JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) –

Evaluation of Annual Reports and Data Transmission Issues 2025

(STECF 26-07)

Final report pending publication numbers for webpage release

Hekim, Z. and Freese, M. (eds.)

2026

EUR 28359 EN

This publication is a Science for Policy report by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service. It aims to provide evidence-based scientific support to the European policymaking process. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use that might be made of this publication. For information on the methodology and quality underlying the data used in this publication for which the source is neither Eurostat nor other Commission services, users should contact the referenced source. The designations employed and the presentation of material on the maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the European Union concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Contact information
Name: STECF secretariat
Address: Unit D.02 Ocean and Water, Via Enrico Fermi 2749, 21027 Ispra VA, Italy
Email: jrc-stecf-secretariat@ec.europa.eu
Tel.: +39 0332 789343

EU Science Hub
https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2026

© European Union, 2026

The reuse policy of the European Commission is implemented by the Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39). Except otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated. For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not owned by the EU, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

For any use or reproduction of photos or other material that is not owned by the European Union, permission must be sought directly from the copyright holders.

How to cite this report: European Commission, Joint Research Centre, *Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Evaluation of the Annual Reports for data collection and data Transmission issues for 2025 (STECF-26-07).*

CONTENTS

Abstract 3

STECF Report on EWG 26-07 Evaluation of the annual reports for data collection and data transmission issues 2025 4

Request to STECF 4

STECF comments 4

STECF conclusions 6

Contact details of STECF members 7

Expert Working Group EWG-26-07 report 12

1. Introduction 13

1.1 Structure of the Report 13

1.2 Pre-screening prior to EWG 14

2. ToR1 Evaluation of Member States Annual Reports 2025 15

2.1 Setting the scene 15

2.2 Results 17

2.3 Terms of Reference for EWG-26-07 32

3. ToR 2 Data Transmission issues 2025 35

4. ToR3 Provide draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes, based on the ad hoc contract input and Regional Coordination Groups' input 37

5. ToR4 Comments on the use of the DCF IT platform for work plans and annual reports 38

6. Improvements for future AR and WP 39

7. Overall conclusions 40

8. Contact details of EWG-26-07 participants 41

ANNEXES 45

Annex 1. Overviews of reporting and execution of the 2025 WP By Member States 45

Annex 2. Detailed feedback on quality annexes on economy 90

Annex 3. Detailed feedback on quality annexes on biology 93

List of Figures 99

List of Tables 99

Annexes 99

List of Annexes 100

List of Background Documents 100

Authors

STECF advice:

Ballesteros, Marta; Bastardie, Francois; Casey, John; Colaço, Ana; Cuende de Francisco, Elsa; Döring, Ralf; Drouineau, Hilaire; Grati, Fabio; Griffiths, Christopher; Hidalgo, Manuel; Ibaibarriaga, Leire; Jackson, Emmet; Jardim, Ernesto; Jung, Armelle; Lucchetti, Alessandro; Mannini, Alessandro; Moore, Claire; Motova-Surmava, Arina; Nimmegeers, Sofie; Nord, Jenny; Orio, Alessandro, Pinto, Cecilia; Prellezo, Raúl; Raid, Tiit; Russo, Tommaso; Sabatella, Evelina Carmen; Savina-Rolland, Marie; Spedicato, Maria Teresa; Steins, Nathalie; Stransky, Christoph; Tserpes, George; Ulrich, Clara; Uriarte, Andres; Uusitalo, Laura; Valentinsson, Daniel

EWG-26-07 report:

EWG chairs: Hekim, Zeynep and Freese, Marko

Experts: Adamidou, Angeliki; Armesto, Angeles; Avdic Mravlje, Edvard; Berkenhagen, Jörg; Blanca, Marta; Brigaudeau, Cecile; Chant, Irina; Chassanite, Aurore; Cikes Kec, Vanja; Davidjuka, Irina; Grati, Fabio; Ioannou, Myrto; Kazlauskas, Edvardas; Koutrakis, Emmanouil; Kovsars, Maksims; Maes, Jade; Malvarosia; Mannini, Alessandro; Mantziaris, Stamatis; Nermer, Tomasz; Ní Chonchúir, Gráinne; Nicheva, Simona; Ribera-Altimir, Jordi; Rodriguez, Jose; Ulleweit, Jens; Vukov, Ivana; Zhelev, Kolyo; Zolubas, Tomas

Abstract

Commission Decision of 25 February 2016 setting up a Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, C(2016) 1084, OJ C 74, 26.2.2016, p. 4–10. The Commission may consult the group on any matter relating to marine and fisheries biology, fishing gear technology, fisheries economics, fisheries governance, ecosystem effects of fisheries, aquaculture or similar disciplines. The report of the EWG was reviewed by the STECF during its 78th plenary meeting held in Brussels from 6-10 July 2026.

STECF Report on EWG 26-07 Evaluation of the annual reports for data collection and data transmission issues 2025

Request to STECF

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

STECF comments

The EWG 26-07 met in Brussels from 22 to 26 June 2026, leaving only one week between the end of the EWG and the start of the STECF PLEN 26-02. Consequently, the following STECF comments and conclusions are based on a presentation of the outcomes from the EWG meeting and a draft version of the EWG report made available to STECF. The EWG was assigned four tasks:

- Evaluate Member States' Annual Reports (ARs) on the implementation of their Work Plans (WPs) in 2025;
- Evaluate the high-severity Data Transmission issues (DTi) reported by end-users for the 2025 data calls by the European Commission (Mediterranean & Black Sea, Social Data, Processing Industry), ICES and IOTC, and medium/low-severity DTi from the 2025 Fleet Economics data call where Member States took corrective actions;
- Provide draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes, based on inputs from *ad hoc* contracts and Regional Coordination Groups;
- Comment on the use of the DCF IT platform for WPs and ARs.

1. Evaluation of Member States' Annual Reports (ARs)

STECF observes that the evaluation of the 2025 ARs was based on the same procedure as applied in recent years, using a two-step assessment. First, Member States were asked to address the issues identified in the pre-screening of all AR sections prior to the EWG. Then, the EWG used the Member States' replies and the revised AR files to review the issues raised and if/how the Member States had addressed those. STECF acknowledges that using this approach, only few issues were left after the EWG to be addressed by Member States.

STECF notes that the majority of Member States continued to deliver high-quality ARs, but the overall performance across the EU declined slightly compared to the previous year. Last year, six Member States scored 'Mostly' (50-90% achievement of the WP tasks) and one 'Partly' (10-50% achievement), while this year, eight scored 'Mostly' and two 'Partly'. The overall performance decreased from 17 Member States scoring 'Yes' (>90% achievement) last year to 15 Member States this year.

STECF observes that the decrease in the overall performance of the 2025 ARs is to some degree caused by difficulties in WP implementation (such as reduced catches and thus fewer possibilities for sampling, lack of staff availability or breakdown/unavailability of research vessels), as well as formal reporting issues. While some of these issues were unavoidable (e.g. bad weather or short-term technical problems affecting surveys), it is the Member

States’ responsibility to ensure that avoidable issues (i.e. vessel availability, administrative issues) do not or only minimally affect the data collection.

STECF notes that a special focus of this year's EWG was to evaluate the Member States' efforts to implement the elements of the Regional Work Plans (RWPs) 2025-2027 that they committed to. Overall, STECF acknowledges a good RWP implementation, as Member States reported progress in achieving the RWP tasks. STECF will continue to observe the progress over the coming years, with a view to improve the setup of the RWPs 2028-2030 that will be evaluated by STECF in October/November 2026 (original submissions) and June/July 2027 (possible resubmissions).

STECF further notes that the EWG compiled separate electronic annexes containing the assessment grids by Member State and recommendations for improvement of the AR submission guidance and AR assessment.

2. Evaluation of Data Transmission issues (DTi)

STECF notes that the EWG assessed the DTi from 2025 classified as "high severity" from the Mediterranean & Black Sea data call (two issues), Fish Processing (seven issues), Social Data (two issues), ICES (14 issues) and IOTC (five issues). In addition, 25 medium/low-severity DTi from the 2025 Fleet Economics data call were assessed.

STECF observes that one of the two Mediterranean & Black Sea issues was assessed as “satisfactory”, while the other issue was assessed as “unsatisfactory to be revised” with follow up needed by the Member State and end-user. STECF observes that within the seven Fish Processing issues, four issues were assessed as “satisfactory”, as the Member States' comments justified the issue. In three cases, the Member States provided no response, so the assessment was “unsatisfactory”.

STECF notes that one of the two issues related to Social Data was assessed as “unsatisfactory”, the other one as "unsatisfactory – to be revised".

STECF observes that most of the ICES issues (11) and all of the IOTC issues were assessed as “unsatisfactory”. The review confirmed that most issues concerned missing data, incomplete submissions or insufficient coverage. Where the information provided by the Member State and the end-user was incomplete or required further clarification, the issue was assessed as "follow-up needed".

STECF acknowledges that the issues from 2025 Fleet Economics data call (medium/low severity) were checked by the end-user (EWG 26-05) on whether data were corrected and uploaded as indicated by the Member States. 13 were assessed as satisfactory, since Member States amended data or Member States' comments justified the issue. In nine cases, the Member States' response was regarded unsatisfactory, with the remark that the issue has to be revised, usually because the data had not been provided as indicated. The remaining three issues were assessed with the “follow-up” option.

STECF acknowledges that the latest guidance for the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT), last revised in STECF PLEN 26-01 (March 2026), was used successfully by the EWG.

3. Draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes

STECF notes that the EWG reviewed the *ad hoc* contract outcomes which included draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes (Annex 1.1 for biological data and Annex 1.2 for socio-economic data) with a set of evaluation criteria. The *ad hoc* experts tested the proposed criteria on a limited number of examples. The EWG discussed how these assessment criteria could realistically be applied in the future evaluation cycle.

STECF acknowledges that during the limited time available at the EWG meeting, it was not possible to test the actual Member States' quality annexes as requested in the Terms of Reference of the EWG. A simplified set of assessment criteria, however, was applied on a small number of examples. STECF notes that the *ad hoc* contract outputs provide a solid and methodologically well-grounded basis for future evaluation. STECF further notes that the criteria could first be applied to a broader set of quality annexes before considering the simplification proposed by the EWG.

STECF observes that the EWG 26-07 formulated questions to be considered when deciding on the final scope of quality annex evaluation.

4. DCF IT platform for WPs and ARs

STECF observes that the DCF IT platform, fully used for AR evaluation for the second time, remains a useful tool for AR and WP submission and evaluation. STECF notes that the EWG has reported on a few outstanding issues that should be solved for improving the platform.

STECF conclusions

STECF concludes that the EWG 26-07 fully addressed the ToRs (apart from ToR 3 that was addressed to the extent possible within the given time frame).

STECF concludes that the EWG 26-07 provided concise summaries on execution and reporting in the Member States ARs.

STECF concludes that, although the majority of Member States continued to submit ARs of good quality, there was a slight decrease in overall performance compared to the previous year that should be monitored in future.

STECF concludes that the EWG recommendations for improvements to WP/AR templates and guidance as well as WP/AR assessment should be kept as reference and for consideration in upcoming revisions of the respective documents.

STECF concludes that the EWG efficiently evaluated Data Transmission issues and successfully used the revised guidance for the DTMT established by STECF.

STECF concludes that a full annual evaluation of all quality annexes for all sampling schemes/segments will not be feasible within the current time and resources of the WP/AR EWGs. STECF, therefore, concludes that the proposed criteria and approaches first be tested on a limited set of cases, taking into account feedback from the RCGs and STECF, and that this be taken forward as a dedicated ToR for the EWG 26-15. The possibility of using AI tools for summarising information should be considered.

STECF concludes that the suggestions and open questions formulated by the EWG 26-07 regarding the usefulness and simplification of the evaluation of the quality annexes should be

discussed at the EWG 26-15, with the aim to decide upon an evaluation framework for the quality annexes of the regional and national WPs 2028-2030.

STECF concludes that the RWP 2028-2030 quality annexes should be assessed as part of the RWP evaluation at the EWG 26-15, applying the criteria proposed in the ad hoc contract report provided to the EWG 26 07 as background document. This will ensure that the RWPs are finalised before Member States draft their national WPs 2028-2030, in which the relevant RWP parts are referred to.

STECF concludes that the comments collated by the EWG on the use of the DCF IT platform should be taken into consideration by DG MARE for further development of the platform.

Contact details of STECF members

[1] - Information on STECF members' affiliations is displayed for information only. In any case, Members of the STECF shall act independently. In the context of the STECF work, the committee members do not represent the institutions/bodies they are affiliated to in their daily jobs.

Name	**Affiliation[1]**	**Email**
Ballesteros, Marta	Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO-CSIC), Center of Vigo, Subida a Radio Faro 50-55, Vigo, Spain.	marta.ballesteros@ieo.csic.es
Bastardie, François	Technical University of Denmark, National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DTU-AQUA), Kemitorvet, 2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark	fba@aqua.dtu.dk
Casey, John	Independent consultant	blindlemoncasey@gmail.com
Colaço, Ana	University of the Azores, Institute of Marine Sciences - OKEANOS. Rua Professor Doutor Frederico Machado 4, 9900-140 Horta, Portugal	maria.aa.colaco@uac.pt
Cuende de Francisco, Elsa	AZTI (Member of the Basque Research and Technology Alliance). Marine Research Unit. Center of Sukarrieta, Bizkaia, Spain.	ecuende@azti.es

Name	Affiliation[1]	Email
Döring, Ralf	Thünen Institute [TI-SF] Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Institute of Sea Fisheries, Economic analyses unit Herwigstrasse 31, D-27572 Bremerhaven, Germany	ralf.doering@thuenen.de
Drouineau, Hilaire	INRAE, UR EABX, 50 avenue de Verdun, 33612 Cestas Cedex, France	hilaire.drouineau@inrae.fr
Grati, Fabio	National Research Council (CNR) – Institute for Biological Resources and Marine Biotechnologies (IRBIM), L.go Fiera della Pesca, 2, 60125, Ancona, Italy	fabio.grati@cnr.it
Griffiths, Christopher	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Department of Aquatic Resources, Turistgatan 5, SE-45330, Lysekil, Sweden	christopher.griffiths@slu.se
Hidalgo, Manuel	Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO, CSIC), Balearic Oceanographic Center (COB), Palma, 07015, Spain	jm.hidalgo@ieo.csic.es
Ibaibarriaga, Leire	AZTI. Marine Research Unit. Txatxarramendi Ugartea z/g. E-48395 Sukarrieta, Bizkaia. Spain.	libaibarriaga@azti.es
Jackson, Emmet	Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency.	Emmet.jackson@bim.ie
Jardim, Ernesto	IPMA - Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera Rua C do Aeroporto. 1749-077 Lisboa. Portugal	ernesto.jardim@gmail.com

Name	Affiliation[1]	Email
Jung, Armelle	DRDH, Techonopôle Brest-Iroise, BLP 15 rue Dumont d'Urville, Plouzane, France	armelle.jung@desrequinsetdeshommes.org
Lucchetti, Alessandro	National Research Council (CNR) – Institute for Biological Resources and Marine Biotechnologies (IRBIM), Largo Fiera della Pesca, 2, 60125, Ancona, Italy	alessandro.lucchetti@cnr.it
Mannini, Alessandro	CNR IRBIM Ancona, Largo Fiera della Pesca, 260125 Ancona ITALY	alessandro.mannini@irbim.cnr.it
Moore, Claire	Marine Institute, Renville, Galway, Ireland	claire.moore@marine.ie
Motova - Surmava, Arina	Sea Fish Industry Authority, 18 Logie Mill, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh EH7 4HS, UK	arina.motova@seafish.co.uk
Nimmegeers, Sofie	Flanders research institute for agriculture, fisheries and food, Belgium	Sofie.Nimmegeers@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
Nord, Jenny (vice-chair)	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management	jenny.nord@havochvatten.se
Pinto, Cecilia	Università di Genova, DISTAV - Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, dell'Ambiente e della Vita, Corso Europa 26, 16132 Genova, Italy	cecilia.pinto@edu.unige.it
Prellezo, Raúl (chair)	AZTI -Unidad de Investigación Marina, Txatxarramendi Ugartea z/g 48395 Sukarrieta (Bizkaia), Spain	rprellezo@azti.es
Raid, Tiit	Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu. Mäealuse 14, Tallinn, EE-126, Estonia	tiit.raid@gmail.com

Name	Affiliation[1]	Email
Russo, Tommaso	University of Rome Tor Vergata, via della Ricerca Scientifica snc, 00133 Rome, Italy	Tommaso.Russo@Uniroma2.it
Orio, Alessandro	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Aquatic Resources (SLU Aqua), Institute of Marine Research,Turistgatan 5, SE-453 30 Lysekil, Sweden	alessandro.orio@slu.se
Sabatella, Evelina Carmen	National Research Council (CNR) – Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies (IRPPS), Corso S. Vincenzo Ferreri, 12, 84084 Fisciano, Salerno, Italy	evelinacarmen.sabatella@cnr.it
Savina-Rolland, Marie	Ifremer, 8 rue François Toullec 56100 Lorient	Marie.Savina.Rolland@ifremer.fr
Spedicato, Maria Teresa	Fondazione COISPA Via dei trulli 18-20 70126 Bari, Italy	spedicato@fondazionecoispa.org
Steins, Nathalie	Wageningen Marine Research Korringaweg 7 4401 NT Yerseke The Netherlands	nathalie.steins@wur.nl
Stransky, Christoph	Thünen Institute [TI-SF] Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Institute of Sea Fisheries, Herwigstrasse 31, D-27572 Bremerhaven, Germany	christoph.stransky@thuenen.de

Name	Affiliation[1]	Email
Tserpes, George	Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR), Thalassokosmos, 71500 Gournes Pediados, Crete, Greece	gtserpes@hcmr.gr
Ulrich, Clara	IFREMER, Rue de l'Ile d'Yeu, 44311 Nantes, France	Clara.Ulrich@ifremer.fr
Uriarte, Andres	Independent expert	auriartes@hotmail.com
Uusitalo, Laura	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Finland	laura.uusitalo@luke.fi (secondary: laura.uusitalo@iki.fi)
Valentinsson, Daniel	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Department of Aquatic Resources, Turistgatan 5, SE-45330, Lysekil, Sweden	daniel.valentinsson@slu.se

REPORT TO THE STECF

Evaluation of the Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission issues for 2025 (EWG-26-07)

22-26 June 2026

This report does not necessarily reflect the view of the STECF and the European Commission and in no way anticipates the Commission's future policy in this area

1. INTRODUCTION

The assessment of Annual Reports (ARs) on data collection in 2025 and data transmission issues (DT issues) raised in relation to data calls in this year were carried out by the STECF Expert Working Group (STECF EWG 26-07) 22-26 of June 2026.

