

STECF PLENARY MEETING 23-01

20 MARCH 2021 (START 9:00H) – 24 MARCH 2020 (END: 16:00H), 18 RUE VAN MAERLANT, ROOM 1/032 AND VIRTUAL ([CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING](#))

Terms of Reference (14/03/2023)

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1. INTRODUCTION

[Does not belong to the ToRs but is listed here to avoid confusion with the section numbering when editing the plenary report.]

2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

[Does not belong to the ToRs but is listed here to avoid confusion with the section numbering when editing the plenary report.]

3. INFORMATION TO THE PLENARY

4. STECF INITIATIVES

The new STECF Committee was appointed in July 2022 and PLEN 23-01 will be its third Plenary meeting. This is an opportune time for an open discussion on STECF's "way of working" and identifying any improvements that could be made. Issues to be discussed include, inter alia:

- Preparations for Plenary
- Reporting on Expert Working Group
- Introducing TORs
- Discussing the advice
- Completing the Final Report
- Handling Written Procedures

5. ASSESSMENT OF STECF EWG REPORTS

5.1. EWG 22-14: SOCIAL DATA IN EU FISHERIES

DG MARE focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur: tbd

Possible presenter:

Request to the STECF:

STECF is requested to review the report of the STECF Expert Working Group meeting, evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations.

5.2. EWG 22-19: REVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL MEASURES REGULATION

DG MARE focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur: tbd

Possible presenter:

Request to the STECF:

STECF is requested to review the report of the STECF Expert Working Group meeting, evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations.

5.3. EWG 23-01: WEST MED ASSESSMENTS: CLOSURE AREAS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC MODELLING

DG MARE focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur: tbd

Possible presenter:

Request to the STECF:

STECF is requested to review the report of the STECF Expert Working Group meeting, evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations, especially in view of the preparation of EWG 23-11.

6. ADDITIONAL REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO THE STECF PLENARY BY THE COMMISSION

6.1. ASSESSMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BOTTOM TRAWLERS IN CERTAIN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SPAIN (MURCIA)

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Background provided by the Commission

In October 2020, the Spanish Administration has expressed its intention to adopt a new management plan for trawling in certain territorial waters of Spain (Murcia). This plan envisions the renewal of a previous derogation request from Spain to EC 1967/2006 article 9/13 in terms of distance and minimum depth from the coast in waters of Spain (Murcia).

Following STECF evaluation in July 2021 (STECF PLEN 21-02), the Spanish administration has sent at the end of 2022 additional documents related to this management plan.

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to review and make any appropriate comments and recommendations on the new documents submitted by Spain related to the new management plan for the trawl fisheries.

In particular, STECF is requested to:

TOR 1. Advise and assess whether the management plan for trawlers in the waters of Murcia contains adequate elements in terms of:

1.1. The description of the fisheries

- Biological characteristics and state of the exploited resources with reference in particular to long-term yields.
- Description of the fishing pressure and measures to accomplish a sustainable exploitation of the main target stocks.
- Data on catches (landings and discards) of the species concerned, fishing effort and abundance indices such as catch-per-unit-effort (or CPUE).
- if possible, catch composition in terms of size distribution.
- Information on the social and economic impact of the measures proposed.
- Potential impact of the fishing gear on the marine environment with particular interest on protected habitats (i.e. seagrass bed, coralligenous habitat and maërl bed);

1.2. Objectives, safeguards and conservation/technical measures

- Objectives that are consistent with the objectives set out in Article 2 and with the relevant provisions of Articles 6 of CFP Regulation and quantifiable targets, such as fishing mortality rates and total biomass.
- Objectives for conservation and technical measures to be taken in order to achieve the targets set out in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, and measures designed to avoid and reduce, as far as possible, unwanted catches.

- Measures proportionate to the objectives, the targets and the expected time frame.
- Safeguards to ensure that quantifiable targets are met, as well as remedial actions, where needed, including situations where the deteriorating quality of data or non-availability places the sustainability of the main stocks of the fishery at risk.
- Other conservation measures, in particular measures to gradually eliminate discards, taking into account the best available scientific advice or to minimise the negative impact of fishing on the ecosystem.

1.3. Other aspects:

- Quantifiable indicators for periodic monitoring and assessment of progress in achieving the objectives of the plan.

