Aquaculture sector in the STECF 22-17, and for the EU Fish processing industry fishing in the STECF 23-14. The data of the different working groups are available in the Final reports section of the STECF website³.

Four STECF Expert Working Groups (EWG) on social data in fisheries have taken place (19-03, 20-14, 22-14, 23-17). Each one built on the work on the previous EWG resulting in the development of a template for National Fisheries Profile, detailed analysis of Member States' implementation of article 17 of the CFP Regulation, recommendations for community profiles and proposed measurements of specific social issues (through indicators, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups).

As the STECF EWG 23-17 report states, community profiles are an important complement to the National Fisheries Profiles, as they provide an analysis of the social impacts of policy developments on fishing communities at a local/regional level. Initial work was undertaken in STECF EWG 19-03 on the objective and nature of community profiles and method to compile them⁴. This analysis was

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013

² For definitions and methodology of existing indicators, see https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/d/dcf/eumap_guidance_social

³ See <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/economic>

⁴ See pp198-204 of STECF Report 19-03.

completed in STECF EWG 20-14 with a more detailed structure and further guidance on the methodology⁵ to develop the profiles. This work now needs to integrate the ICES study on fishing communities in the Celtic Sea⁶ as well as related studies taking place in France (Le Guilvinec community profile).

Request to the EWG

Building on the conclusion of EWG 23-17 and STECF PLEN 23-03, including the previous analysis of the three national fisheries profiles carried out, the STECF EWG 24-05 is requested to carry out the following tasks:

TOR 1:

1. Analyse the 13 National Fisheries Profiles prepared by experts through ad hoc contracts (FR, CY, HR, BG, IT, SE, SI, EE, PT, ES, NL, DK, IE) and identify:
 - a. To what extent the current 13 NFPs are fit for purpose;
 - b. To what extent the current 13 NFPs allow for cross comparison (common challenges & trends vs. national specificities);
 - c. Potential adjustments to the NFP template to allow for better cross comparison;
 - d. Sources & accessibility of data enabling subsequent publication of NFPs.

TOR 2:

2. Based on the ad hoc contract that compiled existing literature and proposed a template for Community Profiles:
 - a. Suggest a definition of community that takes into account accessibility of data and social relevance;
 - b. Provide a first partial list of fishing communities for a number of selected countries.

TOR 3:

3. In order to progress on the inclusion of additional social variables in future EU data calls and using the results of the stakeholder consultation of 2024 and the previous STECF report 23-17:
 - a. Further develop quantitative indicators based on the policy priorities identified, including unit of analysis and specific source of data per Member State;
 - b. Further develop qualitative indicators based on the policy priorities identified, including unit of analysis and collection method;
 - c. Suggest next methodological steps for the integration of these indicators in a EU data call, taking into account, inter alia, the 2021 evaluation report of the EU MAP social data pilot studies⁷ and the 2019 Technical Report on socio-economic data collection for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry at EU level (WP 6 on social indicators)⁸;
 - d. Identify countries to be chosen for pilot studies on new indicators.

⁵ See pp 81-93 of STECF Report 20-14.

⁶ See pp 24-29 of STECF Report 22-14.

⁷ See: https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/d/dcf/ps3_socialvariables_summaryreport

⁸ See: https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/d/dcf/socioeconomic_secfish_finalreport_mare-2016-22