Under the process of evaluation and approval of the outcomes of the Work Plans (WP), the European Commission is legally bound to consult STECF on the execution of the WPs approved by the Commission and the quality of the data collected by the Member States (MS) in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.

The EWG meeting was held physically from 22-26 June 2026, with a total of 29 independent experts one online and others in attendance. The list of participants can be found in Section 8. The evaluation of ARs and Data Transmission (DT) issues was conducted by subgroups, with experts allocated according to their respective areas of expertise. Prior to the EWG assessment, Member States' ARs for 2025, as submitted, underwent a pre-screening process. This pre-screening was performed by experts contracted by DG MARE.

1.1 Structure of the Report

The different sections of the report correspond to the terms of reference. Section 2 includes the evaluation of Member States Annual Reports (TOR 1) and section 3 the evaluation of DT issues (TOR 2). Section 4 refers to the draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes (TOR3) while section 5 contains comments on the DCF IT platform for workplans and annual reports.

To ease navigation and comprehension, an overview of the MSs AR is given in Table 1.

Table 1 Sections of Member States Annual Reports (ARs).

Section 1. General information		
	Text box DCF	Data collection framework at national level
	Text box 1a	Test studies
	Text box 1b	Other data collection activities
Table 1.1		Data Availability
Table 1.2		International coordination
Table 1.3		Bi and Multilateral agreements
Table 1.4		Recommendations
Section 2. Biological data		
Table 2.1	Text box 2.1	List of required stocks

Table 2.2	Text box 2.2	Planning of sampling for biological variables
Table 2.3	Text box 2.3	Diadromous species data collection in freshwater
Table 2.4	Text box 2.4	Recreational fisheries
Table 2.5	Text box 2.5	Sampling plan description for biological data
Table 2.6	Text box 2.6	Research surveys at sea
Section 3. Fishing activity		
Table 3.1	Text box 3.1	Fishing activity variables sampling strategy
	Text box 3.2	Fishing activity variables sampling strategy (inland eel commercial)
Section 4. Impact of fisheries on marine biological resources		
Table 4.1		Stomach sampling and analysis
	Text box 4.2	Incidental catches of sensitive species
	Text box 4.3	Impact on marine habitats
Section 5-7. Economic and social data		
Table 5.1		Fleet total population and clustering
Table 5.2	Text box 5.2	Economic and social variables for fisheries data collection strategy
Table 6.1	Text box 6.1	Economic and social variables for aquaculture data collection strategy
Table 7.1	Text box 7.1	Economic and social variables for fish processing data collection strategy
Quality reports		
	Annex 1.1	Quality report for biological data sampling scheme
	Annex 1.2	Quality report for socio-economic data sampling scheme

Source: Own elaborations.

1.2 Pre-screening prior to EWG

Prior to EWG 26-07, 20 independent experts were contracted by DG MARE to pre-screen the 2025 Annual Reports. To undertake the pre-screening exercise, pre-screeners were requested to use the updated evaluation grid along with all relevant background documents such as the revised AR assessment guidance and the 2025 Work Plans.

The outcome from the pre-screening was made available to the EWG in the AR evaluation grid template. As in previous years, MSs were contacted to address issues identified by the pre-screeners in the ARs prior to the start of the EWG 26-07 meeting.

2. ToR1 Evaluation of Member States Annual Reports 2025

2.1 Setting the scene

2.1.1 Formation of subgroups and pre-screening of Annual Reports

The assessment of Annual Reports was undertaken by subgroups, with experts allocated according to their expertise. In each subgroup, one expert was identified as a group facilitator. Each subgroup was tasked with assessing different sections of the ARs.

Table 2. Allocation of AR sections by subgroup and expertise.

Subgroup	AR Sections	Subgroup Chair
1 – General Section	Table 0; 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4.; Text Box 1a; 1b	Simona Nicheva
2 - Biology	Table 2.1; 2.2; 2.5; 4.1 Text Box 2.1; 2.2; 2.5, 4.2: 4.3; Annex 1.1	Gráinne Ní Chonchúir
3 – Diadromous and Recreational and Surveys	Table 2.3; 2.4; 2.6; Text Box 2.3; 2.4; 2.6; 3.2; Annex 1.1	Vanja Cikes Kec
4 - Economic	Table 3.1; 5.1; 5.2; 6.1; 7.1. Text Box 3.1; Annex 1.2	Jörg Berkenhagen

Source: Own elaborations.

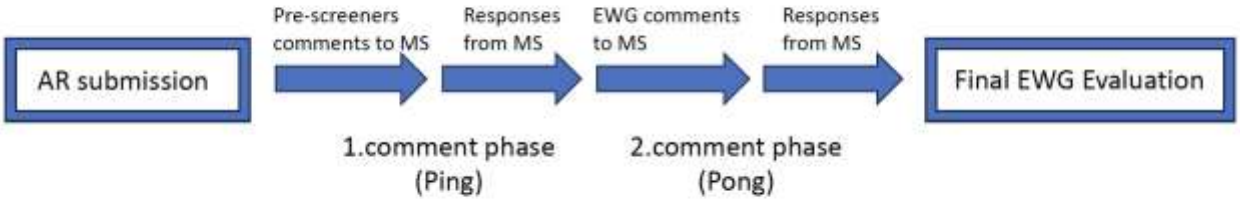
The evaluation results are provided in the evaluation grids per MS (Electronic Annex 1 - EWG 26 07 Evaluation of Annual Reports per MS) and in the EU overview table (section 2.2.1). An overview of the EWG findings by subgroups is provided in section 2.2.3.

To improve the efficiency of the AR assessment, pre-screeners signalled issues to MSs prior to the start of the EWG. This gave MSs the opportunity to provide explanations and resubmit their AR, if necessary, during the EWG. The following rules applied to the pre-screening and the Member State feedback:

1. All identified issues were reviewed by another expert before sending them to the Member States
2. Inconsistencies of the AR related to the WP, such as formatting issues, missing tables, missing explanations in the text boxes, misplaced information, wrong references etc. were highlighted and sent to MS.
3. MS used the DCF IT platform to submit their AR. Pre-screener comments were provided via the platform and added to the feedback table as back-up.

The feedback process for this year's AR evaluation process was done through the DCF IT platform but in addition a central Excel file was still used to keep track of the feedback between pre-screeners, EWG experts, the Commission, and Member States (MS). This file includes comments from pre-screeners on the execution of the Work Plan, feedback from MS, additional comments from EWG experts, and, where applicable, a second response from MS (Figure 1). This structured "ping-pong" process enables a transparent and traceable two-way communication with MS.

Figure 1. Schematic display of the ping-pong process.



Source: Own elaborations.

2.1.2 Background Information

To carry out the evaluation of the ARs, the EWG was provided with access to supporting information, including the results from the pre-screening in the AR evaluation grid, as well as current and previous ARs and WPs for all MSs.

2.1.3 Tools and criteria for the assessment

As in previous years, the EWG agreed that the STECF assessment provided in the AR evaluation grid needs to be clear and self-explanatory. It is also necessary that the evaluation is carried out coherently across subgroups so that the results are as comparable and transparent as possible.

The categories NO, PARTLY, MOSTLY, and YES were used to judge AR achievements. Sections of the AR that are not relevant for the MSs (i.e., where thresholds for data collection are applied) were marked as NOT APPLICABLE (NA). Additionally, following recommendations outlined in STECF-22-07, an extra category, UNASSESSABLE (UN), was introduced. This category is used for sections of the AR where the information provided does not allow for an assessment in the given year, such as when a reported study is not yet completed.

Table 3 Performance levels for the assessment of Annual Reports.

% of achievement	Classification

NOT APPLICABLE	NA
UNASSESSABLE	UN
<10%	NO
10-50%	PARTLY
50-90%	MOSTLY
>90%	YES

Source: Own elaborations.

Following the agreements in STECF EWG 22 07, the overall performance by Member States is based on expert judgement, as no fixed assessment criteria can be set due to the varying importance of different sections within the AR. However, as a general guide, the EWG agreed that two MOSTLY judgements can still generate an overall YES. Conversely, if one section has been assessed as NO, the overall performance can only be marked as MOSTLY, PARTLY, or NO.

For land-locked countries, the overall assessment can only be marked NON-APPLICABLE (NA) if no regular data collection is undertaken, or PARTLY/MOSTLY/YES if data collection is carried out. As agreed at STECF EWG 24 08, since no weighing of sections is applied in the EU overview, the **overall performance by MS is for illustrative purpose only. The Commission and the MS should primarily refer to the assessment of each section in the AR evaluation grid**.

2.2 Results

2.2.1 EU Overview

The overall evaluation shown in Table 4 is the summary evaluation of each Member State (MS) based on the traffic light system described in Table 3. The final performance classifications were agreed upon by consensus during the EWG plenary sessions.

Table 4. Summary of the assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Overall	AUT*	BEL	BGR	CYP	CZE*	DEU	DNK	ESP	EST	FIN	FRA	GRC	HRV	HUN*	IRL	ITA	LTU	LVA	MLT	NLD	POL	PRT	ROU	SVN	SWE
Performance	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	M	Y	M	M	P	M
1.1	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
1.2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y
1.3	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y
1.4	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y
2.1	NA	M	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	P	Y	M	Y
2.2	NA	M	Y	Y	NA	Y	M	M	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	NA	M	Y	Y	Y	M	M	Y	P	Y	P	M
2.3	NA	Y	NA	NA	NA	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	M	P	Y	NA	M	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	NA	NA	M
2.4	NA	Y	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	M	M	Y	NA	Y
2.5	NA	M	Y	Y	NA	Y	M	M	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	M	Y	M	M
2.6	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	P	M	Y
3.1	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y
4.1	NA	UN	Y	Y	NA	Y	P	M	NA	NA	M	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y	M	M	M	Y	M	M	P	P
4.2	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y
4.3	NA	UN	Y	Y	NA	Y	P	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	M	Y	NA	Y	Y	P	Y
5.1	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.2	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	P
6.1	NA	M	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7.1	NA	M	Y	NA	NA	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	NA	P	NA	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y
Annex 1.1	NA	M	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y
Annex 1.2	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Source: Member States submissions to 2025 Annual Report.

As in previous years, tables 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4 (highlighted in grey above) were excluded from the overall assessment due to the lack of a standardised reference list for meetings, recommendations, or bilateral and multilateral agreements.

This was the first year of the three year multi annual work plans, some of the planned activities were not achieved in the first implementation year. Generally, the MS performance was similar to previous year with minor differences. While last year 6 MS scored 'Mostly' and one 'Partly' while this year this number increased to 8 'Mostly' and 2 'Partly'. The majority of annual reports were of good quality, a number of reports revealed shortcomings in implementation and reporting.

2.2.2 Results by subgroup

As in previous years, each subgroup considered and provided answers to specific questions related to the AR assessment. The questions provided to the subgroups were:

1. Overall performance of the Member State on your sections.
2. Overall, what were the four major issues that arose in your evaluation? How would you resolve these? Make recommendations.
3. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the **execution** of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?
4. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the **reporting** of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?
5. Any good examples from MS to highlight?

Subgroup 1 - General

Evaluation of Table 0; 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4.; Text Box 1a; 1b

1. Overall performance of the MS on sections relating to Subgroup 1.

The EWG evaluation covered the sections assigned to the subgroup: Section 0, Sections 1.1–1.4, Section 1A – Test studies, and Section 1B – Other data collection activities.

The EWG experts reviewed the pre-screening comments, the Member State responses and, where applicable, the resubmitted AR information. The assessment was carried out following the evaluation grid. For each issue, experts checked whether the pre-screening comment had been addressed, whether additional issues were identified, and whether a further ping-pong with the Member State was needed. The EWG judgement was assigned by consensus using the categories Yes, Mostly, Partly, No or NA. Where needed, the original pre-screening comment was retained, edited or complemented, and the required action by the Member State was specified.

For Section 1A – Test studies, the EWG applied a separate harmonised approach. Test studies were considered as specific, stand-alone activities rather than regular recurring data collection obligations. Therefore, the execution judgement was marked as “Yes” for all Member States, unless clear evidence was found that the test study had not been carried out or that the required information was missing.

Any issues identified in Section 1A were treated primarily as reporting or clarification issues and reflected, where relevant, in the EWG comments or actions needed by the Member State.

Table 5. Summary of the General sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Sections	Yes	Mostly	Partly	No	NA
Table 0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Table 1.1	24	0	0	0	1
Table 1.2	24	1	0	0	
Table 1.3	19	0	0	0	6
Table 1.4	22	1	0	0	2
Total	89	2	0	0	9

Source: Member States submissions to 2025 Annual Report.

The EWG agreed that the assessment of the implementation of test studies (Textbox 1a) and other data collection activities (Textbox 1b) would not be included in the summary assessment table. The EWG recognised that the reporting of these activities is of a different nature and that their implementation may vary depending on the specific circumstances of

each Member State. Therefore, the information provided in these textboxes was considered for contextual purposes and was not incorporated into the overall assessment presented in the summary table.

Following the review process and subsequent coordination with the Member States, all Textboxes 1a and 1b were revised, where necessary, to ensure consistency with the reporting structure and template requirements. As a result, all submitted textboxes follow the prescribed template structure, facilitating a more harmonised presentation of the reported information. Although the assessment of these textboxes was not incorporated into the overall summary assessment, all textboxes were reviewed, and, where relevant, comments were provided in the respective MS evaluation grid.

2. Overall, what were the four major issues that arose in your evaluation? How would you resolve these? Make recommendations.

The group reviewed each MS's 2025 AR submission against the latest 2025 version of the NWP and RWPs. A limited number of minor editorial issues were identified in the text boxes and tables. Where necessary, adjustments were made by the MS following requests from the EWG. The content was found to be well coordinated across the different regions.

Specific issues of concern are outlined below:

a) Inconsistent reporting of data availability (Table 1.1):

- In some cases, Table 1.1 was not fully consistent with the corresponding WP/AR tables, mainly due to unclear or inconsistent use of reference years, planned availability and actual data availability. This was particularly observed for socio-economic datasets, where "N" was sometimes interpreted as the AR reporting or implementation year rather than the dataset reference year, and where delayed data availability or multi annual collection cycles, especially for social data, were not always clearly explained.

b) Lack of harmonised tracking of recommendations (Table 1.4):

- The evaluation of Table 1.4 remained difficult due to the lack of a single, structured and up-to-date reference list of recommendations relevant to Member States. As a result, evaluators could not always easily verify whether all applicable recommendations had been considered, whether Member States had reported on them consistently, or whether follow-up actions were complete and traceable.

3. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the <u>execution</u> of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

No major recurring failures in the execution of data collection were identified. However, in several cases it was difficult to assess execution because the timing of data availability was not clearly reported. Some datasets were reported as available later than planned in the WP, or refer to different referent year than the one planned, especially for economic data on aquaculture and processing (where data collection and availability of data is sometimes organized according to usual two-year cycles of data calls).

It was also noted that, in some cases, the apparent issue resulted from an incorrect reference period indicated in the WP, rather than from a failure to make the data available. This was particularly relevant for datasets where the implementation year, data collection year and dataset reference year differ.

In most cases, the issue appeared to concern the clarity of reporting on data availability rather than a confirmed failure to collect or transmit the data. Where actual availability differs from the WP timing, Member States should clearly indicate whether this affected end-user needs.

4. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the reporting of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

The EWG noted that several reporting issues identified in EWG 25-08 remain relevant for the current evaluation, in particular for Tables 1.1, 1.3. and 1.4.

For **Table 1.1**, inconsistencies and ambiguities persist in the reporting of the “Time when data were available”. Although the AR guidance already requires MS to indicate the specific timing of data availability, entries are still not always reported in a sufficiently clear or harmonised way. In some cases, additional clarification was needed to determine whether the reported date referred to planned availability, actual availability, end-user deadlines or availability through another route. The EWG therefore **reiterates** the recommendation from EWG 25-08 that a standardised format for date entries should be considered, such as YYYY-MM-DD, YYYY-MM or YYYY-Qx, depending on the level of precision available. Any deviation from the planned availability should be clearly explained in the AR comments.

For **Table 1.3**, the EWG also **reiterates** the need to clarify the interpretation of the terms “new”, “ongoing” and “obsolete” in future AR guidance. These terms may still be interpreted inconsistently, particularly for multiannual bilateral or multilateral agreements. The EWG recalls the previous recommendation that “new” should refer to agreements introduced in the AR reporting year and not included in the WP; “ongoing” to agreements active in the reporting year and established within the WP validity period; and “obsolete” to agreements that ceased to be in force during or before the AR reporting year. The AR comments should also clarify the implementation status of the agreement in the reporting year, where relevant.

For **Table 1.4.** the EWG noted that the evaluation of the follow-up of recommendations and agreements remains challenging. Similar issues were already highlighted in previous evaluations, including EWG 23-08, EWG 24-08 and EWG 25-08. The main difficulty is that there is still no single, structured and up-to-date reference list of recommendations against which MS reporting can be checked.

As a result, evaluators may face difficulties in verifying whether all relevant recommendations have been reported, whether the information provided by MS is complete and consistent, and whether follow-up actions are traceable across years. This is particularly relevant where recommendations originate from different sources, such as RCGs, ISSGs, STECF EWGs or other regional processes, and where their applicability differs by region, data domain or Member State.

The EWG therefore **reiterates** the need for a centralised and structured reference list or database of recommendations, coordinated by the RCGs with support from the RCG Secretariat. Such a tool should allow recommendations to be filtered by region, topic, source, reporting year and Member State relevance. This would support MS in identifying the recommendations applicable to them, improve consistency of reporting in Table 1.4, and facilitate the evaluation of progress and follow-up.

The EWG recommends that STECF consider this need in future revisions of the AR guidance and the further development of reporting tools. These issues can be tracked in the Electronic Annex 2 (Electronic Annex 2 "EWG 26-07 Recommendations Table") published with this report.

5. Any good examples from MS to highlight?

Greece (GRC) – The MS provided clear and detailed information on test studies (1a) and other relevant activities (1b). The level of detail and structure could serve as a good example for other MS conducting similar activities, particularly in terms of incorporating and reporting the sections from the Regional Working Plan.

Subgroup 2 – Biology

Evaluation of Table 2.1; 2.2; 2.5; Text Box 2.1; 2.2; 2.5, 4.2, 4.3; Annex 1.1.

1. Overall performance of the MS on sections relating to Subgroup 2.

Table 6. Summary of the biology sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Sections	Yes	Mostly	Partly	No	UN	NA	Sum
2.1	16	5	1	0	0	3	25
2.2	12	8	2	0	0	3	25
2.5	14	8	NA	0	0	3	25
4.1	9	7	2	0	1	6	25
4.2	20	1	1	0	0	3	25
4.3	15	1	2	0	1	6	25
1.1	19	2	0	1	0	3	25

Source: Member States submissions to 2025 Annual Report.

2. Overall, what were the four major issues that arose in your evaluation? How would you resolve these? Make recommendations.

The subgroup identified four major issues during the evaluation of the Annual Reports that affected the consistency, comparability and efficiency of the assessment process and may require further clarification in future guidance documents.

Firstly, the subgroup noted inconsistencies in the reporting of opportunistic sampling. In several cases, Member States identified “opportunistic sampling” in Section 2 of the Annual Report while simultaneously indicating that no sampling had been conducted or reported in a region. Although opportunistic sampling implies that the exact number of individuals to be sampled cannot be determined in advance, it is nevertheless expected that some level of sampling will be achieved for the relevant species where a fishery occurred. Where no sampling has been carried out, Member States should provide a clear and detailed justification. Explanations such as “no number was planned”, “opportunistic sampling”, or “no comment” should not be considered adequate justifications for zero sampling. The subgroup therefore recommends that the guidance be updated to clarify the expectations and reporting requirements associated with opportunistic sampling.

Secondly, the subgroup observed considerable differences in the reporting of Annex 1.1 among Member States. While some Member States used the headings “Description of population”, “Sampling design and protocols”, “Implementation”, “Data capture”, “Data storage”, “Sample storage”, and “Data processing” and provided information under each heading, others simply reported “No deviations” or “Not applicable”. The subgroup considered that the guidance should be updated to clearly specify the expected structure and

content of Annex 1.1 and that an example should be provided in the section on improvements to Work Plans and Annual Reports.

Thirdly, the subgroup highlighted the need for greater consistency between agreed Regional Work Plans and their implementation in Annual Reports. Where Regional Work Plans have been agreed, for example for stomach sampling, the relevant RWP text should be referred to in the NWP textboxes and Annex 1.1, and approved in the Work Plan. NWP tables should contain the RWP rows without modification by individual Member States.

Finally, the subgroup emphasized the importance of ensuring consistency across Tables 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5 of the Annual Reports. The subgroup recommended that all relevant sections of the Annual Report, as well as the subsequent evaluation grid, be structured by region and by RFMO/RFO/IO. Such an approach would facilitate more targeted assessments by allowing evaluators to identify issues within specific regions or organizations rather than assessing implementation at the level of an entire section. It would also enable Member States to better focus on and address identified issues, particularly where their contributions extend across broad geographical areas.

3. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the execution of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

The subgroup identified two recurring issues regarding the execution of data collection activities.

Firstly, several Member States continued to experience difficulties in recruiting and retaining sufficiently qualified staff and contracting agencies to carry out both onshore and offshore sampling activities. These staffing shortages have affected the implementation of sampling programmes and remain a recurring issue in some Member States.

Secondly, the subgroup noted that the suspension of the agreement concerning the CECAF region continues to affect the implementation of sampling activities. Following the agreement that sampling in the CECAF region would be suspended due to the lack of access to the fishery, no biological sampling has been conducted in the region. This issue was raised within RCG LDF and has resulted in a recommendation to the Commission to consider the issue during the negotiation process between the European Union and Mauritania. The lack of access to the fishery and the resulting absence of sampling in the region therefore remain an outstanding issue.

4. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the reporting of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

The subgroup identified recurring issues regarding the reporting of deviations and the corresponding corrective actions in the Annual Reports.

Firstly, several Member States did not provide a clear time frame for the implementation of actions intended to address the reported deviations. While the subgroup acknowledges that Member States may face challenges in implementing corrective actions and achieving tangible results within a foreseeable time frame, it nevertheless considered that planned actions and indicative timelines should be reported in accordance with the reporting template.

Secondly, the subgroup recommends that explanations of deviations per region and RFMO with actions and timelines should be stated in a sufficiently detailed and structured manner.

5. Any good examples from MS to highlight?

The subgroup identified two examples of good practice that could be highlighted.

Spain demonstrated strong performance in the Biological Section. Sampling activities were implemented across nine RFMO/RFO/IOs covering five regions. The Annual Report was well structured, and all identified issues and deviations were clearly and comprehensively explained, thereby facilitating the evaluation process.

Estonia provided a good example of the implementation and reporting of Table and Text Box 2.2. The information was presented in a clear and transparent manner and can serve as an example of good reporting practice for other Member States.

Subgroup 3 – Diadromous, recreational and surveys

Evaluation of Table 2.3; 2.4; 2.6 Text Box 2.3; 2.4; 2.6; 3.2; Annex 1.1

1. Overall performance of the MS on sections relating to Subgroup 3.

Table 7. Summary of the diadromous and recreational sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Sections	Yes	Mostly	Partly	No	NA	Sum
2.6	19	2	1	0	3	25
2.3	12	4	1	0	8	25
2.4	16	2	0	0	7	25

Source: Member States submissions to 2025 Annual Report.

2. Overall, what were the four major issues that arose in your evaluation? How would you resolve these? Make recommendations.

Diadromous Species (Sections 2.3 & 3.2) and Recreational Fisheries (Section 2.4)

Diadromous (Section 2.3)

No major issues requiring ping-pong with Member States were identified in the diadromous sections. The issues observed were generally minor and mostly related to technical inconsistencies or operational constraints. The main issue was that some planned sampling activities were not fully achieved due to low catches, absence of fisheries, fishery closures, environmental conditions or administrative delays. These deviations were usually explained and acceptable, but Member States should continue to provide clear comments for each deviation, indicate whether similar deviations are expected in future years and propose measures to avoid such deviations.

Recreational Fisheries (Section 2.4)

The overall performance for recreational fisheries data collection in 2025 can be considered satisfactory. Several countries demonstrated progress in both executing and reporting their

data collection activities. No major issues requiring ping-pong with Member States were identified although 3 MS were contacted through this procedure in order to correct their Table and/or Textbox 2.4. For planned catch variables, most Member States either achieved and reported the planned variables (15 were rated 'Yes' and 2 were 'Mostly') or fulfilment was not applicable. Also, this year the number of MS that did not conduct a survey (NA) was almost double if compared with last year's report (7 in 2025 vs 3 in 2024). Explanations for deviations were generally acceptable. The main issues concerned contradicting information between table and textbox, incomplete achievement of planned catch/release variables due to lack of cooperation from anglers, a server failure affecting off-site surveys, research still under development for one sea trout survey, low participation in questionnaires, and minimal engagement with mobile data collection app and unclear reporting.

Surveys (Section 2.6)

Some of the mandatory research surveys were not executed due to technical issues with the assigned research vessels (breakdown or unavailability). Additionally, severe weather conditions and administrative problems (bureaucratic challenges related to entering another EEZ) caused some deviations in the execution of the planned survey activities. EWG notes that it might be relevant for Member States to add additional information on deviations in future ARs, either in the text box 2.6 or in the annex. Also here, Member States should provide clear comments for each deviation, indicate whether similar deviations are expected in future years and propose measures to avoid such deviations.

3. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the <u>execution</u> of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

Diadromous (2.3)

The recurring execution issues mainly concerned incomplete achievement of planned sampling activities. Some surveys were not conducted or were under sampled due to low catches, absence of fisheries, fishery closures, environmental conditions, limited cooperation or availability of commercial fisheries, and administrative or organisational delays.

These issues were generally minor and did not require ping-pong with Member States. In most cases, they reflected operational constraints or sampling realities rather than serious failures in data collection.

Recreational Fisheries (Section 2.4)

Overall, Table 2.4 and Text Box 2.4 were generally consistent with the AR guidelines. The recurrent issues identified mainly concern the consistency and completeness of reporting. In several cases, planned catch, release or biological variables were not fully achieved or were not clearly reported, while the explanations provided were sometimes incomplete, unclear or not fully aligned with the information included in the table. A recurring problem was the mismatch between the accepted Work Plan, the annual reporting table and the corresponding textbox. In some cases, variables appeared to be planned but no data were recorded, while in others data were collected even though the relevant variables were not clearly planned.

Surveys (section 2.6)

All identified issues regarding the execution of the surveys are recurring. The EWG noticed that the effect of issues on the execution of the surveys is increasing. However, deviations caused by the environment, e.g. bad weather conditions, are force majeure and cannot be avoided. MSs should take care that other avoidable issues (i.e. technical problems, vessel availability, administrative issues) minimally affect the surveys.

4. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the reporting of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

Diadromous (2.3)

Only a few recurring reporting issues were identified in Table 2.3. They mainly concerned technical consistency of the table and completeness of comments, rather than major reporting failures. In particular, some recurrent issues related to missing or unclear comments for specific situations, references to arrangements not yet fully implemented, and inconsistencies originating from the accepted Work Plan, such as unclear links between diadromous variables, methods, units and planned numbers.

Recreational Fisheries (Section 2.4)

Overall, Table and Text Box 2.4 were generally consistent with the AR guidelines. In most cases, MS were considered to have followed the guidelines, and no substantial reporting issues were identified. In some cases, a recurring reporting issue concerned the lack of clear information on when surveys were expected to be carried out. This was particularly evident for off-site and telephone surveys, for which the planned implementation period was often not specified. In some cases, this uncertainty was increased by repeated postponements, which were not always accompanied by adequate explanations. Some additional issues were the use of region names not aligned with the official master code list, unclear reporting of surveys planned within a multi annual time frame, and insufficient description of alternative or newly applied survey methods.

Surveys (section 2.6)

No persistent or recurring issues regarding the reporting of the data collection have been identified in section 2.6.

5. Any good examples from MS to highlight?

Diadromous (2.3)

Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland performed well and showed no flaws in execution and reporting of their annual report.

Recreational Fisheries (Section 2.4)

As mentioned above, the overall performance of MS in Recreational Fisheries data collection can be considered positive. Some positive examples to highlight are DNK, GRC, FIN, IRL and LTU. These MS showed a strong overall performance, with all applicable criteria judged as Yes. Their reporting was generally clear, planned catch and releases and/or biological variables were achieved where applicable, and deviations were either absent or properly explained.

Surveys (section 2.6)

Overall, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, and Sweden showed good performance for implementation year 2025. Planned surveys have been executed, while potential deviations in number of planned sampling activities and/or spatial/temporal coverage have been well explained.

Subgroup 4 – Social and Economic
Evaluation of Table 3.1; 5.1; 5.2; 6.1; 7.1. Text Box 3.1; Annex 1.2

1. Overall performance of the MS on sections relating to Subgroup 4.

Table 8. Summary of the economic sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Sections	Yes	Mostly	Partly	No	NA	Sum
3.1	11	0	0	0	14	25
5.1	21	0	1	0	3	25
5.2	19	1	2	0	3	25
6.1	21	1	0	0	3	25
7.1	16	1	1	0	7	25
Annex 1.2	24	0	0	0	1	25
Total	112	3	4	0	31	150

Source: Member States submissions to 2025 Annual Report.

For the economics section, almost all MSs were evaluated as YES or "NA." In eight cases was the judgment "Mostly". The judgment "NA" reflects MSs which do not perform additional data collection for small-scale fishery in section 3.1, do not collect data on aquaculture or on fish processing. A substantial part of the issues could be amended by MS response during the meeting. However, it appears that in certain cases the issue flagged by pre-screeners or EWG experts was not fully addressed by MSs. It appears advisable to consider an option where MS representatives can communicate directly with pre-screeners or experts.

2. Overall, what were the four major issues that arose in your evaluation? How would you resolve these? Make recommendations.

This year the default approach for submission was through the DCF IT platform. Almost all MSs managed to follow this procedure. Uploading to the platform seems to require some experience, but is feasible. EWG observed cases in which the same file that was downloaded from the platform twice, with only little time gap, looked different. This can have an impact on the evaluation and should be further examined.

As the check function of the IT platform was limited to the comparison with the work plan, the typical formal consistency checks (e.g. between tables 3.1, 5.1 and 5.2) had to be performed manually.

As in previous years, inconsistencies with respect to the reference year were observed. This applied to tables 5.1 and 5.2. Some MSs included two reference years in table 5.2: year N for

capacity variables and year N-1 for economic variables. A similar issue was also observed in table 3.1, but only to a minor extent. Indicating more than one reference year in an AR is not against the respective legislation (93/2022) and will most likely reflect reality: MSs might collect some variables (i.e. mainly data from the Control Regulation) with the reference year being the AR implementation year.

Once the IT platform is fully operational, these consistency checks can be performed using also older ARs, which should contain data for the respective reference year.

