



Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the DCF (STECF-11-04)

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**This report was reviewed by the STECF during its 36th
plenary meeting held 11-15 April 2011 in Barza d'Ispra, Italy**

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SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)

REFLECTIONS ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DCF (STECF-11-02). This report was adopted by the STECF during its 36th plenary meeting held 11-15 April 2011 in Barza d’Ispra, Italy.

1. REQUEST TO THE STECF

STECF is requested to review the report of the **STECF-EWG-11-02** Working Group of March 21 - 25, 2011 (Brussels) meeting, evaluate the findings and make any appropriate comments and recommendations.

2. STECF COMMENTS

STECF noted that the report of EWG-11-02 covers a broad range of DCF issues of strategic as well as operational importance and commended EWG 11-02 having addressed all terms of reference and produced a report that will help prime discussion on a revision of the DCF. The meeting was important and timely as the reflections fit well into the timing for the CFP reform and the MSFD. STECF noted that Commissioner Damanaki attaches importance to the availability of robust scientific data and has recently written to Fisheries Ministers to draw their attention to the essential function of the DCF for the CFP and has called upon their support to improve our knowledge on fisheries for better scientific advice and fisheries management decisions.

The EWG 11-02 carried out an initial SWOT analysis on the DCF in order to develop a high level “snapshot” of the internal and external environment in which the DCF operates. STECF concurred with the SWOT analysis and considers that it should be an important input to the strategic planning process for the required revision of the DCF. STECF would especially like to draw the attention to the following elements in the SWOT analysis. The DCF has introduced more transparency on the data collected in the different MS and for the different methods which have been used to collect the data. It has stimulated harmonization of the data collection, introduced standards and enhanced cooperation between the MS. Furthermore, more attention has been given to the quality of the data and mechanisms have been introduced to improve the coordination between data users and data providers. However, the DCF has resulted in an increased amount of obligations for MS, an increased workload and more administrative requirements. STECF note that MS are affected by the current financial crisis and exposed to

reductions in the national research budgets. In some cases, this has made it more difficult to comply with all requirements of the DCF. A further expansion of the DCF, without considering the financial consequences, would exacerbate this problem.

The SWOT analysis highlights the importance of the end users and the need to establish a better dialog between the data collectors and end users. The data to be collected under the DCF is driven by very detailed output specifications which may not necessarily reflect the needs of the end users. STECF considers it important that a revised DCF be more results driven with the end users have a central role in defining the data required.

A key topic addressed by EWG 11-02 was to examine how data collected under the DCF research vessel survey programme and under other DCF modules can be used to assist the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) and at the same time provide information for the indicators related to the 'non-fish stock' descriptors in Annex 1 of the MSFD. STECF noted that the ICES Working Group on integrating surveys for the Ecosystem Approach (WGISUR) has the ongoing remit to develop surveys to be applicable to the ecosystem approach. STECF recognised that it is important to make use of existing structures that address priority key issues. ICES WGISUR was set up to examine issues surrounding the integration of surveys into the EAFM. It is recognised that many of the MSFD GES descriptors are closely linked to the EAFM, and therefore to the work of ICES WGISUR. The concept of expanding the scope of existing DCF-funded fishery surveys to include MSFD data collection raises the critical issue of survey design and the purpose of the survey. Given that vessel time is by far the most expensive component in costs of the DCF, STECF noted that it would be appropriate to examine what scale of integrated survey would be possible with the current commitment of vessel time by MS.

STECF noted that ICES and GFCM, which together with the STECF are the key data end-users of fisheries data, have provided feedback on the performance of the DCF to EWG 11-02. It is clear that the assessments for many stocks suffer from data deficiencies and that the degree of data deficiency varies from stocks to stock. In some situations, assessments are based only on trends in abundance indices and it is not possible to conduct forecasts on fishing possibilities. Data deficiency can be in the form of data absence (either not being collected or not being transmitted) and data quality. STECF notes that the feedback from data end-users is crucial to the DCF in order to identify data transmission issues, inconsistencies and omissions. It is important to identify necessary data that at present are not being collected and to provide comments on DCF data quality.

