

STECF EXPERT WORKING GROUPS EWG 25-05

Fisheries dependent information for European Fleets methodology and dissemination

EWG 25-05 2025, Videoconference

19 - 23 May 2025, Online

DG MARE focal person: Martin Mortensen (D3), Thomas Brégeon (5), Ilaria Vielmini (C1), Leonie O'dowd (C3), Silvia Tomescu (D1), Chato Osio (D1), Anne-Cécile Dragon (D1).

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 in 2025:

- 1) EWG 25-05 Data methodology and dissemination
- 2) EWG 25-10 Evaluation of Fisheries Dependent Information for European Fleets to review the data transmitted by Member States under the 2025 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.

As concluded in STECF PLEN 25-01 there will be two final reports for the two EWGs: to be delivered after the EWGs take place and endorsed by STECF PLEN 25-02 and STECF PLEN 25-03

Terms of Reference EWG 25-05 Data methodology and dissemination

Based upon the

- STECF PLEN 24-03 conclusions on the STECF EWG 24-11 FDI;
- STECF PLEN 23-02 conclusions on the STECF EWG 23-05 Methodology;
- 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 2023 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

The experts are invited to prepare a presentation on their methodology as changed since 2023 discussion in the respective Member State including new discussion points:

- 1.1. Any differences in definition of metier and related fields such as GEAR_TYPE, TARGET ASSEMBLAGE and MECH SIZE RANGE as well as issues in preparing the data(call) with the new metier definitions;
- 1.2. Methodology applied to define EEZ indicator
- 1.3. Use of table B and refusal rates reported during submission
- 1.4. Use of quality indicators requested by FDI data call and issues arise during data submission.
- 1.5. Definition of DEEP indicator
- 1.6. Definition of TOTVALLANDG indicator and how it relates to AER indicators *totlandinc* and *totvallandg*.
- 1.7. Spatial data coverage and confidentiality rules.

The EWG to discuss and summarise the above topics.

2. Dissemination of aggregated data tables and spatial information

4.1 Following conclusion of the STECF PLEN 24-03 that the dissemination of more disaggregated data tables and spatial information need to be defined by FDI Methodology, the EWG is requested to discuss and define possible dissemination format. This should incorporate the conclusions of the Workshop about

data confidentiality concepts (recommended by RCG NANSEA & Baltic 2024 to the Commission), and then be validated by National Correspondents.

4.2 EWG 25-05 is requested to issue guidance and elaborate on dissemination needs concerning information of refusal rates, contained in Table B.

3. Inventory of number of downloads from the website

The monitoring of the impact of FDI data dissemination and the needs of FDI data end-users is essential to ensure both the accuracy and relevance of FDI outputs. The EWG is therefore asked a.) during the FDI Methodology meeting, to propose a method (e.g. DOI, creative commons licence, or citation) to track the use of the FDI data, both publicly available and restricted data and b.) to establish an inventory on the number of downloads from the website.

4. Finalise the process and scripts to facilitate the process of estimating landings and discards for each exemption of the landing obligation without ad hoc preparatory contract.

The EWG 24-11 outlined the three main steps executed during the ad hoc contract providing catches, landings and discards as specified in the exemptions of each delegated regulation.

The EWG 25-05 is requested to:

6.1 Create legal text summary table to be filled in by DGMARE when changes in exemptions legal text are introduced, or new exemptions introduced in the EU law.

6.2 Check if automation of legal text translation from DGMARE table to FDI codes is technically feasible and develop the necessary procedure.

6.3 Further elaborate initial script produced during the EWG 24-11 that currently covers data visualisation and summary tables extraction and integrate it with 6.1, 6.2 and data extraction procedure.

EWG 25-05 25-10 is requested to finalise, review and test the process and scripts to enable exemptions data provision without preparatory ad hoc contracts.