Inconsistencies were also noted with respect to Table 1.1. Some MSs indicated the collection of data for year 'N-1', which was not in line with the provided reference year, particularly in Table 7.1. Manual cross-checks between Table 1.1 and the economics table were cumbersome. Hence, EWG stresses the need that the IT platform will take over this task in future.

Inconsistencies between these tables regarding segment names and the total number of vessels within segments were observed only in few cases.

As in previous years, the evaluation question of whether response and coverage rates were sufficient could not be properly assessed because no criteria are available. However, in several cases, coverage appears low (e.g. one response for a segment of ten people). EWG **reiterates** the considerations and recommendations as laid down in Annex 1 of the EWG 24-08 report (“Quality Document”, p. 75 ff.) to make some progress in this important aspect of the evaluation.

3. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the execution of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

As in previous years, low response or coverage rates were observed in some cases. However, with only the information requested in the AR template, it is not possible to assess the consequences of low response or coverage rates. As laid down before, this evaluation requires further effort and methodological guidance.

4. Any persistent or recurring issues regarding the reporting of the data collection referring to the relevant and previous year?

In general, no issues regarding the reporting on the data collection itself were observed for the economic section, indicating that the templates are, in general, sufficiently clear and suitable for reporting. Almost all reporting issues could be fixed by MS resubmission during the EWG.

Some MSs were facing problems when reporting through the IT platform. Using the platform might require some further instruction to persons in charge. It appears advisable to provide some assistance for handling the platform.

5. Any good examples from MS to highlight?

The vast majority of submitted AR documents can be regarded as good; EWG would not promote any particular document.

2.3 Terms of Reference for EWG-26-07

Article 11 of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 1004/2017 requires 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:

(a) the execution of the WPs; and

(b) the quality of the data collected by the Member States.

In preparation for the above, EWG 26-07 will be convened on 22-26 June 2026.

EWG 26-07 will report the findings to the plenary meeting of the STECF, which will take place 6-10 July 2026. EWG 26-07 will work on:

- the ARs submitted by Member States, through the IT platform,
- the DTi uploaded on the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT),
- the results of the pre-screening,
- the draft evaluation guidelines for the quality annexes to the WP/AR.

DG MARE will communicate the evaluation results to the Member States, following endorsement by the STECF plenary in July 2026.

Request to EWG 26-07

EWG 26-07 is requested to:

1. Evaluate Member States' AR on the implementation of their WPs in 2025 submitted to the Commission by 31 May 2026. Failures to implement the plan must be reflected in the overview table (the traffic lights), even if correctly justified. EWG 26-07 must ensure that all AR modules are assessed in a consistent and comparable way, and that the MS performance and reporting are reflected in the STECF assessment.

   Prior to the EWG 26-07 meeting, a pre-screening of Member States' ARs will be undertaken through a series of ad-hoc contracts. The pre-screeners will use the grid for the evaluation of ARs (background document 2), and the guidance for AR evaluators (background document 3). The pre-screeners may comment and propose

amendments to the grid and guidance which in turn should be considered by EWG 26-07 before the AR evaluation starts.

Pre-screeners will signal issues that can be fixed by the MSs before the start of EWG 26-07. The MS will provide explanations and resubmit the ARs if necessary, at the latest on the first day of EWG 26-07. During EWG 26-07 a similar exchange of comments with Member States will take place, preferably through the IT platform, with previous communication methods (shared files and emails) used as a back-up.

The Commission may address additional requests to EWG 26-07 in relation to specific issues arising from the pre-screening exercise.

2. Evaluate the high severity data transmission issues (DTi) reported by end users for data calls launched during the year 2025, and the medium-low severity issues from the 2025 fleet economic data call. According to the revised DTMT guidelines, the MS can remedy the low and medium severity issues before STECF assessment, e.g. by uploading missing data in a following data call. This approach may reduce the number of issues assessed in the past as 'follow-up needed'. In line with the STECF meeting calendar, the October EWG evaluating the WP assesses low and medium severity issues after MS corrective actions, except for the fleet economy data call issues, that are assessed by EWG evaluating AR.

   For data transmission issues, EWG 26-07 is requested to assess the issues from 2025, recorded in the DTMT:

   high severity DTi from the Med&BS (2 issues reported)

   high severity DTi from FDI (0 issue reported)

   high severity DTi from Processing (7 issues reported)

   high severity DTi from Social (2 issues reported)

   high severity DTi from ICCAT (- issues reported)

   high severity DTi from ICES (14 issues reported)

   high severity DTi from IOTC (5 issues reported).

   medium/low severity DTi from 2025 Fleet economics data call where MS took corrective actions (25 issues reported).

   The experts are requested to use the DTMT guidance (version March 2026) for the evaluation.

3. Provide draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes, based on the ad hoc contract input and Regional Coordination Groups' input (background documents 8).

Since 2022, Member States submit quality annexes with their work plans, describing quality aspects of their data collection strategies. So far, these annexes have been evaluated for completeness, without a thorough analysis of the content quality.

STECF EWG 25-16 recommended to set up ad hoc contracts during spring 2026 to develop the quality evaluation guidelines for the annexes. They suggested a two-fold approach, first focusing on annexes included in the regional work plans 2025-2027, in view of the RWP 2028-2030 submission in October 2026.

Several experts working under ad hoc contracts in May prepared a first draft of STECF evaluation guidelines that were presented for feedback in the RCG technical meetings in May in June. The EWG 26-07 is requested to work on these input documents to shape the evaluation guidelines, possibly applying them already on a first batch of quality annexes, so that the EWG 26-18 WP evaluation can continue the evaluation in view of providing MS with feedback for improving their quality annexes where necessary.

4. Comment on the use of the DCF IT platform for work plans and annual reports. IT is the second time that the IT platform is officially used for AR 2025 submission and evaluation. EWG 26-07 is requested to provide comments on the usage, possible issues that occurred and, if relevant ideas for further improvement of the platform and the evaluation process.

EWG 26-07 report

The report of the EWG 26-07 should contain the following:

1. At the EU (and regional) level:

An overall evaluation of the execution of data collection, including an estimate of the performance of Member States, major issues and recurring issues across Member States. The overall evaluation should also aim to highlight any deficiencies in data collection in relation to end-user needs at the regional level so that such deficiencies can be considered in planning future regional work programmes.

2. For each Member State:

   a. Regarding ARs:

      (i) An overall evaluation of whether the Member State executed its data collection activities in accordance with its agreed WP for 2025.

      (ii) A detailed evaluation of the AR, based on the AR evaluation grid provided by the Commission, which will already include the result of the pre-screening exercise. The completed grid should highlight:

- any persistent or recurring issues regarding execution of data collection activities;
- any persistent or recurring issues regarding reporting of data collection activities;
- any issues that are 'for information' only.

(iii) A summary list of follow-up actions to be addressed by Member States at the end of the EWG.

The Commission will seek clarification from Member States on any issues raised during the EWG meeting and feedback from Member State should be evaluated by the EWG during the meeting. The EWG is not required to evaluate feedback from Member States received after 25 June (one day before the EWG meeting ends);

b. Regarding DT issues:

(i) An overall evaluation of Member State performance, of main DT issues per end user/data call and of 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 (i.e. the STECF, ICES and RFMOs to which scientific data is provided by Member States) in relation to data calls issued in 2025. The EWG is requested to evaluate DTi in terms of content by closing issues which have been clarified and highlighting outstanding issues (recurrent and or having an important impact on the activity of a stock assessment working group and the quality of the assessment etc.). 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.

3. Draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes:

Provide evaluation guidelines, possibly with first assessments of some MS/RCG quality annexes.

4. Comments on the DCF IT platform project.

3. ToR 2 Data Transmission issues 2025

The Terms of Reference for EWG 26-07 requested an evaluation of the high severity data transmission issues (DTi) reported by end users for data calls launched during 2025. In accordance with the revised Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) guidelines, Member States may remedy low and medium severity issues prior to the STECF assessment by uploading missing data in subsequent data calls. This procedure aims to reduce the number of issues classified as 'follow-up needed'.

For data transmission issues, EWG 26-07 was requested to assess the issues from 2025, recorded in the DTMT:

high severity DTi from the Med&BS (2 issues reported)

high severity DTi from FDI (0 issue reported)

high severity DTi from Processing (7 issues reported)

high severity DTi from Social (2 issues reported)

high severity DTi from ICCAT (- issues reported)

high severity DTi from ICES (14 issues reported)

high severity DTi from IOTC (5 issues reported).

medium/low severity DTi from 2025 Fleet economics data call where MS took corrective actions (25 issues reported).

The updated DTMT assessment cycle, implemented in 2024 and also applicable for 2026, clarifies the timeline and responsibilities of the involved parties. Under this cycle, high severity DTi are assessed by the AR EWG in June to allow early identification of high-impact issues in MS performance reports published over the summer. Low and medium severity DTi are then assessed in the WP EWG in October, allowing sufficient time for corrective actions. Consistent with the STECF meeting calendar, Fleet Economics Data call issues with low/medium severity are assessed by the June EWG evaluating the Annual Reports (AR).

The EWG assessed 19 high-severity DTMT issues related to ICESv (14 DTi) and IOTC (5 DTi). For 14 of the ICES DT issues, 11 were assessed as unsatisfactory, 2 required follow-up, and 1 was assessed as satisfactory. Most ICES issues concerned coverage, including missing or incomplete data submissions, while 3 issues concerned data quality. For IOTC, 5 high-severity DT issues relating to coverage were assessed as unsatisfactory.

Overall, among the ICES and IOTC DT issues (19), 16 were assessed as unsatisfactory, 2 required follow-up, and 1 was assessed as satisfactory. The review confirmed that most high-severity issues concerned missing data, incomplete submissions or insufficient coverage. Where the information provided by the Member State and the end-user was incomplete or required further clarification, the issue was marked as follow-up needed.

The two DT issues related to Social data call were assessed within this exercise and received the evaluation outcomes of unsatisfactory and unsatisfactory – to be revised, respectively.

The two Mediterranean and Black Sea data call DT issues with high severity were both related to quality. One of the DT issues was about the lack of historical data on landings prior to the DCF program (1996–2001) was assessed as satisfactory. The second DT issue was related to the lack of historical data on demographic structures prior to the DCF program (1996–2001) would have been assessed as "satisfactory." However, a significant inconsistency was observed in the landing figures provided to the EU (DCF) and the GFCM (DCRF) for the years 2002 to 2010. As these inconsistencies could impact the assessment of the blue and red shrimp stock (WestMed MAP species), a follow-up was deemed necessary. The relevant Member State has agreed to verify the inconsistency and if needed resubmit the

data. So, STECF assessed the issue as “unsatisfactory to be revised” with follow up needed by MS and end-user".

EWG 26-07 was requested to assess 25 DT issues from 2025 Fleet Economics data call, recorded in the DTMT with medium/low severity. These issues were checked by the end user (EWG 26-05) on whether data were corrected and uploaded as indicated by the MSs. 13 of the issues were assessed “satisfactory”, partly because MS amended data, partly because MSs comments justified the issue, according to EWG assessment. In nine cases the MS response was regarded unsatisfactory with the remark that the issue has to be revised, usually because the data had not been provided as indicated. Three of them were related to data coverage, the other six to quality. The remaining three issues were assessed with the “follow-up” option.

In addition, seven high severity issues were assessed, referring to the 2025 submission of fish processing data with EWG 25-15 being the end user. Four of the issues were assessed “satisfactory” because MSs comments justified the issue, according to EWG assessment, indicating that the MS does not collect the respective data. In three cases the MS provided no response, so the assessment was “unsatisfactory”.

Some routine checks generate flagging issues that, in the EWG's view, should be interpreted with an appropriate degree of flexibility rather than being treated as automatic indicators of data quality problems. One example is the comparison between the variables “value of landings” and “income from landings”, where a difference exceeding 5% triggers a warning. In some cases, Member States provide a reasonable explanation for the observed discrepancy. However, it is important that any justification is sufficiently clear, well documented, and consistent with the underlying data, so that the EWG can properly assess and validate the reported values.

4. ToR3 Provide draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes, based on the ad hoc contract input and Regional Coordination Groups’ input

During EWG 26-07, the economic and biological subgroups reviewed the draft evaluation guidelines for the quality annexes (Annex 1.1 for biological data, Annex 1.2 for socio-economic data) produced under the ad hoc contracts, and discussed how these could realistically be applied in the future evaluation cycle. Given the limited time available during the meeting, it was not possible to carry out a testing round on the actual Member State quality annexes as originally foreseen. Instead, the respective subgroups produced a dedicated feedback document (Annex 2 "Detailed Feedback on Quality Annexes on Economy" and Annex 3 "Detailed Feedback on Quality Annexes on Biology"), summarised below.

Both subgroups agreed that the ad hoc contract outputs provide a solid and methodologically well-grounded basis for future evaluation, and that any simplification of the proposed criteria should only be considered after practical testing of their applicability and workload implications. The ad hoc work proposes 17 harmonised criteria for the evaluation of Annex 1.1 (biology), covering the full lifecycle of biological data from sampling frame and design to data capture, storage, sample handling, editing and final validation, and 12 criteria for Annex

1.2 (socio-economics), covering scope, target/frame population, sampling and estimation design, non-response treatment, validation, confidentiality, coherence and end-user needs; a simplified version aggregating these into 8 broader evaluation blocks was also proposed for routine use.

The economic subgroup tested the simplified socio-economic criteria on a small number of examples (Belgium for census-based fisheries data, Spain for probability-sample fisheries data and for processing industry data, Slovenia for aquaculture data) and considered this a useful basis for further testing. The subgroup proposed that the EWG 26-15, Evaluation of Work Plans for data collection and data transmission issues, should apply the draft evaluation criteria to a limited number of selected quality annexes, rather than attempting a full evaluation of all Member States and all schemes; taking into account the outputs of the RCG discussions in June-September. The EWG also noted that the RWP 2028–2030 quality annexes should be pre-assessed in 2027, before the full NWP 2028–2030 evaluation.

Both subgroups concluded that a full annual evaluation of all quality annexes for all sampling schemes/segments may not be feasible within the current time and resources of the WP/AR EWGs. It is therefore recommended that the proposed criteria and approaches (see Annexes 2 and 3 for details) first be tested on a limited set of cases, taking into account feedback from the RCGs, and that this be taken forward as a dedicated ToR for the next EWG.

Open questions for further consideration

The following points should be kept in mind when deciding on the final scope of quality annex evaluations, to avoid the workload extending beyond what is feasible for the EWGs:

- Is a full quality annex evaluation needed for every sampling scheme/survey, including those that are internationally coordinated or already reviewed by other groups (e.g. RCGs, ICES expert groups), or could such cases be exempted or handled through a lighter cross-reference?
- Could the size and extent of Annex 1.1/1.2 itself be reduced (e.g. through word or page limits per SSI), to make both completion by Member States and evaluation by experts more manageable?
- What is the right balance between the level of detail needed to give Member States concrete, actionable feedback and the workload this creates for evaluators?

Throughout the further development of the guidelines, the aim should be to keep the evaluation process as simple and proportionate as possible without losing its usefulness — this trade-off should remain a constant point of reflection.

5. ToR4 Comments on the use of the DCF IT platform for work plans and annual reports

A shared Excel file (09_DCF Platform Defect Log EXPERTS.xlsx), that was also shared during the EWG 25 08, was made available to the experts via Teams to collect expert feedback on the use of the DCF IT platform for both work plans and annual reports. Experts were instructed to reflect their experiences in various roles – including as pre-screeners, national experts, national correspondents, and/or EWG evaluators – and to report any issues

encountered. The file includes dedicated sheets for proposals and for reporting bugs. This allows for the structured collection of practical feedback aimed at improving the usability, functionality, and overall performance of the DCF IT platform in future cycles.

During the EWG, several issues related to the practical use of the DCF IT platform for reviewing and commenting on Annual Reports were identified and discussed.

At present, the platform does not systematically flag basic data entry errors in the AR tables, such as empty cells or numerical cells filled with text. The EWG recommends that the platform capture these issues automatically and highlight them as errors already at the point of the initial upload by Member States, so that they can be corrected before the ARs are reviewed by pre-screeners and the EWG.

A further issue concerned the process of adding comments to text boxes on the platform. In several cases (e.g. Text Box 2.5 for Sweden), it proved practically impossible to add a new, independent comment to a text box despite repeated attempts; the only workaround found was to add the comment as a reply to an existing comment. This practice is not ideal, as it can create confusion for Member States during the review process, particularly where the two comments concern entirely different issues: national correspondents are then unable to respond to each issue separately, which hampers the follow-up process.

The EWG also noted an inconsistency in the platform's handling of comment status: in some Annual Reports it was possible to mark a comment as "resolved", while in other ARs this option was not available, without an apparent reason for the difference.