STECF have supported the Regional Data Base concept and welcomes the progress that has been made, driven by the RCM's. The Interim Steering Group meeting held in February 2011 developed a plan of action for 2011 (critical year) and the key goals for the period 2011 to 2013. STECF considered that regional databases have considerable potential to enable implementation of a regional approach to sampling programs and regional management of data. They potentially decrease problems with data deficiencies through more centralised transmission processes and increase transparency on how data sets are compiled, enabling assessment of quality. STECF considered that all these issues are of fundamental importance for the DCF and that the Regional Data Base concept should be an important part of a revised DCF.

STECF welcomed the work done in examining the linkages and possible co-ordination mechanisms between the Data Collection Framework and the Control Regulation (CR) in order to achieve coherence on common issues such as sampling of recreational fisheries or sampling schemes for vessels under 10 m. There is a high degree of consistency in the data to be collected under the two regulations in terms of definition of the variables and the sampling intensity. The requirements to data quality in the two regulations are in most cases comparable and it thus seems unnecessary to have the commitments to collect the data both in the CR and the DCF.

STECF noted that many data end users have commented on the aggregation level of the economic data collected under the DCF (at the fleet segment level) and the consequences for the utility of these data in bioeconomic modelling. From these comments, it is clear that the economic data available from the DCF (at supra-region and fleet segment level) often don't have the right level of detail in order to answer the questions raised. More specifically, the economic data can be used to assess the broad economic consequences of management measures, but cannot currently be used to evaluate and compare specific management measures at the level of métiers and sub-areas. In this analysis, the behaviour of fishermen, changing their fishing patterns based on the costs and earnings in different métiers/areas, cannot be taken into account. STECF noted that these issues are of major importance in evaluation of the effectiveness of measures and their economic consequences and harmonisation of biological, technical and economic segmentation is required in a revised DCF.

EWG 11-02 also discussed the time delay between the availability of the data and the reference year for the AER. Currently, the time delay for economic data is at least 1.5 years and for some data it might be as much as 3 years. Few years ago, the Commission has tried to launch data calls before the end of the year of data collection, but it seems that for several MS, more timely transfer of the economic data is not feasible.

3. STECF CONCLUSIONS

STECF recognises that the DCF research vessel survey programme accounts for a considerable portion of the annual DCF budget. Therefore, it is important to maximise the benefits of these surveys in the light of a changing policy landscape, particularly in relation to the EU Maritime Policy, the MSFD and the reform of the CFP.

STECF notes that data collected under the Control Regulation (CR) is used directly in the DCF. Landings and effort information provided by the DCF is in most cases based on data collected under the CR. National DCF programs may include additional data collection but the majority of the landings and effort data is collected by the control authorities as part of the CR. STECF conclude that duplication of CR data collection commitments in the DCF should be limited to those cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfil the data quality requirements of the DCF.

STECF conclude that a key area to be considered in a revised DCF is the necessity for the DCF to provide all basic data necessary for calculation of indicators used for Impact Assessments and evaluations of Multi-annual Management Plans.

STECF notes that the métiers defined by the DCF are often inconsistent with the categories defined under management regimes. In particular, the mesh size categories at DCF level 6 refer to Council Regulation 850/98 and do not easily translate into gear categories defined under e.g. the current cod management plans (Annex IIa of Council Reg. 43/2009). Similarly, vessel length categories are inconsistent between the DCF/Annual Economic Report and the data call for effort management evaluation. STECF considers that it is of primary importance that improved consistency in fleet and métier definitions is ensured so that data are collected at an appropriate level to address management issues. STECF concludes also that some level of adaptability and flexibility is required in DCF in order to best meet the changing needs of fisheries management.