TOR 2. Evaluate whether the following conditions set by the MEDREG and Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 are fulfilled:

2.1 Derogation to the distance from the coast (Article 13 – Paragraphs 5, 9 and 10)

- There are particular geographical constraints, such as the limited size of the continental shelf along the entire coastline;
- The fisheries have any significant impact on the marine environment;
- The fisheries involve a limited number of vessels and do not contain any increase in the fishing effort;
- The fisheries cannot be undertaken with another gear;
- The fisheries are subject to a management plan and carry out a monitoring of catches as requested in Article 23;
- The vessels concerned have a track record of more than 5 years;
- The fisheries do not interfere with the activities of vessels using gears other than trawls, seines or similar towed nets;
- The fisheries are regulated in order to ensure that catches of species mentioned in Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 with the exception of mollusc bivalves, are minimal
- The fisheries do not target cephalopods.

2.2 Derogation to the minimum mesh size (Article 9, paragraph 7)

- The fisheries are highly selective and have a negligible effect on the marine environment; and
- The fisheries do not operate above seagrass beds of, in particular, *Posidonia oceanica* or other marine phanerogams.

6.2. REVIEW OF A NATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BOAT SEINES IN CERTAIN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SPAIN (MURCIA)

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Background provided by the Commission

In October 2022, the Spanish Administration provided updated monitoring report of the fisheries of transparent gobies (*Aphia minuta*) in certain territorial waters of Spain (Murcia).

These documents refer to the adoption of a plan based on the renewal of the derogation from EC 1967/2006 article 9/13 in terms of distance and minimum depth from the coast in waters of Spain (Murcia), which is currently granted with the Regulation (EU) 2020/1242. The current derogation will expire on 1 March 2023.

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to review and make any appropriate comments and recommendations on the monitoring and reporting associated to the on-going management plan for the fisheries targeting gobies in Murcia waters and make recommendation for a new management plan.

In particular, STECF is requested to:

TOR 1. Advise and assess how the management plan could adequate elements in terms of:

1.1. The description of the fisheries

- Biological characteristics and state of the exploited resources with reference in particular to long-term yields.
- Description of the fishing pressure and measures to accomplish a sustainable exploitation of the main target stocks.
- Data on catches (landings and discards) of the species concerned, fishing effort and abundance indices such as catch-per-unit-effort (or CPUE).
- if possible, catch composition in terms of size distribution.
- Information on the social and economic impact of the measures proposed.
- Potential impact of the fishing gear on the marine environment with particular interest on protected habitats (i.e. seagrass bed, coralligenous habitat and maërl bed);

1.2. Objectives, safeguards and conservation/technical measures

- Objectives that are consistent with the objectives set out in Article 2 and with the relevant provisions of Articles 6 of CFP Regulation and quantifiable targets, such as fishing mortality rates and total biomass.
- Objectives for conservation and technical measures to be taken in order to achieve the targets set out in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, and measures designed to avoid and reduce, as far as possible, unwanted catches.
- Measures proportionate to the objectives, the targets and the expected time frame.
- Safeguards to ensure that quantifiable targets are met, as well as remedial actions, where needed, including situations where the deteriorating quality of data or non-availability places the sustainability of the main stocks of the fishery at risk.
- Other conservation measures, in particular measures to gradually eliminate discards, taking into account the best available scientific advice or to minimise the negative impact of fishing on the ecosystem.

1.3. Other aspects:

- Quantifiable indicators for periodic monitoring and assessment of progress in achieving the objectives of the plan.

TOR 2. Evaluate whether the following conditions set by the MEDREG and Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 are fulfilled:

2.1 Derogation to the distance from the coast (Article 13 – Paragraphs 5, 9 and 10)

- There are particular geographical constraints, such as the limited size of the continental shelf along the entire coastline;
- The fisheries have any significant impact on the marine environment;
- The fisheries involve a limited number of vessels and do not contain any increase in the fishing effort;
- The fisheries cannot be undertaken with another gear;
- The fisheries are subject to a management plan and carry out a monitoring of catches as requested in Article 23;
- The vessels concerned have a track record of more than 5 years;
- The fisheries do not interfere with the activities of vessels using gears other than trawls, seines or similar towed nets;
- The fisheries are regulated in order to ensure that catches of species mentioned in Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 with the exception of mollusc bivalves, are minimal
- The fisheries do not target cephalopods.