Based on these experiences, the EWG puts forward the following recommendations for improving the platform:

- Enable users to select a text box for a specific region directly, in order to add a comment to it without having to rely on replying to an existing comment.
- Introduce a filter function within columns, allowing users to quickly locate the specific row or cell to which a comment should be added.
- Display row numbers and column letters consistent with the corresponding Excel tables, so that evaluators can reliably confirm they are commenting on the correct row and cell.

6. IMPROVEMENTS FOR FUTURE AR AND WP

As part of the EWG's efforts to support continuous improvement of the reporting and evaluation processes, recommendations arising from the subgroup work were compiled in a dedicated Electronic Annex (Electronic Annex 2 "EWG 26-07 Recommendations Table"). For each recommendation, the table records during which EWG it was addressed, the targeted document or guidance, the action taken by the recipient, the timeline for implementation, and the current implementation status (Yes/No/Ongoing). This structure allows recommendations raised in earlier EWGs to be tracked over subsequent meetings, so that their origin and the progress made on their implementation remain traceable across evaluation cycles.

In addition, the group put forward suggestions on how to improve the initial evaluation of the Multi Annual Work Plans, compiled in Electronic Annex 4 "Recommendations for future WP and AR". The group noted that mismatches between the information provided in the WP and the AR can currently only be identified, but not corrected, at the AR stage, and suggested that a more detailed evaluation of the initial WP submission (e.g. through a reduced number

of Member States per pre-screener) could help to avoid such complications further down the line. Concrete, Member State-specific examples illustrating these recurring issues (e.g. Belgium, Spain, Estonia, Malta, Sweden) are compiled by AR section in Electronic Annex 5.

Further suggestions raised during the EWG include the introduction of subheadings for reporting amendments and deviations in the grey (reporting) part of the AR, and a possible revision of the traffic light system used for the overall performance assessment, with the aim of making Member State performance more comparable across years and sections and its evaluation more accentuated. Further details on both proposals are provided in Electronic Annex 3.

7. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

The 2025 Annual Reports were evaluated in the first year of the new 2025–2027 EUMAP cycle. Overall MS performance was similar to the previous year, while a slight increase in the number of MS rated "Mostly" (9, up from 6) and "Partly" (2, up from 1) was noted.

For the data transmission issues (ToR2), the EWG assessed 19 high-severity DTMT issues from ICES (14) and IOTC (5), of which 16 were unsatisfactory, 2 required follow-up and 1 was satisfactory, alongside two Social and two Mediterranean and Black Sea DTi, seven high-severity issues from the Fish Processing Industry data call, and 25 medium/low severity issues from the 2025 Fleet Economics data call. A number of these issues remain open and require continued follow-up by the Member States concerned.

On the draft evaluation guidelines for the WP/AR quality annexes (ToR3), the EWG considered the ad hoc contract output a solid basis for future evaluation, but concluded that applying it in full to all sampling schemes every year is not feasible within the time available to the WP/AR EWGs. The group recommends testing the criteria on a limited number of cases, taking RCG feedback into account, and taking this forward as a dedicated ToR for EWG 26-15.

Regarding the DCF IT platform (ToR4), now in its second year of official use, several usability issues were identified, in particular around commenting on text boxes, the inconsistent availability of the "resolved" status, and the absence of automatic validation for empty or incorrectly filled cells. These issues were documented in a dedicated defect log and should inform the platform's continued development.

Finally, the EWG compiled its recommendations in a dedicated Electronic Annex (Electronic Annex 2, "EWG 26-07 Recommendations Table"), which tracks the origin and implementation status of recommendations across evaluation cycles. The EWG recommends that the recommendations arising from ToR3 and ToR4 in particular be taken forward as dedicated ToRs for EWG 26-15.

8. CONTACT DETAILS OF EWG-26-07 PARTICIPANTS

[1] - Information on EWG participant's affiliations is displayed for information only. In any case, Members of the STECF, invited experts, and JRC experts shall act independently. In the context of the STECF work, the committee members and other experts do not represent the institutions/bodies they are affiliated to in their daily jobs.

STECF members		
Name	**Affiliation[1]**	**Email**
Grati, Fabio	National Research Council (CNR) – Institute for Biological Resources and Marine Biotechnologies (IRBIM), L.go Fiera della Pesca, 2, 60125, Ancona, Italy	fabio.grati@cnr.it
Mannini, Alessandro	CNR IRBIM Ancona, Largo Fiera della Pesca, 260125 Ancona ITALY	alessandro.mannini@irbim.cnr.it

Invited experts		
Name	**Affiliation[1]**	**Email**
Adamidou, Angeliki	Fisheries Research Institute, Greece	adamidou@inale.gr
Armesto, Angeles	The Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)	angeles.armesto@ieo.es
Avdic Mravlje, Edvard	Fisheries research institute of Slovenia	edoavdic@gmail.com
Berkenhagen, Jörg	Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries, Germany	joerg.berkenhagen@thuenen.de
Blanco, Marta	Catalan Research Institute for Governance of the sea (CATMAR/ICM-CSIC)	mblanco@icm.csic.es
Brigaudeau, Cecile	UBO	cecile.brig@gmail.com

Chant, Irina	Fisheries Service under MoA	irina.jakovleva@zuv.lt
Chassanite, Aurore	IFREMER, France	aurore.chassanite@ifremer.fr
Cikes Kec, Vanja	Institute of oceanography and fisheries, Croatia	cikes@izor.hr
Davidjuka, Irina	Independent Consultant	irina.davidiuk@inbox.lv
Freese, Marko (Co-Chair)	Thünen Institute of Fisheries Ecology	marko.freese@thuenen.de
Ioannou, Myrto	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	mioannou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy
Kazlauskas, Edvardas	Agriculture Information and Rural Business Center	edvardas.kazlauskas@gmail.com
Koutrakis, Emmanouil	NAGREF-Fisheries Research Institute	manosk@inale.gr
Kovars, Maksims	Institute of Food safety, Animal Health and Environment "BIOR", Fish resources research department	maksims.kovsars@bior.lv
Maes, Jade	Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food	jade.maes@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
Malvarosa, Loretta	NISEA, Fishery and Aquaculture Economic Research	malvarosa@nisea.eu
Mantziaris, Stamatis	Hellenic Agricultural Organization-DIMITRA	smantziaris@elgo.gr

Nermer, Tomasz	National Marine Fisheries Research Institute	nermer@mir.gdynia.pl
Nicheva, Simona	Executive agency for fisheries and aquaculture, Bulgaria	simona.nicheva@iara.government.bg
Ní Chonchúir, Gráinne	The Marine Institute	grainne.nichonchuir@marine.ie
Ribera-Altimir, Jordi	Catalan Research Institute for Governance of the sea (CATMAR/ICM-CSIC)	jribera@icm.csic.es
Rodriguez, Jose	The Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)	jose.rodriguez@ieo.csic.es
Ulleweit, Jens	Thuenen Institute of Sea Fisheries, Germany	jens.ulleweit@thuenen.de
Vukov, Ivana	Ministry of Agriculture, Frestry and Fisheries - Directorate of Fisheries (Unit for Data Collection Programme in Fisheries)	ivana.vukov@mps.hr
Zhelev, Kolyo	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Bulgaria	kolyo.zhelev@iara.government.bg
Zolubas, Tomas	Marine Research Institute, Klaipeda University	tomas.zolubas@gmail.com

JRC experts		
Name	**Affiliation[1]**	**Email**
Hekim, Zeynep (Co-Chair)	European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra, Italy	hekim.zeynep@ec.europa.eu

European Commission

Name	Affiliation[1]	Email
Hekim, Zeynep	JRC STECF secretariat	jrc-stecf-secretariat@ec.europa.eu
Sterczewska, Monika	DG MARE, C.3	monika.sterczewska@ec.europa.eu
Kerametsidis, Georgios	DG MARE, C.3	georgios.kerametsidis@ec.europa.eu
Evmorfopoulou, Georgia	DG MARE, C.3	georgia.evmorfopoulou@ec.europa.eu

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. OVERVIEWS OF REPORTING AND EXECUTION OF THE 2025 WP BY MEMBER STATES

Austria [AUT]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance for the reporting and execution of Austria was assessed as “Yes”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Not applicable.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Not applicable.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Not applicable.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Not applicable.

6. Surveys at sea

Not applicable.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

Not applicable.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

Not applicable.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for Austria.

Belgium [BEL]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The Belgium Annual Report 2025 was generally well prepared and reported, with its overall performance and compliance assessed as "Mostly".

Compliance with several sections applicable to the Member State was evaluated as "Yes", while sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 6.1, 7.1, and Annex 1.1 were assessed as "Mostly".

It is also noteworthy that the Member State effectively addressed and resolved several issues during the EWG meeting, facilitating a clearer understanding of the identified concerns and contributing to their effective resolution.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Overall, the performance for the biological sections was assessed as “**Mostly”**. For future submissions, MS is kindly requested to: (i) provide separate regional text boxes for Sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5; (ii) ensure consistency between tables and the corresponding text boxes; and (iii) include Annex 1.1 for all sampling scheme identifiers reported in Tables 2.2, 2.5 and Text Boxes 4.2.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Overall, the performance for the recreational fisheries section was assessed positively, with no major issues identified. For future submissions, the Member State is kindly requested to: (i) use the same regional names as those reported in Table 2.4; (ii) provide the methodology (or reference to the relevant study) used for recreational fisheries data collection in English; and (iii) include the actions to address any deviations where applicable.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

MS has performed well; no issues highlighted.

In future submissions, the Member State is requested to include all required comments where oversampling is reported.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

MS performed well; no major issues highlighted.

In relation to the collection of stomachs, MS is kindly requested to take into account that the proper place to reflect the test study mentioned is Text Box 1a. MS should limit Table 4.1 to regular stomach sampling activities.

6. Surveys at sea

MS performed well; no issues highlighted.

7. Fishing activity variable

MS performed well; no issues highlighted.

8. Fleet socio-economic

MS performed well; the performance for this section was assessed with a “Yes”.
For Unpaid labour, paid labour, consumption of fixed capital, value of physical capital, and other non-variable costs no responses were achieved. MS provided explanation and a procedure to handle the issue only on unpaid labour in Annex 1.2. No information on the other aforementioned variables and potential estimation procedures are provided. MS is reminded to provide complete information for all relevant variables in future submissions.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

The performance for this section was assessed with a “Mostly”.

Some reporting inconsistencies were identified, most of which were clarified during the EWG meeting. For future submissions, MS is requested to ensure consistency in reporting, provide explanations for low response rates, correctly report planned sample rates, and include actions to prevent future deviations. See the assessment grid for further details.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

The performance for this section was assessed with a “Mostly”.

MS is reminded to provide complete information on measures to address low or zero response rates, actions to prevent future deviations, and to include all relevant explanations in Annex 1.2. See the assessment grid for further details.

11. Data transmission issues

Not assessed during this EWG.

Bulgaria [BGR]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

Overall, no major issues were identified by the EWG. Biological sampling met all planned targets, with some oversampling that improved data significance without requiring extra funding. Activities related to recreational fisheries, anadromous/catadromous species, and fishing activity variables were not applicable. Data collection on the impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems and the socio- economic modules for the fleet, aquaculture, and processing sectors proceeded very well. For surveys at sea, implementation was generally without major issues. The only deviation was a delay in the first half of the Black Sea PTSBS

survey, caused by an appeal in the public procurement process, temporarily affecting the start of activities. Finally, no data transmission issues were reported.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No issues have been raised by the EWG. The planned numbers for all the species/variables were achieved by MS, and in certain cases, oversampling occurred t achieve a higher level of significance. This oversampling did not require additional financial resources.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Not applicable. No data collection planned for recreational fisheries in NWP.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Not applicable.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No major issues have been raised by the EWG.

6. Surveys at sea

No major issues have been raised by the EWG. MS reported that the first half of Pelagic Trawl Survey in Black Sea PTSBS was implemented with a delay due to the appeal of the public procurement procedure, which temporarily affected the timely initiation of activities.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues have been observed.

Cyprus [CYP]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The EWG evaluated the Annual Report 2025 of Cyprus as being well executed and well reported, rating the overall performance and compliance as “yes”.

Cyprus does not perform any sampling on diadromous species, nor do they collect economic and social data in aquaculture, which is why these sections have not been evaluated and are indicated as “Not applicable”.

In addition to the correct reporting and execution by the MS, it is noteworthy that Cyprus also effectively addressed and resolved any outstanding issues that were highlighted by the EWG. No comments were left unsolved.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Based on the evaluation of the AR assessment, the EWG defined no actions to be taken by the MS. Cyprus followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks. No issues were addressed during pre-screening and EWG.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Cyprus clarified that, in addition to the mandatory off-site telephone survey covering all species under the RWP 2025–2027, recreational catch data were also collected through the Cy-FIS mobile application. While low participation in the application had prevented catch estimation in 2024, Cyprus explained that the mandatory use of the app under the recreational fishing licence, together with continued efforts by the Control Unit and Data Collection Team, resulted in improved participation during 2025. The requested clarification was added to Text Box 2.4, adequately explaining how the issue identified in 2024 was addressed.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Not applicable.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues were addressed during pre-screening and EWG. The MS followed all guidelines and correctly reported on the impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems.

6. Surveys at sea

The MS correctly reported on the surveys they performed in 2025. All planned surveys were conducted with no deviations identified in the number of planned sampling activities or in the spatio-temporal coverage.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues, the MS correctly reported on the performed fishing activity.

8. Fleet socio-economic

A minor reporting issue that was highlighted by the pre-screeners and EWG regarding the social variables was solved by the MS by reuploading a corrected Table 5.2 and resubmitting the Annual Report. No further action needed.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

Not applicable.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable.

11. Data transmission issues

One data transmission issue was reported on for Cyprus. The issue that was reported on states that the consumption of fixed capital for the inactive vessels is not reported on. Although its low severity, the issue is not yet solved and should be checked upon by the MS, that states that the missing variable for the inactive vessels will be reported in the next fleet economics data call.

Czech Republic [CZE]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The EWG evaluated the overall performance of the Czech Republic since MS had data collection of socio-economic data for aquaculture. MS's improvements in socio-economic data collection for aquaculture from the last years were kept. Regarding the information provided, no deviations from the WP were observed.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Not applicable.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Not applicable.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

There was no planned data collection for eel in 2025.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Not applicable.

6. Surveys at sea

Not applicable.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

Not applicable.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

The main production species in the MS is carp, which is breeding in polyculture ponds. Since the share of Czech aquaculture production of EU aquaculture production, according to EUROSTAT, was 1.88% in 2019, the MS planned data collection of socio-economic variables. The economic variables according to Table 10 were collected during the reference year. In general, EWG noted an improvements in this part of the annual report and encourage MS to continue data collection on aquaculture.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for the Czech Republic.

Germany [DEU]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The EWG evaluated the Annual Report 2025 of Germany as being well executed and well reported, rating the overall performance and compliance as “yes”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No mayor issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany in general followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for Recreational Fisheries.

Only one very minor issue was noted regarding the reference year reported in the corresponding table for the North Sea and the Eastern Arctic. It was recommended that, in future, the Member State include the survey in the relevant reference years.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No mayor issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for diadromous data collection in fresh water. The implementation was successful in more than 70% of cases. It was assessed that the objectives were mostly achieved and the EWG defined no actions to be taken by the MS.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for research surveys at Sea. The EWG only defined one action to be taken by the MS related with providing correct links to surveys coordination groups in future.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for fishing activity.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for fleet socio-economic.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for socio-economic for aquaculture.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Germany followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for socio-economic for processing industry.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for Germany for 2025.

Denmark [DNK]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP was assessed as **Mostly**. The main reporting and execution issues were limited to specific sections and mostly concerned incomplete or inconsistent explanations in text boxes, formatting of headers and sub-headers, missing actions or time frames for some deviations, partial achievement of stomach sampling, and two remaining DTMT fleet economic issues. Several comments were resolved during the ping-pong process and therefore do not require further action.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

The main EWG comments concerned incomplete or inconsistent reporting in Text Boxes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5, including missing actions or timeframes, header and sub-header issues, and explanations in text boxes not fully matching the table comments. Several issues were resolved after ping-pong and therefore have no further action. Remaining future actions concern ensuring that text box explanations match the tables, correcting headers/sub-headers and cell formats, providing actions and timeframes for all deviations, and reconsidering planned tuna length sampling if DNK has no quota for tuna species.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No major issues were identified. EWG comments recorded that Table 2.4 and Text Box 2.4 followed the AR guidelines. For the Baltic Sea, 9 of 10 planned catch and release surveys were achieved and reported; cod biological sampling could not be carried out due to the closure of fishing activities, while a salmon survey was carried out although it had not been planned. The deviations were considered properly explained. No further action is required.