STECF endorses the timetable for the evaluation of the Annual Reports in June 2011 proposed by EWG 11-02 which is as follows:

TASK	TIMELINE
Develop Electronic Pre Screening Pilot under ad hoc contract	May 2011 (By France)
Submission of AR by MS	31 st May 2011
Registration for EWG 11-08 Close	9 th May (6 weeks before)
TOR for Sub Group Pre Screening	May 2011
Pre Evaluation by EWG Sub Group	Mid June (By Correspondence)
Compilation of Recommendations	Mid June (By Correspondence)
TOR for EWG 11-08	May 2011
EWG Participants - Task Allocation	13 th June 2011
EWG 11 - 08	27 th June 2011

The key issue is to have the TOR, registration and the pre screening exercise completed well in advance of the EWG 11-08.

STECF supports the ICES WGISUR and its associated Workshops. STECF welcome the collaboration in WGISUR between ICES and GFCM.

STECF will further consider the strategic issues at its July 2011 Plenary with the aim of developing a proposal for a high level roadmap for a revision of the DCF. STECF considers it important that a revision of the DCF be completed early in 2013 to allow Member States sufficient time to develop national and regional plans for data collection for the period after 2013 where the current National plans terminate. This leaves 2011 and 2012 for the Scientific Community and the Commission to further consider and act on the findings, conclusions and recommendations from end users.

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4. STECF RECOMMENDATIONS

DCF Operational Issues

STECF recommends that a group of 5-10 experts carry out a pre screening of the 2010 AR evaluation questionnaire by correspondence. The exact procedure for such an expertise is to be defined by the Commission and meeting chair. The completion of the questionnaire does not require specific/scientific competence. The precondition for this procedure to be effective is that the AR should be available at least 3 weeks before the EWG meeting. The pre-screening exercise should also take account of recommendations from STECF, RCM and Liaison Meetings in order to assist the AR evaluation.

DCF Strategic Issues

STECF recommends that financial support be found to investigate the potential for surveys that are funded through the DCF to be adapted to maximise their utility in providing information to support other frameworks e.g. the MSFD. Such an investigation should address the need for a Survey Atlas, definition of data needs and priorities, the development of designed-for-purpose surveys and the integration of DCF-funded and other surveys.

STECF recommends that national correspondents/national representatives in ICES, GFCM or other relevant national authorities ensure that information on all surveys performed in their national marine waters are made available for this task.

STECF recommendations on data issues

STECF recommends that the follow-up of end-user feedback needs to be improved. This could be achieved by setting up a more formal institutional system to manage the dialogue between end-users, National Programmes and DG MARE. STECF suggests that as a first step, a common database that facilitates the transmission of recommendations on data issues should be established by the Commission with input from the RCM.

Recognising that improved consistency in métier and fleet segment definitions used in the DCF and the management system is needed, STECF recommends that the flexibility to aggregate information in different ways to address the wide and evolving range of management issues is introduced in the DCF.

STECF recommends that regional data bases are considered in a revision of the present DCF and that efforts are made by the Commission to facilitate the use of regional databases.

STECF recommends that overlap in the CR and the DCF should be avoided. Data collected under the CR should not be included in the DCF unless it is to be expected that the quality of the

data collected under the CR does not fulfil the quality requirements of the DCF. STECF further recommends including in the new DCF commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level, a system to encourage cooperation between control authorities and the National Programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF.

The CR includes commitments for Member States to develop and implement sampling plans for vessels not subject to logbook requirements and landing declarations. STECF recommends that when Member States develop the sampling plans, due notice is taken to the data requirements under the DCF. This could be done by actively involving at national level, the DCF experts in the development of the sampling plans.