2.2 Derogation to the minimum mesh size (Article 9, paragraph 7)

- The fisheries are highly selective and have a negligible effect on the marine environment; and
- The fisheries do not operate above seagrass beds of, in particular, *Posidonia oceanica* or other marine phanerogams.

6.3. REVIEW OF A NATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BOAT SEINES IN CERTAIN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SPAIN (BALEARIC)

DG MARE focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Background provided by the Commission

In November 2021, the Spanish Administration transmitted a [scientific study](#), supporting elements and video data in relation to the derogation from Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 as regards the minimum distance from the coast and the minimum sea depth for boat seines fishing for transparent and Ferrer's gobies (*Aphia minuta* and *Pseudaphia ferreri*) and Lowbody picarel (*Spicara smaris*) in certain territorial waters of Spain (Balearic Islands). STECF experts in Spring Plenary 2022 evaluated that information.

In January 2023, the Spanish Administration provided an updated monitoring report of the boat seine fisheries in certain territorial waters of Spain (Balearic). The current derogation will expire on 30 April 2023.

Request to the STECF

Based on STECF assessment in Spring 2022 and on the additional supporting documents, STECF is requested to review and make any appropriate comments and recommendations on the monitoring and reporting associated to the on-going management plan for the boat seine fisheries in Balearic waters and make recommendation for a new management plan.

In particular, STECF is requested to:

TOR 1. Advise and assess how the management plan could adequate elements in terms of:

1.1. The description of the fisheries

- Biological characteristics and state of the exploited resources with reference in particular to long-term yields.
- Description of the fishing pressure and measures to accomplish a sustainable exploitation of the main target stocks.
- Data on catches (landings and discards) of the species concerned, fishing effort and abundance indices such as catch-per-unit-effort (or CPUE).
- if possible, catch composition in terms of size distribution.
- Information on the social and economic impact of the measures proposed.
- Potential impact of the fishing gear on the marine environment with particular interest on protected habitats (i.e. seagrass bed, coralligenous habitat and maërl bed);

1.2. Objectives, safeguards and conservation/technical measures

- Objectives that are consistent with the objectives set out in Article 2 and with the relevant provisions of Articles 6 of CFP Regulation and quantifiable targets, such as fishing mortality rates and total biomass.
- Objectives for conservation and technical measures to be taken in order to achieve the targets set out in Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, and measures designed to avoid and reduce, as far as possible, unwanted catches.
- Measures proportionate to the objectives, the targets and the expected time frame.
- Safeguards to ensure that quantifiable targets are met, as well as remedial actions, where needed, including situations where the deteriorating quality of data or non-availability places the sustainability of the main stocks of the fishery at risk.
- Other conservation measures, in particular measures to gradually eliminate discards, taking into account the best available scientific advice or to minimise the negative impact of fishing on the ecosystem.

1.3. Other aspects:

- Quantifiable indicators for periodic monitoring and assessment of progress in achieving the objectives of the plan.

TOR 2. Evaluate whether the following conditions set by the MEDREG and Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 are fulfilled:

2.1 Derogation to the distance from the coast (Article 13 – Paragraphs 5, 9 and 10)

- There are particular geographical constraints, such as the limited size of the continental shelf along the entire coastline;
- The fisheries have any significant impact on the marine environment;
- The fisheries involve a limited number of vessels and do not contain any increase in the fishing effort;
- The fisheries cannot be undertaken with another gear;
- The fisheries are subject to a management plan and carry out a monitoring of catches as requested in Article 23;
- The vessels concerned have a track record of more than 5 years;
- The fisheries do not interfere with the activities of vessels using gears other than trawls, seines or similar towed nets;
- The fisheries are regulated in order to ensure that catches of species mentioned in Annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 with the exception of mollusc bivalves, are minimal

- The fisheries do not target cephalopods.

2.2 Derogation to the minimum mesh size (Article 9, paragraph 7)

- The fisheries are highly selective and have a negligible effect on the marine environment; and
- The fisheries do not operate above seagrass beds of, in particular, *Posidonia oceanica* or other marine phanerogams.