4. Anadromous and catadromous data collection in fresh water

No major issues were identified. EWG comments recorded that Table 2.3, Text Box 2.3 and Text Box 3.2 followed the AR guidelines. All fisheries-dependent and stock-related combinations were achieved, while two fisheries-independent recruitment surveys were not conducted due to renewal of the fish trap. The deviations were properly explained. No further action is required.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

The main EWG comments concerned stomach sampling and reporting on ecosystem-related sections. For stomach sampling, planned achievement was only partial in North Sea and Eastern Arctic, with 11 of 20 cases below 90% or zero achievement. EWG also noted that Text Box 4.2 initially did not provide separate text boxes by region and that the Annex 1.1 grey part for the DNK EM-ETP sampling scheme was missing; these issues were solved after

ping-pong and have no further action. Remaining actions concern improving achievement of planned stomach sampling, considering removal of species that are not common in the survey area from the sampling plan, correcting Text Box 4.3 headers/sub-headers, and providing at least preliminary results when analyses are ongoing.

6. Surveys at sea

No major execution issue was identified. EWG comments recorded that Table 2.6 was generally consistent with the AR guidelines and that the listed surveys were conducted. The explanation for the planned number of sampling activities was provided during the EWG and no further action is needed for that point. The remaining issue is formatting-related: Text Box 2.6 should use the correct headers and sub-headers in future AR submissions.

7. Fishing activity variable

No major issues were identified. EWG comments recorded no deviations or no issues for fishing activity variables, including the inland eel commercial fisheries data collection strategy. No further action is required.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No major issues remain. EWG comments recorded that issues in Tables 5.1 and 5.2, including the low response-rate explanation, were solved after pre-screening. No further action is required.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No major issues were identified. EWG comments did not record remaining problems for Table 6.1 or Text Box 6.1. No further action is required.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No major issues were identified. EWG comments did not record remaining problems for Table 7.1 or Text Box 7.1. No further action is required.

11. Data transmission and quality annexes

DTMT identified two remaining fleet economic issues for Denmark. The first concerns operating subsidies related to the Brexit Adjustment Reserve, which were not reported and should be treated as operating subsidies rather than subsidies on investment. The second concerns missing capital variables for inactive vessels for the time series; this is a recurrent issue and remains unsatisfactory. No high severity DTMT issues were identified for Denmark.. EWG comments recorded no issues for the socio-economic quality report and no remaining action for the biological quality report, except issues already reflected under the relevant biological and ecosystem sections.

Spain [ESP]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

No major issues have been raised by the EWG 26 07.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Only a few minor issues were flagged in the EWG comments, no further action was requested.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Only a few minor issues were flagged in the EWG comments, no further action was requested.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Only a few minor issues were flagged in the EWG comments, no further action was requested.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Only a few minor issues were flagged in the EWG comments, no further action was requested.

6. Surveys at sea

Only a few minor issues were flagged in the EWG comments, no further action was requested.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues highlighted.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues highlighted.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

In the next WP submission, the MS is encouraged to prepare the WP Table on data availability (Table 1.1) in a consistent manner and to apply the reference year in Table 7.1 accordingly. Furthermore, the MS should explore options to improve the timing of data processing to ensure better data availability.

11. Data transmission issues

The EWG 26 07 awaits future follow up by MS considering the following identified data issues related to coverage and quality:

ICES data call WGBIEC meeting DTMT issue 5456: missing data for the landings, discards, recreational catches, BMS, catches and effort for the stock db.27.7b-k8abd.

Med and BS data call EWG 25-09 meeting DTMT issue 5403: the lack of historical data on demographic structures prior to the DCF program (1996–2001) would have been assessed as "satisfactory." However, in this issue, a significant inconsistency was observed in the landing figures provided to the EU (DCF) and the GFCM (DCRF) for the years 2002 to 2010. As these inconsistencies could impact the assessment of the blue and red shrimp stock (WestMed MAP species), a follow-up was deemed necessary. The relevant Member State has agreed to verify the inconsistency and if needed resubmit the data. So, STECF assessed the issue as “unsatisfactory to be revised” with follow up needed by MS.

Estonia [EST]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The Estonian Annual Report 2025 was very well executed and reported. The MS’s overall performance and compliance for all 14 relevant sections was "Yes", with several sections being highlighted as Not Applicable (3.1, 4.1, 4.3, 6.1 and 7.1).

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Only a minor issue flagged for future submissions.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Only a minor issue flagged for future submissions.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Some inconsistencies originating from errors in the accepted WP remain between the reported diadromous variables, methods and units. Estonia may consider update the Work Plan accordingly.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues highlighted.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues highlighted.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues highlighted for AR.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

Not applicable**.**

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for Estonia for 2025.

Finland [FIN]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for Finland was classified as “Yes”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No major issues have been raised by the EWG for Tables 2.1 and 2.2.

Table 2.5 contains inconsistent PETS reporting. Some required numerical fields are missing, and several rows report no sampled trips and no PETS observation, while also indicating 100% observer coverage for PETS bycatch.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

A total of 10 out of 15 sampling activities were undersampled. Five salmon sampling activities were not conducted due to the closure of fisheries in the Tenojoki watercourse. Four salmon sampling activities in the Tenojoki watercourse reached only 33–36% of the planned sampling level. One eel sampling activity was undersampled because fish were not killed for otolith collection.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Not applicable.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues have been observed.'

France [FRA]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for France was classified as "Mostly".

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

The performance of the different biological sampling sections was classified as "Mostly". For all regions many species and variables were sampled. However, not always the planned sampling for some variable/stocks were executed and some clear explanations were missing. Especially for the "Other regions" and "Outermost regions" MS should try to achieve the planned sampling in future.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No issues highlighted. However, MS should provide which evaluator it is referring to in future.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Mostly. Some sampling schemes were under sampled. However, MS provides a proper explanation for all deviations.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

With regards to stomach sampling and analysis MS should ensure that the planned time and area indicated in Tables 2.6 and 4.1 (IBTS_Q1 and MEDITS) are consistent for all sampled stomachs. Otherwise, no issues were highlighted.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues highlighted.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues highlighted.

8. Fleet socio-economic

With regards to the response rates there are missing explanations for low response rates in some segments. Furthermore, no issues were highlighted.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues highlighted.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues highlighted.

11. Data transmission issues

There were 9 DT issues with high severity for France. Four were relating to the ICES WGBIE, three with regards to non-submission of data for three fish stocks and one with regards to missing recreational data. Three issues were related to ICES WGEF with regards of missing data for three stocks. One issue was related to ICES WGCSE with regards to missing recreational data. All those issues were assessed as “unsatisfactory” by the EWG. One issue was related to ICES WGBYC with regards to some zero observation days reported when the trips observed are more. Here the EWG assessment was “follow-up needed”.

Greece [GRC]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall reporting and execution for Greece was very good, and no issues have been raised except for diadromous species data collection, rating the overall performance and compliance as “yes”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks and the EWG defined no actions to be taken by the MS.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No major issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for recreational fisheries.

Some biological variables (length) are collected, while other variables (biological, catch numbers, release numbers) were planned to be collected in future. It is recommended that Greece include the collection of these biological variables in future Work Plans.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

A major issue has been raised by the EWG regarding anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water. MS did not collect any fisheries dependent eel data in 2025 due to administrative delay of the tendering procedure or EMU assignment and no information was provided on whether the issue will be resolved or how planned sampling will be ensured in the future.

The Member State is reminded that data collection must not be interrupted and must begin on 1 January and end on 31 December each year.

Furthermore, the Member State must take all necessary measures to ensure that data collection is carried out properly and in accordance with the planned activities and numbers set out in the work programme (WP). Therefore, the MS is strongly urged to resolve any administrative issues that could affect sampling.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues have been raised by the EWG regarding..Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

6. Surveys at sea

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for surveys at sea.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for fishing activity variable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for fleet socio economic.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for socio-economic data of aquaculture.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG. Greece followed all the guidelines in compiling their data for processing industry.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for Greece for 2025.

Crotia [HRV]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The Annual Report 2025 of Croatia was well executed and reported. Issues identified during both the pre-screening and STECF EWG review phases were promptly resolved. The Annual Report 2025 was ultimately evaluated as compliant, receiving a final assessment of 'Yes'.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Ongoing development of digital reporting tools (mRECFISH) and the national information system is expected to further improve data validation. No issues have been raised by the EWG.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported.

Hungary [HUN]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance of the Hungarian AR was positively evaluated in line with the AR evaluation criteria, with a final assessment of 'Yes'. MS implemented socio-economic data collection for aquaculture and fish processing sectors, and improvements were observed. However, the MS is encouraged to improve sampling implementation by increasing response rates and better achieving the planned sampling targets.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Not applicable.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Not applicable.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

There was no planned data collection for eel in 2025.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Not applicable.

6. Surveys at sea

Not applicable.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

Not applicable.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

The main production species in the MS is carp, which is breeding in polyculture ponds. Since the share of Hungary's aquaculture production of EU aquaculture production, according to EUROSTAT, was 1.73% in 2022, the MS planned data collection of socio-economic variables. The economic variables according to Table 10 were collected during the reference

year. In general, EWG noted an improvement in this part of the annual report and encourage MS to continue data collection on aquaculture.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Hungary planned data collection on economic and social data on the processing industry every two years on a voluntary basis. Data collection was initially planned in 2026, but MS performed data collection also in 2025 as data for 2024 was collected. The EWG noted an improvement in this part of the annual report and encourage MS to continue data collection on aquaculture.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for the Hungary.

Ireland [IRL]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The Irish Annual Report for 2025 was well executed and reported. The overall performance and compliance for Ireland was classified as “Yes”. Only two modules were classified as “Mostly” (2.2 and 2.3). Some issues raised during the pre-screening and the AR evaluation processus were solved during the EWG 26-08. For the only one data transmission issue concerning Fleet economics Data Call, MS response was assessed as satisfactory.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No major issues were identified by the EWG and no action was needed by the MS.

However, the EWG underlined that in table 2.2, there are several rows with zeros (145 out of 508). No action was needed by MS.

In table 2.3, some sampling activities (salmon) have been unconducted or under sampled (absence of fisheries, low catch levels, or lack of exploitation potential) while some sampling activities were oversampled, as a result of higher-than-expected catches or additional sampling effort or higher-than-anticipated catches.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No issues have been raised by the EWG

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No issues have been raised by the EWG

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues have been raised by the EWG

6. Surveys at sea

No issues have been raised by the EWG

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues have been raised by the EWG

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG

11. Data transmission issues

In total, 1 issue was identified for Ireland, referring to Fleet economics Data Call. It was classified as being of medium severity for quality and was assessed as satisfactory. The EWG underlines that MS comment is sufficient. This is a common issue, and standard end-user quality checks comparing income and value of landings should be interpreted with

Italy [ITA]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for Italy was classified as “Yes”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

The performance of the various biological sampling schemes across the regions was classified as “Yes”. Undersampling was observed in nine out of 74 sampling schemes, and oversampling was observed in one.

3. Recreational Fisheries

MS reported that a new method was used in place of some of the planned surveys. During the meeting, additional information about the new survey's methodology was provided. For the next WP submission, MS is required to add a new Annex 1.1 for the new survey.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

MS planned nine eel fishery-dependent sampling activities, eight of which achieved 75% of the planned sampling level. All deviations were properly explained. One off-site questionnaire survey was not carried out due to the eel fishery ban.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues highlighted.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues highlighted.

7. Fishing activity variable

Complementary data collection was implemented. A reasonable explanation for the low response rate was provided.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues highlighted.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues highlighted.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues highlighted.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for Italy.

Lithuania (LTU)

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance for Lithuania is “Yes”. Lithuania performed well in all the section. In addition, also the unique data transmission issues appeared was resolved as satisfactory.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Only minor issues have been detected as far as reporting and biological sampling but flagged for future drafting of NWP and submissions of AR.

Specifically, EWG highlighted that according to the guidelines one section per RFMO for the Other regions are mandatory in the TextBox 2.1 and 2.2. In future submission MS has to follow the guidelines. Also, EWG suggests the MS to re-evaluate the species with zero length sampling for inclusion in next NWP for the Baltic, North Sea and Eastern Artic and North-East Atlantic regions. As far as the CECAF region, for the next future EWG suggests MS to ensure sampling is implemented as soon as the new protocol under EU-Mauritania is signed.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues detected as relevant, only a minor one flagged for future submissions. For clarity, MS may add 'opportunistic sampling' in the AR comments in future years

6. Surveys at sea

EWG detected very minor issues, solved during the EWG.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

Not applicable.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

11. Data transmission issues

Two low-severity quality and recurrent issues were identified for the Lithuania in the 2025 Fleet Economics data call but marked as satisfactorily resolved as the EWG judged the MS comment sufficient to justify the issue.

Latvia [LVA]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance for Latvia “Yes”. Latvia performed quite well in most cases. No Data Transmission issues appeared.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

The planned numbers were not completely achieved for 5 out of the 9 sampling schemes with a planned number of PSUs. MS to improve sampling performance across frame in future years.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No major issues detected.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No major issues were identified.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Observers have dedicated time to record PETS for 50% of the sampling scheme planned. Two of these sampling frames - both in CECAF and explainable due to no possibility to fish there as the agreement with Mauritania is still outstanding and is beyond the control of individual MS.

Text box 4.2 is only available for the Baltic Region. In Future the MS should provide text for each region planned - if they had done for CEFAF in 2025, it would have been another way to highlight the issue with the CEFAF Region that has adversely affected achieved sampling - not just for Latvia.

Concerning stomach content for BITS_Q4/Gadus morhua, accessibility of rented research vessel was limited in time, survey (and so stomach collection) was realized in December not in the planned period time.

6. Surveys at sea

Surveys were pushed outside the official time period due to limited availability of the rented vessel (BITS_Q4). Additionally, some planned hauls failed because Sweden did not grant permission to operate in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), or because research was opposed in certain areas (BITS_Q4). Both issues were explained by LVA after pre-screening and are not within the responsibility of the MS. However, in future AR explanation should already be given in the AR comment column

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable, MS does not collect complementary data.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues detected.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues detected.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable, MS does not collect data

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues

Malta [MLT]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 AR

The overall performance for AR 2025 was assessed to compliance class “Partly”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

All values in column "Total number of PSUs in the implementation year" are wrong.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No major issues were detected.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Non applicable

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No major issues were detected.

6. Surveys at sea

No major issues were detected.

7. Fishing activity variable

No major issues were detected.

8. Fleet socio-economic

Table 5.1 and 5.2 are inconsistent: differences emerge in 2025 population. In addition, Table 5.1 reports only AR population for 2025 while Table 5.2 reports AR population for 2024 and 2025, changing in number according to the variables. MS is requested to align population between Table 5.1 and 5.2 and to consider that Table 5.1 should report the same fleet population of Table 5.2 (for AR 2025 reference year 2024).

Explanation for the additional segment has been included in Text Box 5.2. Also, low response rates have been justified in table 5.2 ("Lower coverage was the result of a low response rate. Although fishers were contacted multiple times to submit the socio-economic data, some fishers did not respond to the voluntary survey") but not reported in Text Box 5.2.

Furthermore, no actions to avoid these deviations have been reported by MS in Text Box 5.2. MS is requested, for the future, to proper compile Table 5.2 and Text Box 5.2 ensuring these are in line with the guidelines.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No major issues were detected.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Looking at the Fish processing data call (2025 data 2022-2023), the population is 7 for the segment ≤ 10 employees and 3 for the segment 11-49 employees. No enterprises are present in the other 2 segments (50-249 and >=250). In addition, some variables are provided at total level, without segmentation. MS is requested, for the future, to compile correctly Table 7.1.

11. Data transmission issues

Fleet economic

Expenditure; Repair and maintenance expenditures recorded unusually high figures in 2023, potentially signalling inclusion of capital investment items -a classification discrepancy that could distort profitability indicator

Income, Expenditure, Capital, Employment; national totals do not match with FS totals for capital variables, employment variables, most of the expenditure variables, unpaid labours, landings variables (value and weight) and income variables (except for gross value of landings)

Employment; FTEs doubled compared to 2022. High increase reported in particular for PGP0006, PGP0612 and PMP0612

ICES

For WGBYC meeting no data were reporting for 2024

Netherlands [NLD]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for the Netherlands was classified as “MOSTLY”.

Most issues identified during pre-screening were resolved during the EWG process or through resubmission. Remaining points are limited and mainly concern biological sampling in “Other regions”, linked to external constraints, cases of undersampling and clearer AR reporting in future submissions.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Regarding execution, sampling was not implemented for several selected species in “Other regions”, linked to the pending new protocol under the EU–Mauritania agreement. The MS should ensure that sampling is implemented as soon as the new protocol is signed.