EXPERT WORKING GROUP REPORT

REPORT TO THE STECF

**EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON REFLECTIONS ON
THE PRESENT AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS OF
THE DCF (STECF EWG 11 02)**

Borchette Centre, Brussels; 21st to 25th March 2011

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

5. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) on Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) (EWG 11-02) met at the Borchette Centre, Brussels from 21st to 25th March 2011. The terms of reference for the EWG are given in annex 1 and the agenda is given in annex 2. The expert group worked through a series of Sub Groups, presentations and plenary discussions. The main conclusions and recommendations from the meeting are given in the section that immediately follows this executive summary.

The Commission considers this an important and timely meeting as it was entirely dedicated to reflections on the functioning of the current DCF system and on possible improvements for the future. The Commission stated that after two years of implementation of the DCF, it is actually a good moment to stand back and to analyse what has worked well and what needs to be improved. Such an analysis fits well into the timing for the CFP reform (for which proposals should be adopted by the Commission in early July). The objective for the DCF reform will certainly be to further improve the system. Furthermore, Commissioner Damanaki attaches great importance to the availability of robust scientific data and has recently written to Fisheries Ministers to draw their attention to the essential function of the DCF for the CFP and has called upon their support to improve our knowledge on fisheries for better scientific advice and fisheries management decisions. Following the opening remarks of the Commission and in order to prime the discussions on the DCF, three presentations were given to the Expert Group in the afternoon of Day 1. These presentations focused on current issues with the DCF; the current status on the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and future requirements of the DCF.

During the plenary discussions on the new DCF, the Group decided to carry out an initial SWOT analysis on the DCF in order to develop a high level “snapshot” of the internal and external environment in which the DCF operates. The Group agreed that this exercise is an important part of the strategic planning process for the new DCF.

EWG 11-02 revisited the principles of the DCF and look at the previous comments of STECF in relation to these principles. EWG 11-02 concluded that the following issues should be addressed in a revision of the DCF: (1) Intense co-ordination of data needs with data end-users; (2) Thorough review of statistical properties of sampling (WKACCU, WKPRECISE, WKMERGE, WKPICS); (3) Workshop on integration of MSFD data needs into the DCF (see section X on ToR 2 MSFD inclusion)

The Group supported the view that the DCF has introduced more transparency on the data collected in the different MS and the different methods which have been used to collect the data. It has stimulated harmonization of the data collection, introduced standards and enhanced cooperation between the MS. Also more attention has been given to the quality of the data and mechanisms have been introduced to improve the coordination between data users and data providers.

Many consider that DCF has resulted in an increased amount of obligations, an increased workload and more administrative requirements. This is to some extent unavoidable, but in a new DCF there must be a cost efficient process. For example, the selection of the sampling métiers on a regional basis rather than a national basis would reduce the numbers of métiers to be sampled and need to negotiate for derogations. The meeting recognized that all Member States are affected by the current financial crisis and exposed to reductions in the national research budgets. In some cases this has made it more difficult to comply with

all requirements of the DCF. A further expansion of the DCF, without considering the financial consequences, would exacerbate this problem.

The questionnaire used to evaluate the DCF Annual Reports was reviewed by Sub Group and a revised set of questions were developed. These will be circulated to the National Correspondents as soon as possible (after STECF Plenary) in order to show Member States how their Annual Reports will be evaluated. Furthermore a pre screening process was agreed and this will greatly facilitate the work of EWG 11-08 (Review of Annual Reports scheduled for June 2011).

A key topic for the meeting was to examine how data collected under the DCF research vessel survey programme and under other DCF modules can be used to assist the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) by providing information for the indicators related to the 'non-fish stock' descriptors in Annex 1 of the MSFD. The ICES Working Group on integrating surveys for the Ecosystem Approach (WGISUR) has the on-going remit to develop surveys to be applicable to the ecosystem approach. The work of WGISUR is highly relevant to ToR 2. At this meeting, the Sub Group work focused only on the research vessel survey module of the DCF. The meeting felt that the major modules in the DCF; biological, economic and transversal, may all have some limited relevance to the MSFD, but focus primarily on the fishing sector, rather than the "non-fish" elements specified in ToR 2. The Group also discussed three possible cost options for the expansion of DCF funded survey data collection to include data for the EAFM and the MSFD. These were identified as the "Status quo"; "Light" and "Major" options.

