Terms of Reference for EWG-25-12

The Commission requests that an analysis of balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunity be made using a standard approach across all EU fleet segments, based on DCF information and in line with the Commission Guidelines COM(2014) 545 final[1] and COM(2024) 223 final[2][3]. Where possible, evaluation should use data reference years 2011 to 2024.

An Expert group of the STECF (Chair, Dr John Casey), EWG 25-12, will be convened from 6 to 10 October 2025 to undertake the following tasks and report to the STECF.

The STECF EWG is requested to:

1. Based on the data submitted by Member States under the 2025 DCF Economic data call and the most recent assessments and advice from relevant scientific bodies on stock status and their exploitation rates, **compute values for the technical, economic and biological indicators specified in the European Commission Guidelines.**

   JRC will provide tabulated values (in the same format as the Member State indicator tables in the STECF 16-09 data table for all indicators as detailed in items i) to vi) below, covering all Member State fleet segments wherever the necessary data are available.

   Values for the following indicators to be provided as specified in the 2014 and 2024 Balance Indicator Guidelines:

   (i) Sustainable harvest indicator (SHI)

   (ii) Stocks at risk indicator (SAR)

   (iii) Return on investment (ROI) and/or Return on Fixed Tangible Assets (RoFTA)
   (iv) Ratio between current revenue and break-even revenue (CR/BER)

   (v) The inactive fleet indicators

   (vi) The vessel use indicator

[1] COM (2014) 545 final. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities according to Art 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy.

[2] COM(2024) 223 final. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. Guidelines for the analysis of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities according to Art 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy.

[3] These guidelines have expired. If the Commission adopts new guidelines, the above reference to the 2024 guidelines should be read as referring to the new ones.

For fleet segments for which the indicator values can be calculated, the Expert group is requested to present the trend over the last 5/6-year period.

2. **Provide country chapters containing the following information for each Member State**, **in order to allow the STECF to issue an informed advice both as regard the balance situation of the fleet segments and concerning the quality of the assessment provided by the Member States in their national fleet reports and, where relevant, action plans**:

a) Based on the biological, economic or technical indicator values and their recent trends as computed under task 1, provide an overview of whether, according to the Commission Guidelines fleet segments can be considered in or out of balance with their fishing opportunities.
b) For each fleet segment, compare the biological, economic or technical indicator values as computed under task 1 with the equivalent values and trends in the fleet reports submitted by the Member State under Article 22.2 and 22.3 of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013. Highlight any discrepancies between the Member State's assessment of balance between capacity and fishing opportunities and the Expert group's assessment based on the indicator values computed under task 1. Where possible, identify the reasons for such discrepancies.
c) Assess whether the analysis of balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities in the fleet report submitted by the Member State in 2025 under Article 22.2 and 22.3 of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013 is based on DCF information in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines COM(2014) 545 final and COM(2024) 223 final[4].
d) Evaluate whether any discrepancies between the STECF assessment of the balance between capacity and fishing opportunities relating to the Member States's previous fleet report have been appropriately addressed in the fleet report submitted in 2025.
e) Advise as to whether the report identifies structural overcapacity and estimates the long-term profitability by fleet segment.
f) Advise on whether the new or revised action plans submitted with the fleet reports in 2025 set out the adjustment targets and tools to achieve a balance and a clear timeframe for its implementation.
g) Identify the number of vessels targeted by each action plan.
h) Provide a summary overview of the action plans (AP) currently implemented by each Member State. The overview should include the year each AP was launched, if it is a renewal or a new one and identify the changes between the current AP and its previous version. The number of fleet segments and their respective vessels concerned should be identified.

3. **The Expert group is requested to list for the Outermost Regions of France (Reunion, French Guiana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint-Martin and Mayotte), Portugal (Madeira and Azores) and Spain (Canary Islands), those fleet segments that according to the most recent set of data (2020 or later if available) for either the biological, economic or technical indicators in the Commission Guidelines 2014 and 2024, as**

[4] These guidelines have expired. If the Commission adopts new guidelines, the above reference to the 2024 guidelines should be read as referring to the new ones.

computed by the STECF, were indicated to be out of balance with their fishing opportunities. The list should contain information on the fish stocks on which such segments rely and the fishing area to which such segments are attributed. Separate lists should be provided for each indicator. The fish stocks on which a fleet segment is reliant shall be determined by ranking the landings from all stocks caught by that fleet segment in descending order in terms of landings value and listing those stocks that account for at least 75% of the total value of the landings by that fleet segment. The Expert group is furthermore requested to provide a list of the fleet segments for which information available does not allow to calculate the above indicators and to indicate for which indicators what kind of information was not available.

4. **For each Member State, the Expert group is requested to list in the Annex to its report those fleet segments that according to the most updated set of data (2020 or later if available) for either i) the SHI or ii) the SAR, as computed by the STECF, were indicated to be out of balance with their fishing opportunities together with the fish stocks on which such segments rely and the fishing area to which such segments are attributed.** Separate lists should be provided for each indicator. The fish stocks on which a fleet segment is reliant shall be determined by ranking the landings from all stocks caught by that fleet segment in descending order in terms of landings value and listing those stocks that account for at least 75% of the total value of the landings by that fleet segment. The area to which a fleet segment is attributed shall be given as FAO area 27, FAO area 37 and for other fishing regions (OFR).