Regarding reporting, the EWG noted that zero values under opportunistic biological sampling should be more clearly explained in future submissions. The explanation “opportunistic sampling” alone is not sufficient where no samples were achieved.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No major issues have been raised by the EWG. The regionally coordinated stomach sampling programme was implemented in line with the NANSEA RWP rolling scheme. Some deviations occurred in the number of sampled stomachs, but explanations were considered acceptable overall. For incidental catches of sensitive species, observers recorded PETS bycatch and corresponding observation effort as planned, and no issues were raised. No additional studies on the fisheries impact on marine habitats were carried out.

6. Surveys at sea

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues have been raised by the EWG.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable.

11. Data transmission issues

Three low-severity DTMT issues were identified for the Netherlands in the 2025 Fleet economics data call. Two quality issues were assessed as unsatisfactory – to be revised: high uncertainty and year-to-year fluctuations in economic indicators for several fleet segments, and zero operating subsidies reported for 2023 despite changes compared to previous years. The MS plans to review the data collection and aggregation procedures and check the subsidy data in 2026.

One recurrent low-severity coverage issue remains under follow-up needed, concerning missing capital variables for segment TM40XX. The MS should clarify whether the issue is related to confidentiality or estimation difficulties and provide the required figures where possible.

No other issues were identified by end-users.

Poland [POL]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for Poland was classified as “Yes”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No major issues highlighted. A new protocol is being renegotiated under EU Mauritania SFPA. For 5 stocks, no sampling was performed. MS to ensure sampling is implemented as soon as the new protocol under EU-Mauritania is signed.
Some rows added for lengths for Diadromous which is not possible according to Master code in Table 2.2. These lengths should be under 2.1 considering MS has considered the frame under Table 2.5. MS encouraged to properly fill 2.2 with required variables.
In Table 2.5 a clarification from the MS is needed, regarding rows that contain missing values in both the Total number of PSUs in the implementation year and Achieved number of PSUs columns, all corresponding to Out of frame identifiers. Furthermore, some frames are not completely achieved and one scheme about Baltic Salmon was added, thus a new Annex 1.1. is needed for the next submission of the NWP. For future Work Plans, it could be discussed at the regional level whether surveys of this type would be better implemented as pilot studies or as dedicated surveys conducted on commercial vessels.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No major issues highlighted. Four out of the 5 planned catch & release and biological variables were achieved as planned. The *Salmo trutta* on-site survey is not achieved due to lack of cooperation with anglers. MS explained all deviations properly and describe that an information campaign to increase willingness of anglers to cooperate will be performed.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No issues highlighted.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

No issues highlighted.

6. Surveys at sea

No major issues highlighted. Only for BIS and SPRAS trawl hauls achieved were less than 90% of planned and for BITS_Q1 spatial coverage was not achieved. All necessary explanations were provided and accepted.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues highlighted.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues highlighted. Minor issue solved after pre-screening

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues highlighted.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues highlighted.

11. Data transmission issues

No data transmission issues were reported for Poland for 2025.

Portugal [PRT]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

Overall, the Portuguese report was quite good. The tables were completed and any deviations were explained in the relevant text boxes. A number of issues were raised. Some were resolved during EWG 25-08, while the Member State (MS) will consider others in future. The overall reporting and execution were evaluated as '**Mostly**'

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Portugal performed poorly in the biological sections.

While the reporting was adequate, the MS did not carry out any biological sampling in one region (the North Sea and the Eastern Arctic), and only partially carried out sampling in two RFMOs (NAFO and IOTC), as many sampling frames were found to be poorly or not implemented at all. As the Member State (MS) often cites delays in hiring an external company to conduct scientific observations at sea, the MS is encouraged to take all

necessary actions to ensure the proper implementation of sampling for biological data in the future.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Execution in the recreational fisheries was fairly good, most of surveys executed however with different level of implementation.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Lower sampling intensity has been identified for diadromous data collection in both fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent surveys.

From 38 eel fishery-independent sampling activities planned. the twenty-eight of were fully achieved, while 10 reached only 50–88% of the planned sampling level. MS is encouraged to take all necessary actions to ensure the proper implementation of sampling for anadromous and catadromous species.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Regarding the impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems, lower sampling intensities have been identified. The PETS observation was executed properly. However, for stomach sampling notable under sampling was detected. This issue should be addressed by the MS.

6. Surveys at sea

Lower execution rates were also observed for surveys. Of the five mandatory surveys, two were not carried out due to a vessel breakdown. Also, 16 out of the 25 planned activities showed deviations from the plan. The EWG recognises these deviations and acknowledges the explanations provided by the MS. The MS should make every effort to carry out all mandatory surveys in the year they are scheduled. If these issues continue to reoccur, a plan to avoid them should be included in the next work package (WP).

7. Fishing activity variable

No issue since no complementary data collection for fishing activity implemented by the MS.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No major issues were detected**.**

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No major issues were detected**.**

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issue since no additional socioeconomic data was collected

11. Data transmission issues

One issue was raised regarding fleet economics (the difference between landings value and income from landings), which was adequately addressed by the MS. The final STECF EWG DTi assessment deemed it satisfactory. Regarding the high-severity issues, one issue arose from the WGBIE regarding landings, discards, recreational catches, BMS and catches and effort for the stock, which was assessed as unsatisfactory by the STECF EWG DTi.

Romania [ROU]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for Romania was classified as “Mostly”.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No issues.

3. Recreational Fisheries

In future submissions, MS is requested to provide the correct version of the WP concerning species’ names.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

NA

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

MS should ensure the consistency between sampling schemes identifiers in tables and the corresponding Annexes 1.1 in future WP submissions. Additionally, MS should ensure full spatial and temporal implementation in the future.

6. Surveys at sea

MS should focus on the main use of results in future ARs. Text provided is too extensive including details that do not belong in text box 2.6. Additionally, the MS to conduct the surveys fully in the survey (AR) year.

7. Fishing activity variable

No issues.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues.

11. Data transmission issues

One data transmission issue was identified. It was classified as being of high severity for quality and was assessed as unsatisfactory.

Slovakia [SVK]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The EWG did not evaluate the overall performance of Slovakia. The MS has currently withdrawn from the DCF for the 2025–2027 period.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Not applicable.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Not applicable.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Not applicable.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Not applicable.

6. Surveys at sea

Not applicable.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

Not applicable.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

Not applicable.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

Not applicable.

11. Data transmission issues

Due to Slovakia's landlocked status, most sections of the Work Plan were not applicable already in the past. Currently, the Member State has withdrawn from the DCF for the 2025–2027 multi annual plan period.

Slovenia [SVN]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The EWG evaluated the Annual Report 2025 of Slovenia, rating the overall performance and compliance as “Partially”. Slovenia does not perform any sampling on recreational fisheries, diadromous species, nor do they collect economic and social data in aquaculture, which is why these sections have not been evaluated and are indicated as “Not applicable”. In addition, to improve the reporting and execution by Slovenia, it is recommended that the MS solve the issues with the surveys at sea and complete the explanation of the deviation from the WP.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

Based on the evaluation of the AR assessment, the EWG defined different actions are proposed to Slovenia to improve the biological sampling and its explanation. One of the main improvements that can be done is to include the missing text boxes from the biological sampling in the AR, justify all deviations from the WP and solve the inconsistencies reported for the tables by the EWG.

3. Recreational Fisheries

Not applicable.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

Not applicable.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

Based on the evaluation of the AR assessment, the EWG defined sampling on the impact of fisheries on the marine ecosystem as “Partly” achieved. In order to improve the AR, the EWG encourages the Slovenia to solve the technical problems in order to achieve the stomach, sensitive species and marine habitat sampling and complete the information provided for deviations.

6. Surveys at sea

Based on the evaluation of the AR assessment, the EWG defined surveys at sea as “Mostly” achieved. Some extra explanation on the deviation of the sampling scheme is encouraged to

be provided by Slovenia. The planned number of sampling activities was not achieved for the research surveys at sea.

7. Fishing activity variable

Not applicable.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No issues were detected.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No issues were detected.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No issues were detected.

11. Data transmission issues

No issues were detected.

Sweden [SWE]

1. Overall reporting and execution of the 2025 WP

The overall performance and compliance for Sweden was assessed as broadly positive, with “Yes” for 15 modules, “Mostly” for 3, “Partly” for 2. The Member State’s responses to pre-screening and EWG feedback helped resolve most outstanding issues, which was appreciated.

2. Biological sampling of commercial fisheries and stocks

No major concerns have been raised by the EWG. However, clarification is required on the backup plan and its non-activation. The Member State should also provide actions taken to prevent deviations, clarify zero sampling, complete missing information, and resubmit the updated documentation.

3. Recreational Fisheries

No major concerns have been raised by the EWG. However, in the Baltic region, not all planned surveys on catch-and-release variables were completed, as research on the sea trout stock remains under development.

4. Anadromous, catadromous data collection in fresh water

No major concerns were raised by the EWG. However, several sampling activities were not conducted due to planned irregular sampling and difficulties in collaboration with commercial fisheries, with one case of slight undersampling also reported. The Member State is requested to ensure greater consistency in future WP submissions to ensure consistency between the planned sampling activities, life-history stages, and the corresponding comments.

5. Impact of fisheries on marine ecosystems

The concerns were raised by the EWG regarding stomach sampling, as most planned sampling was not completed due to communication issues. The Member State should resolve these issues to ensure the sampling programme is implemented as planned in 2026. Also, MS shpuld align the reporting format with the guidelines by consolidating duplicated sections on incidental catches of sensitive species.

6. Surveys at sea

No concerns have been raised by the EWG.

7. Fishing activity variable

The newly introduced segments are not aligned with the guidelines and should be revised by removing the asterisks from column G. The Member State did not fully address previous comments, and inconsistencies remain between the submitted tables. The Member State is requested to correct the remaining discrepancies, revise the relevant table 5.2. and resubmit.

8. Fleet socio-economic

No concerns have been raised by the EWG.

9. Socio-economic for aquaculture

No major concerns were raised by the EWG. However, in the next AR, the Member State should provide the clustering scheme in the relevant text box 6.1.

10. Socio-economic for processing industry

No major concerns were raised by the EWG. However, EWG observed inconsistency between AR part in table 1.1, and table 7.1. MS should revise and resubmit table 1.1.

11. Data transmission issues

In total, 1 issue was identified for Sweden, referring to Fleet Economics Data Call of 2023. The issue is recurrent. It was classified as being of low severity for quality and was not assessed. There was no MS comment.

ANNEX 2. DETAILED FEEDBACK ON QUALITY ANNEXES ON ECONOMY

Practical implementation of the evaluation of quality annexes

The subgroup discussed how the proposed evaluation guidelines for the quality annexes could be applied in practice, taking into account the available time, expert resources and the need to provide useful feedback to Member States.

The subgroup also noted that the draft evaluation criteria and guidance should take into account the comments and feedback provided by the Regional Coordination Groups. The ad hoc contract outputs were presented and discussed with the RCGs during the technical meetings and follow-up exchanges in the period June–September 2026. These comments should be considered before the criteria are tested further and before any final guidance is proposed.

The objective of the evaluation should be to identify clearly where the quality annex needs improvement. The output should not be a long descriptive review, but a structured assessment indicating which criteria are below the agreed minimum threshold and what concrete improvement is needed. The testing phase should assess whether the criteria are clear, whether the thresholds are realistic, whether the scoring is comparable across evaluators, whether RCG comments have been adequately addressed, and whether the workload is feasible.

The feedback to Member States should therefore be short, actionable and directly linked to the relevant criterion, for example: clarify the target population, describe the sampling frame exclusions, explain the estimation method, document non-response treatment, or provide validation procedures.

The subgroup considered that the criteria and minimum thresholds proposed in the ad hoc contract documents provide a good starting point. However, they should first be applied in a testing phase and adjusted if needed. The testing phase should be used to assess whether the criteria are clear, whether the thresholds are realistic, whether the scoring is comparable across evaluators, and whether the workload is feasible.

The subgroup agreed that the evaluation of quality annexes should not become an additional annual full-scale assessment exercise. As a general principle, the full quality-annex evaluation should be carried out once per three-year work plan cycle. The first time this approach could be applied for WP 2028-2030 assessed in October/November 2027. After that, it should be repeated only where a Member State substantially revises the relevant part of the Work Plan, introduces a new sampling scheme, changes the sampling design or estimation approach, or where methodological gaps were previously identified.

Testing phase in 2026

The first step was already carried out through ad hoc contracts in May 2026. These contracts produced draft guidance for the evaluation of Annex 1.1 quality reports for biological data collection and evaluation criteria for Annex 1.2 quality reports for socio-economic data collection.

The socio-economic work tested the simplified version of the criteria on selected examples, including Belgium for fisheries socio-economic data collected by census, Spain for fisheries socio-economic data collected through a probability sample survey, Spain for processing industry data, and Slovenia for aquaculture data.

The subgroup considered this work a useful basis for further testing. The approach is consistent with the European Statistical System reference quality logic used for socio-economic data and adapted to the DCF quality assurance context. For biological data, the approach was also adapted to the specific structure of Annex 1.1 and the diversity of biological sampling schemes.

The second step should take place in 2026 during the EWG 26-15 evaluation of Work Plans for data collection and data transmission issues. The EWG should apply the draft evaluation criteria to a limited number of selected quality annexes, rather than attempting a full evaluation of all Member States and all schemes; taking into account the outputs of the RCG discussions in June-September

For **Annex 1.1**, the testing could include:

selected already adopted NWPs 2025–2027, for example one Member State per region (biologists to decide);

selected amended NWPs submitted in 2026/2027;

selected regionally coordinated sampling schemes where the link between RWP and NWP quality annexes needs to be tested.

For **Annex 1.2** since there is no equivalent RWP quality annex for socio-economic data, the simplified evaluation criteria should be used as the starting point. Testing should focus on:

already adopted NWP 2025-2027 (e.g. one country per region – FIN, GRC, IRL)

newly submitted or amended national work plans

The subgroup also noted that RWP 2028–2030 quality annexes should be pre-assessed in 2027, before the full NWP 2028–2030 evaluation. This is particularly relevant for Annex 1.1, where RWP quality annexes may provide the basis for nationally implemented or regionally coordinated biological sampling schemes.

Criteria proposed under the ad hoc contracts

The ad hoc contract outputs proposed detailed evaluation grids for both quality annexes. For **Annex 1.1**, the proposed guidance includes 17 harmonised criteria covering the main elements of biological data collection quality reporting, including scope and consistency with the Work Plan, target population, sampling frame, stratification, sampling design, regional coordination, alignment with end-user needs, sampling implementation, data capture, data storage, sample storage, sample analysis, bias and precision, editing and imputation, and dataset validation.

For **Annex 1.2**, the proposed socio-economic guidance includes 12 criteria covering scope and module coverage, target and frame population, sampling design justification, estimation design, non-response and missing data, error checks and validation, accuracy indicators, data storage and metadata, confidentiality, revision and continuous improvement, coherence and comparability, and RCG recommendations and end-user needs.

The subgroup noted that these detailed criteria provide a useful reference framework, but their full application may require substantial evaluator time, especially if applied to all Member States and all sampling schemes. Therefore, the socio-economic ad hoc contract also proposed a simplified version, in which the 12 criteria are aggregated into 8 broader evaluation blocks. The subgroup considered that a similar simplification may also need to be tested for Annex 1.1, while ensuring that the evaluation remains sufficiently specific to identify concrete improvements needed in the quality annexes.

Application of simplified criteria

During the testing phase, the EWG should decide whether the simplified evaluation criteria are sufficient for the practical assessment of Annex 1.1 and Annex 1.2, or whether a more detailed criterion-by-criterion approach is needed for some or all types of quality annexes.

For Annex 1.2, the simplified criteria developed under the ad hoc contract should be used as the starting point, as they are more feasible for routine evaluation. However, the testing should verify whether the aggregated criteria provide enough detail to identify concrete improvements needed by Member States. If important methodological weaknesses cannot be captured through the simplified grid, the EWG may decide to retain a more detailed approach for selected criteria or specific sampling schemes.

For Annex 1.1, the EWG should also test whether the full set of criteria can be operationally applied, or whether these criteria should be grouped into a smaller number of evaluation blocks. The decision should take into account the diversity of biological sampling schemes, the workload for evaluators, and the usefulness of the feedback provided to Member States.

The outcome of the testing phase should therefore include a clear recommendation on the preferred level of detail for future evaluations: simplified, detailed, or a hybrid approach where a simplified grid is used for general screening and a more detailed assessment is applied only to complex, high-risk or problematic sampling schemes.