ICES and GFCM data end users provided feedback on the performance of the DCF to the Group. The assessment of many stocks suffers from data deficiencies. The degree of data deficiencies varies from stocks to stock. In extreme situations the assessment is based on abundance indices trends and it is not possible to conduct fishing forecasts. Under this category, there are several stocks that in the past did not have data availability and quality issues. Data deficiencies that currently impaired stock assessments and to a last extent the scientific advice are not only related with DCF data. Data deficiency can be in the form of data absence (either not being collected or not being transmitted) and data quality. The feedback from data end-users is crucial to

the DCF in order to identify data transmission issues; data users identified necessary data that at present are not being collected and provide comment on DCF data quality.

The Commission expressed their satisfaction with the review of surveys carried out by SGRN 10-03. STECF reviewed this report at their November 2010 plenary. One of the main issues from the review of surveys report concerns the criterion for the contribution of the survey to data needed for the EAFM/MSFD. Furthermore, the STECF (Plenary Nov. 2010) noted that "....the inclusion of further ecosystem aspects, such as the collection of data on environmental conditions and other ecosystem elements such as plankton and benthos, was not in the scope of STECF-SGRN 10-03 WG and has to be discussed in relation to the revision of the DCF". As the discussion on this topic is strongly related to the data collected on surveys to address ecosystem descriptors of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), EWG 11-02 dealt with this item under ToR2.

SGRN have supported the Regional Data Base concept for a number of years (SGRN 09-04; SGRN 10-01) and welcomes the progress that has been made, driven by the RCM's. The approach taken by EWG 11-02 was to examine outputs from the Interim Steering Group meeting held in February 2011 and to highlight and support the plan of action for 2011 (critical year) and the key goal for the period 2011 to 2013. EWG 11-02 consider that regional databases have a considerable potential to enable implementation of a regional approach to sampling programs and regional management of data; decrease

problems with data deficiencies through more centralised transmission processes and increase transparency on how data sets are compiled enabling assessment of quality. All these issues are of fundamental importance for the DCF. Regional databases should be an important part of the DCF.

The Expert Group examined linkages and possible co-ordination mechanisms between the Data Collection Framework and the Control Regulation in order to achieve coherence on common issues such as sampling of recreational fisheries or sampling schemes for vessels under 10 m to be checked. There is a high degree of consistency in the data to be collected under the two regulations in terms of definition of the variables and the sampling intensity. The requirements for data quality in the two regulations are in most cases comparable and it seems as an unnecessary duplication to have the commitments to collect the data both in the CR and the DCF.

Many end users have commented on the aggregation level of the economic data collected under the DCF (on the fleet segment level) and the consequences for the usefulness of these data in bioeconomic modelling. From these comments it is clear that the economic data available from the DCF (at supra-region and fleet segment level) often don't have the right level of detail in order to answer the questions raised. More specifically, the economic data can be used to assess the broad economic consequences of management measures, but cannot be used to evaluate and compare specific management measures at the level of métiers and sub-areas. In this analysis the behaviour of fishermen, changing their fishing patterns based on the costs and earnings in different métiers/areas, cannot be taken into account. These issues are of major importance in evaluation of the effectiveness of measures and their economic consequences. The Group also discussed the time delay between the availability of the data and the reference year. Currently, the time delay for economic data is at least 1.5 years and for some data it might be as much as 3 years. In recent years the Commission has tried to make data calls earlier, but it seems that for several MS more timely transfer of the economic data is not feasible.

This Expert Working Group has dealt with a broad range of issues that are important in the evolution of the DCF. The objective of this meeting was to provide material that will help prime discussion on a new DCF.

6. CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Conclusions from TOR 1

DCF Evaluation Process for Annual Reports

- (1) The JRC upload facilities used for importing data tables in response of data calls was seen as a potential candidate to serve as a pre-screening tool. The benefits would be the importation of the DCF files in the JRC website, where they are planned eventually to be stored, the use of the control and validation possibilities of the system, the official stamping of the date when the files have been imported, and the availability of engineering expertise in the JRC to develop and maintain the facility. The group expressed the view that this idea should be given more thoughts and support, and that it could be an objective to develop such a facility in the near future. Incorporate into future TOR of EWG meeting
- (2) EWG 11-02 reiterates the need to develop a dedicated website (under the JRC) as repository for such reference tables. The website should contain the most updated version of the tables.
- (3) EWG 11-02 proposed the following timetable for the evaluation of the Annual Reports in June 2011. The key issue is to have the TOR, registration and the pre-screening exercise completed well in advance of the EWG 11-08.

TASK TIMELINE

Develop Electronic Pre Screening Pilot May 2011 (By EU Contract)
Submission of AR by MS 31st May 2011
Registration for EWG 11-08 Close 9th May (6 weeks before)
TOR for Sub Group Pre Screening May 2011
Pre Evaluation by Sub Group Mid June (By Correspondence)
Compilation of Recommendations Mid June (By Correspondence)
TOR for EWG 11-08 May 2011
EWG 11-8 Participants - Task Allocation 13th June 2011
EWG 11 - 08 27th June 2011

Conclusions from TOR 2

THE DCF and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

(4) EWG 11-02 recognises that the DCF research vessel survey programme accounts for a considerable portion of the annual DCF budget. Therefore, it is important to maximise the benefits of these surveys in the light of a changing policy landscape, particularly in relation to the EU Maritime Policy, the MSFD and the reform of the CFP.

(5) EWG 11-02 recognise that it is important to make use of existing structures that address priority key issues. ICES WGISUR was set up to examine issues surrounding the integration of surveys into the EAFM. It is recognised that many of the MSFD GES (Good Environmental Status) descriptors are closely linked to the EAFM, and therefore to the work of ICES WGISUR. The first workshop under ICES WGISUR was held in Dublin in January 2011 – ICES WKCATDAT. This workshop catalogued the potential for survey data provision for the MSFD GES descriptors. ICES WGISUR participation is supported under the DCF, EWG 11-02 recognise the important potential of the current WGISUR and it's sub groups in addressing key questions in relation to the provision of ecosystem data that can service the needs of the CFP and the MSFD. EWG 11-02 supports the work of the ICES WGISUR and recognise it as an important forum for evolving the DCF survey programmes in relation to the MSFD.

(6) The Atlas of survey effort together with the report of ICES WKCATDAT outline the potential data available from the DCF surveys. The survey data products table from ICES WKCATDAT has been passed to the ICES survey coordination working groups. They have been asked to describe where they already produce data relevant to the 11 GES descriptors, or where they could do so with relatively little impact on the conduct of these surveys. In addition these WG are asked to describe where they could collect such data but with substantial additional resources either under the “light” or “major” options. EWG 11-02 supports this approach

(7) The concept of expanding the scope of existing DCF funded fishery surveys to include MSFD data collection raises the critical issue of survey design and the purpose of the survey. Given that vessel time is by far the most expensive component in costs, it would be appropriate to examine what scale of integrated survey would be possible with the current commitment of vessel time by MS. This is not just a theoretical exercise. Many of the current surveys have evolved over many years, and are often targeted on a small number of commercial species e.g. North Sea herring acoustic surveys. One possible outcome from this exercise could be that using a designed-for-purpose multi-vessel survey, would be more cost effective than the current mosaic of restricted purpose surveys. EWG 11-02 would support this approach under the TOR's of a research proposal.

Conclusions from TOR 3

Data Deficiencies

(8) The feedback from end-users is a crucial to ensure that the correct data is being collected and to improve data transmission. Data end-users should be the driving entity on identification of data needs to support the scientific advice regarding the CFP.