6.4. ASSESSMENT OF A JOINT RECOMMENDATION ON SHORT-NECKED CLAM

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Background provided by the Commission

STECF PLEN 21-01 assessed information provided by Ifremer produced as a response to a request from the DPMA (French ministry) on the fisheries for short-necked clam. The study was a summary of biological and fisheries information on short-necked clam. STECF was requested to assess the risks to the population of lowering MCRS (from 35mm to 32 mm) and to advise on a suitable count (numbers per kg) for market and control purposes to be associated with the lower MCRS. STECF concluded that the information provided did not justify the reduction of MCRS for short-necked clam to 32mm, since there was not sufficient evidence that the proposal would ensure the protection of juveniles. STECF concluded that a representative study of length at first maturity in the Arcachon basin was necessary to address the request. Additional information on Arcachon short-necked clam to support an updated assessment.

In order to justify MCRS reduction for short-necked clam in the Arcachon basin, in 2023 DPMA submitted updated information.

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to evaluate the new supporting material submitted on short necked clams in the Arcachon Basin (Statistical Rectangle 18E8), paying particular attention to Article 15(4) of the Technical Measures Regulation. In particular, STECF is requested to assess:

- Whether the reduction in short necked clams MCRS from 35mm to 32mm in Arcachon Basin (statistical rectangle 18E8), complies with Article 15(4) (d) of the TMR (2019/1241) and the objectives of Article 18 of ensuring the protection of juveniles of marine species. The new supporting material should sufficiently evidence that the measures “as a minimum, lead to such benefits for the conservation of marine biological resources that are at least equivalent” to the measures in place.
- Assess the management measures introduced and in place along with the reduction of MCRS would guarantee conservation benefits at least equivalent to the current situation.

6.5. CFP MONITORING – FOR EARLY ADVICE BY 31/03

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Possible presenter:

Background provided by the Commission

Article 50 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP; Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013) stipulates: "The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress on achieving maximum sustainable yield and on the situation of fish stocks, as early as possible following the adoption of the yearly Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities available in Union waters and, in certain non-Union waters, to Union vessels."

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to report on progress in achieving MSY objectives in line with the Common Fisheries Policy.

6.6. REVIEW OF THE AD HOC CONTRACTS ON KING SCALLOPS IN SUPPORT OF THE EWG 23-02: ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE FOR NON-QUOTA STOCKS - FOR EARLY ADVICE BY 31/03

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Possible presenter:

Background provided by the Commission

In the context of the development and implementation of the EU policy and to support the commitment with the UK under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), DG-MARE requested STECF to give advice on non-quota stocks (NQS) to support the development of multi-year management strategies (MYSts). EWG 23-02 will meet later in 2023 to provide an overview and identify the main issues that constitute baseline information to inform stock assessment and support fishery management of king scallops (*Pecten maximus*) in the English Channel (ICES divisions 7d and 7e).

Outputs of this EWG will contribute to inform the discussions under the EU-UK Specialised Committee on Fisheries (SCF) and its Working Group, when discussing the development of a first MYSt for Channel king scallops. This work under the SCF will start at the beginning of 2023 and will follow the agreed framework for the development of MYSts for the conservation and management of EU-UK shared NQS.

For this purpose, two dedicated ad hoc contracts have been launched to develop the following tasks / activities to be delivered by 10.03.2023, in order to be reviewed in the spring plenary meeting (PLEN 23-01) ahead of the EWG 23-02:

- *"King scallops state of knowledge"*: Evaluate the current state of knowledge on king scallops in the English Channel. The evaluation should cover fishing activity (including links and conflicts with other fisheries), data collection, landings and value, stock assessment and stock status.
- *"King scallops fisheries management"*: Provide an overview of previous work done by existent groups in terms of science and advice to management, in particular the ICES Scallop Assessment Working Group (WGSCALLOP)¹ and the NWWAC (Focus Group on Scallop)^{2,3}; Provide an overview and literature review of the current fisheries management measures and strategies/plans for king scallops in the English Channel, including all EU and UK measures relevant for this stock and fishery (whenever possible).

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to review the work of the two ad hoc contracts and comment on the information provided on the respective reports.

This review and the comments provided should assist the EWG 23-02 to expand this work and produce the following deliverables: 1) Identify specific issues that may rise from the evaluation on the king scallops state of knowledge; 2) Suggest appropriate procedures and methods to improve the data collection for the conservation and management of king scallops; 3) Provide an overview of the socio-economic importance of the king scallops fishery in the English Channel; 4) Assess the suitability and effectiveness of the current fisheries management measures and strategies/plans for king scallops in the English Channel.

