

STECF EWG 19-09

Evaluation of DCF 2018 Annual Reports and Data Transmission Failures

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background

Article 11 of the Data Collection framework (DCF) Regulation (EU) 1004/2017 (recast) prescribes that Member States shall submit to the Commission an annual report (AR) on the implementation of their national work plans (NWP) and that STECF shall evaluate:

- (a) the execution of the NWP; and
- (b) the quality of the data collected by the Member States.

In preparation for the above, EWG 19-09 will be convened in Göteborg from 24-28 June 2019.

Request to EWG 19-09

EWG 19-09 is requested to evaluate Member States' AR on the implementation of their NWP in 2018, which have been submitted to the Commission by 31st of May 2019, and to report their findings to the plenary meeting of the STECF, which will take place in Brussels from 1-5 July 2019.

In particular, the EWG 19-09 is requested to report its findings regarding:

- (a) the execution of the NWP, including the results of the pre-screening of ARs as described below and
- (b) the apparent data transmission (DT) issues reported by end users for data calls launched during year 2018.

Prior to the EWG 19-09 meeting, a pre-screening of Member States' ARs will be undertaken through a series of *ad hoc* contracts (refer to background for details). The Commission may address additional requests to the EWG in relation to specific issues that arise from the pre-screening exercise.

EWG 19-09 report

The report of the EWG 19-09 should contain the following:

1. At the EU and regional level:
 - (i) 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 in

order that such deficiencies can be taken into account in planning future regional work programmes. The EWG should revise the AR evaluation template at the beginning of the meeting in order to reintroduce the regional separation per section and work on the basis of this finalised AR evaluation template.

2. For each Member State:

a. With regard to ARs:

- (i) An overall evaluation of whether the Member State executed its data collection activities in accordance with its agreed NWP for 2018.
- (ii) A detailed evaluation of the AR, based on the AR evaluation template provided by the Commission, which will already include the result of the pre-screening exercise. The completed template should highlight:
 - any persistent or recurring issues regarding *execution* of data collection activities
 - any persistent or recurring issues regarding *reporting* of data collection activities
 - all issues that may require the Commission to take remedial action (request for resubmission of the AR or clarification of specific issues). 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 27 June (one day before the EWG meeting ends).
 - 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.

b. With regard to DT issues:

- (i) An overall evaluation of Member State performance, of main DT issues per end user 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, RCGs, ICES, GFCM, ICCAT, IOTC, WCPFC, NAFO and other RFMOs to which scientific data is provided by Member States) in relation to data calls issued in 2018. The EWG is requested to identify and report any issues that have not been adequately accounted for by Member States, by:
 - classifying the DT issues according to whether they relate to data coverage (data not reported), data quality (the agreed collection procedures were not adhered to or the planned number of samples was not achieved) or timeliness of submission (legal and/or operational deadlines not met)
 - evaluating DT issues in terms of content by closing issues which have been clarified or highlighting failures (recurrent and or having an important impact on the activity of the 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.

- (iv) Use and provide feedback on the Guidance on the use of the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) ver.5.2 (30 April 2019) for the reporting and evaluation of the DT issues in the DTMT online platform by end users, Member States and STECF experts. If needed, to update Table 2. Experts are also requested to consider how the section “end user feedback” in the DTMT platform can best be completed and by whom.

Following review and endorsement by the STECF plenary in July 2019, all resulting documentation (annual report evaluation and summary list of follow-up actions and evaluation of data transmission failures and summary list of points which require reaction) will be communicated to Member States by DG MARE.

Background information

The EWG should take into consideration the relevant files from previous STECF EWGs (STECF EWG 15-15; STECF EWG 16-08, STECF EWG 17-10; STECF EWG 18-10; STECF EWG 18-18) and particular attention should be paid to the Evaluation guidelines and guidance for the submission of documents produced by EWG 17-17, EWG 17-13, EWG 18-10 and of the 7-8/02/2018 technical meeting on the AR template. The EWG should take into account as well information from relevant ICES WGs (e.g. WGCATCH), JRC reports, PGECON reports, ESTAT relevant work and other end users.

Prior to the EWG 19-09 meeting, a pre-screening of Member States ARs will be undertaken through a series of *ad hoc* contracts. The template for evaluation of ARs as well as the Q&A document for the submission of ARs has been revised by EWG 18-18 but the AR evaluation template is still missing the regional dimension which should be included at the beginning of the meeting so that experts work on the basis of the most updated and finalised template. During the STECF spring plenary in March 2019 a parallel workshop produced a draft guidance on the use of the DTMT for end users to report, MS to comment on the issues, and STECF EWG dealing with DT issues to evaluate the issues and MS comments. In EWG 19-09 STECF experts are requested to use it for the evaluation and to provide feedback and to finalise it if needed (last version, 5.2 from the end of April). In particular experts are requested to update table 2, if necessary, and to consider how and by whom the column “end-user feedback” in the DTMT should be completed.

The EWG shall work on the basis of the submitted ARs by Member States, the DTs uploaded on the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool platform, the results of the pre-screening and the Guidance on the use of the DTMT.