Application procedures

The subgroup considered that a full evaluation of all quality annexes during the regular WP evaluation meeting would not be feasible with the current time and resources. A practical solution would be to establish a *coordinated dedicated evaluation team before the main WP evaluation meeting*.

The team should include:

biological experts for Annex 1.1;

socio-economic experts for Annex 1.2;

RCG experts where regional sampling schemes or RCG recommendations are relevant.

To improve consistency, the same experts should, where possible, evaluate similar modules or sampling schemes across Member States. The evaluation should be carried out *before the main WP evaluation meeting*, so that the meeting can focus on unresolved issues, horizontal findings and recommendations rather than detailed annex-by-annex screening.

Expected outputs

The testing phase should produce:

completed test evaluations for a limited number of selected Member States and sampling schemes;

a list of criteria that were clear and operational;

a list of criteria that were difficult to apply or need revision;

proposed adjustments to the scoring system and minimum thresholds;

examples of good practice;

examples of common gaps requiring clearer guidance;

recommendations for how to integrate the evaluation into the next WP cycle.

Based on the testing results, the draft guidelines should be revised. This may include simplifying or aggregating criteria, adjusting minimum thresholds, clarifying when “not applicable” should be used, and improving instructions for evaluators. The final guidance should remain practical and proportionate, with a clear focus on improving transparency, coherence and usability of the quality annexes.

The subgroup recommends that the first full implementation should be gradual. The initial evaluation should be used mainly to provide feedback and support improvement of the quality annexes before the next WP cycle, rather than to introduce a strict pass/fail assessment.

ANNEX 3. DETAILED FEEDBACK ON QUALITY ANNEXES ON BIOLOGY

An approach to the assessment of biological data quality under the EU Data Collection Framework

Rationale

The evaluation of Annex 1.1 quality reports under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) will involve applying a set of established criteria to each sampling scheme identifier (SSI) submitted by Member States (MS) in their work plans (WP) and annual reports (AR). This evaluation framework has been developed by an ad-hoc contracted group, whose proposal represents a rigorous and methodologically well-grounded contribution: it defines 17 harmonised criteria, assigns differentiated minimum thresholds to each, and provides detailed scoring rubrics that enable consistent expert assessment across the diverse biological data programmes of EU MSs. The individual SSI-level evaluations produced under this framework constitute the analytical foundation on which the present approach builds.

However, as the volume of individual assessments makes clear, a framework of this granularity requires a complementary synthesis layer to be operationally useful. Because the number of SSIs varies substantially across MS, a direct criterion-by-criterion, SSI-by-SSI review produces a granular but fragmented picture that is difficult to summarise, to communicate to non-specialist audiences, and to translate into concrete improvement priorities. A MS with 20 SSIs evaluated against seventeen criteria faces 340 individual assessments; presenting these as a flat list of pass/fail outcomes offers limited strategic guidance.

One natural response to this fragmentation would be to collapse the individual scores into a single composite quality index. This approach is, however, methodologically problematic. A numerical aggregate conceals the structure of quality failures: two MSs can obtain the same overall score through entirely different combinations of strengths and weaknesses, making the score uninformative for improvement planning. Moreover, the heterogeneity of minimum thresholds across criteria — some requiring grade B, others only grade C — means that a simple average conflates assessments of very different stringency. A single number, however convenient, does not adequately represent the multidimensional nature of data quality as defined by the ad-hoc group's own framework.

The approach described here addresses this limitation without sacrificing the richness of the underlying evaluation. Rather than collapsing scores into a single metric, individual criterion results are aggregated into broad thematic areas that reflect the logical stages of the data collection process. Two complementary compliance metrics are then computed per area and tracked over the multi-year evaluation cycle that begins with the WP baseline and continues through successive annual reports. The output is a graphical quality profile — not a score — that makes the detailed work analysis of individual SSI visible in a strategically useful and immediately interpretable form. The goal is to tell a MS not only where shortcomings exist, but how deep and how widespread they are, and how much progress has been made since the start of the work plan.

Evaluation framework

The foundation of the assessment is a set of the 17 harmonised criteria, each assigned a minimum acceptable threshold (either grade B or grade C, depending on the criterion) and scored on a four-level scale from A (highest quality) to D (lowest). Criteria address the full lifecycle of biological data, from the description of the sampling frame and survey design through data capture, storage, sample analysis, and final dataset validation. Scores and justifications are recorded by the evaluating expert for each SSI individually, following the rubrics set out in the evaluation guidelines. Criteria for which a given SSI is not applicable (e.g., sample storage for a fishery-independent survey that collects no biological material) are recorded as NA and excluded from subsequent calculations.

Thematic grouping

The 17 criteria are organised into five provisional thematic areas that reflect the logical stages of the data collection process. This grouping is intended to facilitate interpretation and communication rather than to impose a rigid analytical boundary. Criteria within each area share a common focus, and shortcomings in one area frequently reflect organisational or procedural gaps that affect multiple SSIs simultaneously. Addressing a systemic weakness — such as inadequate data storage documentation across an entire national programme — will therefore improve compliance across all SSIs covered by that programme, which is the practical rationale for a thematic rather than an identifier-by-identifier approach to improvement planning.

Completeness, compliance and international coordination

Criteria: 1 (Scope and coverage of sampling schemes, correctness of details, coherence with WP); 6 (Regional coordination); 7 (Alignment with international recommendations and/or end-user needs)

This area assesses whether the sampling scheme is correctly and completely described within the work plan, and whether it is appropriately embedded within regional coordination mechanisms and aligned with international recommendations and end-user requirements.

Definition of target population and sampling structure

Criteria: 2 (Description of the target population); 3 (Description of the sampling frame); 4 (Description of the stratification)

This area evaluates the conceptual and operational foundations of the sampling scheme, covering the definition of the target population, the delineation of the sampling frame, and the logic and justification of the applied stratification.

Sampling design and implementation of data collection

Criteria: 5 (Sampling or survey design description and sample size); 8 (Recording of refusals and missing data); 9 (Monitoring of progress)

This area examines whether the sampling or survey design is adequately described and statistically justified, and whether the practical implementation of data collection — including the handling of non-response, the monitoring of sampling progress— is sufficiently documented.

Documentation, storage, traceability and sample handling

Criteria 10 (Means of data capture); Criteria: 11 (Data capture documentation and quality checks); 12 (Data storage and quality checks); 13 (Sample storage description); 14 (Sample analysis)

This area covers the documentation and quality control procedures associated with data capture, the tools used for data capture and the storage of data in national and international databases, and the handling, conservation and analysis of biological samples collected in the field.

Data processing, uncertainty and final validation

Criteria: 15 (Evaluation of bias and precision); 16 (Editing and imputation); 17 (Dataset validation and quality)

This area addresses the analytical procedures applied after data collection, including the evaluation of bias and precision, the methods used for editing and imputation of missing or erroneous values, and the final validation and quality checks performed before data submission to end users.

Compliance metrics

Two complementary metrics are computed for each thematic area and each evaluation period, both expressed as percentages and framed positively so that higher values indicate better compliance.

The first metric, referred to as **% SSIs fully compliant**, is the proportion of SSIs for which every applicable criterion within the thematic area meets or exceeds its minimum threshold. This is the more demanding measure: a single non-compliant criterion within the area is sufficient to exclude the SSI from the compliant count. It answers the question: what fraction of sampling schemes are fully sound in this thematic domain?

The second metric, **% SSI×criterion combinations passing**, is the proportion of all applicable individual (SSI, criterion) pairs within the thematic area for which the score meets or exceeds the minimum threshold. This metric is less sensitive to isolated failures and

captures the average criterion-level compliance across all SSIs. It answers the question: across all assessments within this domain, how often is the threshold met?

By construction, the first metric is always less than or equal to the second: an SSI can contribute many passing combinations and still be excluded from the fully compliant count because of one failing criterion. The relationship between the two metrics is therefore analytically informative, and its interpretation is described in the visualisation section below.

Assessments and Data recording

Scores are recorded in a structured Excel workbook, one file per MS. The workbook contains one sheet per evaluation period: a WP sheet for the baseline assessment and up to three AR sheets (AR1, AR2, AR3) for subsequent annual evaluations. Each sheet follows the same layout: rows correspond to SSIs and columns to the 17 criteria, with two header rows identifying the thematic group and the criterion number. Scores (A, B, C, D, or NA) are entered by the evaluating expert or expert group in the corresponding cell.

It must be acknowledged that completing the full evaluation for all SSIs at the start of the work plan represents a considerable time investment, and one that cannot realistically be absorbed within the standard week-long assessment session in its current format. This is, however, a one-off cost per work plan cycle. The full evaluation is conducted once, at the WP stage, and establishes the baseline against which all subsequent annual progress is measured.

AR evaluations are structurally much lighter. Under the DCF reporting framework, MSs are required to explicitly declare any changes made to their sampling schemes in each AR. The expert review for a given AR is therefore limited to those SSIs and criteria for which the MS has signalled an improvement: only those cells are updated in the corresponding AR sheet, while all others remain blank and are automatically carried forward from the previous period by the analysis scripts. In practice, this means that the evaluative burden in years two and three of a work plan cycle is a small fraction of that required at the outset — proportional to the number of declared improvements rather than to the total number of SSIs and criteria. The design thus concentrates the evaluation effort where it is methodologically necessary while keeping the annual follow-up operationally feasible.

Table 1. WP excel evaluation of every SSI for all the 17 metrics.

hematic grou	eral	eral	eral	ion de	on de	colle	colle	colle	colle	colle	anagi	anagi	anagi	anagi	anag	asse	asse	asse
Group no.	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	
SSI / Criterion	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
SF1	A	A	C	B	D	C	C	B	B	A	D	C	C	A	D	D	B	
SF2	B	B	A	A	A	C	C	B	C	B	B	B	B	C	B	C	C	
SF3	A	B	A	B	A	A	D	D	D	B	A	C	B	A	C	A	D	
SF4	B	A	A	B	A	C	C	B	D	D	D	D	C	D	B	B	A	
SF5	A	B	B	B	A	D	B	B	C	B	C	A	D	C	B	A	D	
SF6	A	C	C	C	C	A	B	B	D	C	B	A	NA	NA	C	C	D	
SF7	A	D	B	C	B	B	C	D	C	D	B	C	B	A	B	A	C	
SF8	C	C	B	B	D	B	C	C	B	A	B	A	D	C	C	D	D	
SF9	B	A	A	C	B	D	D	B	B	B	B	C	D	A	C	C	B	
SF10	B	B	A	B	D	B	C	C	B	D	D	B	NA	NA	C	C	C	
SF11	A	C	A	B	B	A	B	D	B	B	B	D	B	C	D	B	D	
SF12	C	A	B	B	B	C	A	D	B	B	A	C	C	A	C	B	C	
SF13	A	A	A	B	B	D	B	B	B	D	D	B	C	C	C	C	B	
SF14	A	B	A	C	D	C	B	B	C	D	D	C	C	A	B	D	C	
SF15	B	C	A	A	B	A	B	NA	C	C	C	B	NA	NA	D	B	C	
SF16	B	A	C	B	C	C	C	A	B	B	B	D	B	D	C	D	C	
SF17	C	C	B	B	A	C	B	A	C	B	D	D	D	B	A	D	C	
SF18	A	A	D	D	C	B	C	D	B	B	C	D	C	C	B	C	D	
SF19	C	C	B	B	A	C	B	A	C	B	D	D	D	B	A	D	C	
SF20	C	A	B	B	B	C	A	D	B	B	A	C	C	A	C	B	C	
SF21	A	D	B	C	B	B	C	D	C	D	B	C	B	A	B	A	C	

Source: Own elaborations

Table 2. AR excel evaluation of SSFs that showed a modification.

Source: Own elaborations

A key feature of the AR Annex 1.1 sheets is their economy of effort: cells are left blank where the MS has not declared a change to the corresponding sampling scheme or criterion. A blank cell is interpreted as "no change from the previous period", and the analytical scripts carry forward the score from the most recent non-blank entry automatically. This means that the annual re-evaluation workload is limited to the cases that the MS itself has flagged as improved, which is both efficient and methodologically consistent with the self-declaration principle of the DCF reporting cycle.

Visualisation and interpretation

Results are summarised in a dumbbell plot (Figure X) that displays both compliance metrics for each thematic area, comparing the WP baseline and the most recent AR in a single panel.

Figure 1. Dumbbell plot displaying compliance metrics grouped by thematic area (provisional names of the thematic areas to be modified, it was a preliminary version).

Source: Own elaborations

Each row of the plot corresponds to one thematic area. The two columns on the left report the number of SSIs and the total number of applicable SSI×criterion pairs in that area,

providing the denominator context that is essential when comparing MSs with very different numbers of sampling schemes. A country with four SSIs and one with twenty-six are not directly comparable in absolute terms; these counts make the scale of the data programme immediately visible.

Within the plot area, each row contains two dumbbells — one for the WP baseline (hollow points, dashed connector) and one for the most recent AR (solid points, solid connector). The larger blue point on the left of each dumbbell represents % SSIs fully compliant; the smaller coral point to its right represents % SSI×criterion combinations passing. The horizontal connector between the two points is a sort of compliance gap.

The gap is always non-negative and its size carries a specific interpretation. A wide gap signals that the majority of individual criteria within the area are being met by most SSIs, but that a small number of non-compliant criteria are preventing those SSIs from achieving full thematic compliance. In practical terms, this is an efficient situation from an improvement standpoint: targeted action on the specific bottleneck criteria could simultaneously bring multiple SSIs into full compliance. A narrow gap, by contrast, signals that SSIs failing in the area tend to fail on many criteria within it, not just one — a pattern consistent with deeper, more systemic weaknesses that are unlikely to be resolved by incremental adjustments to individual criteria.

The ideal situation is one in which both points are positioned far to the right (high compliance on both metrics) and the gap between them is small. The first condition indicates that most SSIs are fully compliant; the second indicates that those SSIs that are not fully compliant are failing on few criteria, making the path to full compliance short. Conversely, a low position with a narrow gap indicates pervasive, multi-criterion failures and should be prioritised in improvement planning.

Progress between the WP baseline and the current AR is read by comparing the positions of the hollow and solid points: a rightward shift of the solid relative to the hollow indicates an increase in compliance. If the gap also narrows over time, this signals not only that more SSIs are meeting all criteria but that the remaining non-compliant SSIs are approaching the threshold on a broader front.

List of Figures

Figure 1. Schematic display of the ping-pong process.

List of Tables

Table 4 Sections of Member States Annual Reports (ARs).

Table 5. Allocation of AR sections by subgroup and expertise.

Table 6 Performance levels for the assessment of Annual Reports.

Table 4. Summary of the assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports**.**

Table 5. Summary of the General sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Table 6. Summary of the biology sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Table 7. Summary of the diadromous and recreational sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Table 8. Summary of the economic sections assessment of Member States 2025 Annual Reports.

Annexes

Annex 1. Overviews of reporting and execution of the 2025 WP by member states

Annex 2. Detailed feedback on quality annexes on economy

Annex 3. Detailed feedback on quality annexes on biology

List of Annexes

Electronic annexes are published on:

https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/document/b19af9b9-2441-4478-b8f9-ceef58e6a801

List of electronic annexes documents:

EWG-26-07 – Electronic Annex 1- EWG 26 07 Evaluation of Annual Reports per MS.xlsx

EWG-26-07 – Electronic Annex 2 - EWG 26 07 Recommendations Table .xlsx

EWG-26-07 – Electronic Annex 3 - Recommendations from SG2.docx

EWG-26-07 – Electronic Annex 4 - Recommendations for future WP and AR.docx

EWG-26-07 – Electronic Annex 5 – Examples of reoccurring issues WP and AR.xlsx

List of Background Documents

Background documents are published on:

https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/document/b19af9b9-2441-4478-b8f9-ceef58e6a801

List of background documents:

EWG-26-07– Doc 1 - Declarations of invited and JRC experts (see also the section of this report ‘Contact details of EWG-26-07 participants’)

Getting in touch with the EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest you online (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

On the phone or in writing

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service:

— by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),

— at the following standard number: +32 22999696,

— via the following form: european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us_en.

Finding information about the EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website (european-union.europa.eu).

EU publications

You can view or order EU publications at op.europa.eu/en/publications. Multiple copies of free publications can be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local documentation centre (european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex (eur-lex.europa.eu).

EU open data

The portal data.europa.eu provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.

STECF

The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has been established by the European Commission. The STECF is being consulted at regular intervals on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations.

Science for policy

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and science, supporting EU policies to positively impact society

EU Science Hub
Joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu

Publications Office
of the European Union