6.7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE HIGH SURVIVABILITY EXEMPTION FOR BALTIC SALMON

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Possible presenter:

Background provided by the Commission

In 2022, Baltfish requested to: i) add a new gear to the existing exemption for salmon in the Baltic Sea, and ii) prolong that extended exemption beyond 2023. For that purpose, Baltfish submitted new data concerning pontoon traps and the STECF assessed this information during the 2022 November Plenary (PLEN 22-03, point 6.2.). In January 2023, Baltfish submitted a new piece of evidence in addition to what had already been submitted to PLEN 22-03.

Request to the STECF

¹ <https://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGScallop.aspx>

² <https://www.nwwac.org/about-nwwrac/structure.1607.html>

³ https://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Scallop/ToR_FG_Scallops_2021-10_EN.pdf

STECF is requested to assess the new document provided by BALTFISH. Specifically, the STECF is requested to:

- comment on the quality of the new evidence and its relation with the information submitted to PLEN 22-03,
- assess whether this new supporting information affects or changes the conclusions issued by STECF PLEN 22-03, point 6.2. namely:
 - missing data (discard rate) and flaws (missing uncertainty estimates, missing control experiment).
 - quality of the information supplied and need for further supporting information

6.8. ASSESSMENT OF A JOINT RECOMMENDATION CONTAINING A REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION ON THE LANDING OBLIGATION, NORTH SEA

DG Mare focal person:

Possible STECF rapporteur:

Possible presenter:

Background provided by the Commission

Joint Recommendations on the landing obligation (exemptions)

After consulting the relevant Advisory Councils, Member States cooperating at sea-basin level may provide the Commission with joint recommendations requesting exemptions from the landing obligation. Where the STECF's advice is positive, the Commission adopts delegated acts implementing these joint recommendations into EU law, in accordance with Article 15(6) of the Common Fisheries Policy⁴ (CFP). Where there is no multiannual plan for the fishery in question, article 15(6) of the CFP empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts laying down on a temporary basis specific discard plans containing the exemptions. The six potential elements that can be contained in a discard plan are the following:

- definitions of fisheries and species;
- provisions for survivability exemptions;
- provisions on de minimis exemptions;
- the fixation of minimum conservation reference sizes;
- additional technical measures needed to implement the landing obligation; and
- the documentation of catches.

The temporary discard plans under Article 15(6) with a maximum of 6 years have expired in 2020 or will expire in 2021 and have been or should be replaced by provisions adopted under article 15(5) and specified in multiannual plans. Under the existing multiannual plans, provisions⁵ specify that the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts following

⁴ Regulation (EU) 1380/2013.

⁵ Article 13, Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those

Article 18 of the CFP (Regionalisation procedure). Currently, most of the delegated regulations specifying the details of implementation of the landing obligation have been adopted by the Commission under the existing multiannual plans (Western Waters, the North Sea and Baltic).

The Scheveningen Group covering the North Sea will submit a joint recommendation for the STECF to review containing one high survivability request for plaice for vessels participating in a scientific project.

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to:

1. review the supporting documentation underpinning exemptions on the basis of *high survivability* in respect of the new exemption request. STECF should assess the quality of the information supplied, the likely impact of the exemption to the stock, and, where possible, assess what further supporting information may be available and how this could be supplied in the future (e.g. survival studies, tagging experiments).

7. ITEMS/DISCUSSION POINTS FOR PREPARATION OF EWGS AND OTHER STECF WORK

7.1. PREPARATION OF EWG 23-02: ASSESSMENT AND ADVICE FOR NON-QUOTA STOCKS

STECF is requested to discuss the organisation of this EWG, clarify the workflow and discuss the draft ToRs.

7.2. PREPARATION OF EWG 23-04 AND 23-06: THE EVALUATION OF JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LANDING OBLIGATION

STECF is requested to discuss the organisation of these EWGs and conclude on the final planning overall, in particular the possibility of having EWG 23-06 as early as possible in May on the basis of the availability of the STECF chair and experts, instead of the original planning of 12 – 16 June.

stocks, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008.

Article 11, Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008.

Article 7, Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 establishing a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007.

Article 14, Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014.

Due to the recent changes in pressures on the legislative procedures of the delegated acts containing the exemptions, the original timeline needs to be shortened and the Commission requests the STECF to consider the possibility to have a written procedure of the two EWG reports instead of having those reports endorsed in STECF PLEN 23-02 as was originally discussed.

Therefore, the elements to be discussed are the following:

- 1) The final dates of the EWGs depending on the availability of the chairs and the experts as the EWG are divided by area of focus;
- 2) The dates of the release of the EWG reports;
- 3) If any ad-hoc contracts are necessary to facilitate the STECF in the written procedure as much as possible;
- 4) Start- and end date of the possible written procedure.

STECF is requested to clarify the workflow and planning, and discuss the draft ToRs provided to the STECF as background document that include also a draft planning schedule as a basis for the discussions

7.3. PREPARATION OF EWG 23-05: FDI METHODOLOGY AND OF EWG 23-10: FDI METHODOLOGY AND DATACALL

STECF is requested to discuss the organisation of these EWGs, clarify the workflow and discuss the draft ToRs.

7.4. PREPARATION OF EWG 23-09: STOCK ASSESSMENTS IN THE WEST MED

STECF is requested to discuss the organisation of this EWG and clarify workflow and discuss the draft ToRs. Specifically, MARE request to discuss whether it is possible *the STECF report of EWG 23-09 can be reviewed by written procedure and not by STECF PLEN 23-03.*

7.5. PREPARATION OF EWG 23-11: FISHING EFFORT REGIME IN THE WEST MED

STECF is requested to STECF is requested to discuss the organisation of this EWG, clarify the workflow and discuss the draft ToRs.

7.6. PREPARATION OF THE EWG 23-13: BALANCE CAPACITY

STECF is requested to discuss the organisation of this EWG, clarify the workflow and discuss the draft ToRs.

7.7. PREPARATION OF EWGS 23-18: MARKETING STANDARDS – REVIEW OF FISHERY INDICATORS

STECF is requested to change the title of the EWG from EWG 23-18: Marketing standards – review of fishery indicators to EWG 23-18: Fishery sustainability indicator. In view of this change of mandate, STECF is requested to discuss on the organisation of this EWG, clarify the workflow and draft ToRs, including for an ad hoc contract supporting the EWG work prior to its meeting.

Objectives of the EWG: (1) Proceed on the development of a fisheries sustainability indicator for the impact on sensitive species and (2) Operationalise the fisheries stock sustainability indicator. Both subjects will be prepared by ad hoc expert teams in advance of the EWG meeting.

7.8. UPDATE ON GUIDELINES FOR THE DATA TRANSMISSION MONITORING TOOL AND OF THE ANNUAL REPORT EVALUATION GRID

STECF is requested to:

- (1) discuss improvements to the data issues assessment cycle and the monitoring tool, proposed by the Commission (MARE and JRC).
- (2) update the guidelines for the data transmission monitoring tool, recently discussed by EWG 22-18 on work plan assessments.
- (3) finalise the evaluation grid and guidelines in view of this year's Annual Report evaluation (EWG 23-08 in June). The grid and guidelines have been recently discussed by EWG 22-18, but the documents need final editing and cleaning. The Commission would like the STECF evaluation to reflect the MS performance (i.e. data collection gaps should be seen in the AR evaluation).

7.9. USE OF DATA-LIMITED ASSESSMENT PARAMETERS FOR CALCULATING INDICATORS TO ASSESS THE BALANCE BETWEEN FLEET CAPACITY AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Background provided by the Commission

The "Sustainable Harvest Indicator" (SHI) is one of several useful tools for assessing the balance between fishing opportunities and fishing capacity. While there is a fairly comprehensive coverage of this indicator for north-east Atlantic fisheries due to the general availability of F/F_{msy} values from stock assessments calculated for TAC-setting purposes, this is not necessarily the case in other areas, particularly in Mediterranean and outermost-region fisheries. The Commission wishes to explore the use of data-limited methods to provide proxy values (or estimates from data-limited assessment methods) for F/F_{msy} as inputs to the calculation of SHI. This would help extend the scope of the balance/capacity comparisons to more fleet segments.

The Commission is considering means to obtain advice on this subject reasonably rapidly, such as by carrying an ad hoc contract to report by July 2023 to STECF plenary.

Request to the STECF

STECF is requested to comment on the feasibility and operational tasking for such an approach. The Commission intends to present draft terms of reference for the study to STECF.