(9) The storage of biological DCF data in a common platform with open access to end users (e.g. Regional Database), will improve data transmission and data availability information.

Conclusions from TOR 4

Review of Surveys

(10) The recent review of surveys carried out by STECF (SGRN 10 3) included a criterion for the contribution of the survey to data needed for the EAFM/MSFD. This evaluation was largely based on whether or not the survey had delivered data for the first four environmental indicators described in the DCF (Decision 2010/93 EU Appendix XIII). These indicators are mainly a data product from bottom trawl surveys, and were considered inappropriate for the other survey methods. Therefore, any rational and transparent evaluation of a surveys EAFM/MSFD contribution was very difficult.

Conclusions from TOR 5

Regional Data Bases

(11) The meeting of the Interim steering group for regional database (RDB) further developed road maps on how to put the management system in place during 2011 (Table 6.1), how to initiate and enable upload of data into the database during 2011 (Table 6.2). EWG 11-02 supports these road maps. Furthermore, the Interim Steering Group also agreed on a medium term (2012-2013) goal for the RDB concept. This goal is that all participating MS are uploading data sets, prioritised by the RCMs, to the RDB in order to enable better regional planning of sampling and to provide input to the DCF reform process. EWG would point out that the proposal, which gives the RCM the responsibility of content and development, have the possibility to strengthen the role of the RCMs and make them more effective.

(12) EWG 11-02 recognise the effectiveness of having one regional database from a technical point of view. This mean that only one steering committee need to be assembled which will make it possible to make the best use of expertise in personnel, avoid duplicate work and most important ensure consistency in development between regions.

(13) EWG 11-02 supports the hosting of the RDB at ICES. ICES, has wide experience in maintaining international databases and with obvious interest in the data, has accepted to host the database.

(14) EWG 11-02 further want to point out that the current work plan, following the identified needs in the workshop on “Regional scenarios and roadmap on Regional Database” (2010) and the support expressed during the RCMs in 2010, covers regional databases for biological and transversal variables (including aggregated VMS data) in three regions. If needs are identified for other types of data or for other regions efforts need to be made to facilitate introduction of regional or international databases were appropriate and considered beneficial by users. EWG 11-02 suggests users and providers of data presently not considered for a regional database should re-evaluate the situation at some point. STECF has, for example, previously pointed out that a regional database is desirable in the Mediterranean Region.

Conclusions from TOR 6

The DCF and the Control Regulation

(15) The present experiences show that data collected under the Control Regulation (CR) is used directly in the DCF. Landings and effort information provided by the DCF is in most cases based on data collected under the CR. National DCF programs may include additional data collection but the majority of the landings and effort data is collected by the control authorities as part of the CR. EWG 11-02, expressed concern that the actual quality of some of the data to be collected under the CR may not be adequate for the use in scientific analyses.

(16) The challenges of having two independent data series for the same variable are not limited to discard data but valued for all duplications of data collection requirements in the two regulations. EWG 11-02 considers that duplication of CR data collection commitments in the DCF should be limited to the cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfill the data quality requirements of the DCF.

Comments from TOR 7

Future Needs of Economic Data

(17) Economic data available from the DCF (at supra-region and fleet segment level) often don't have the right level of detail in order to answer the questions raised. More specifically, the economic data can be used to assess the broad economic consequences of management measures, but cannot be used to evaluate and compare specific management measures at the level of métiers and sub-areas. Methodologies should be investigated to disaggregate the costs at fleet level to lower levels using the available data. This investigation will start in the workshop on allocation of Economic Data at disaggregated level that is planned for 2011 within the DCF. EWG 11-02 stress that in order to develop proper methodologies test cases will be needed and therefore an evaluation of the availability of detailed data should be done before the WG in order to facilitate its work and improve the efficiency of that work. EWG 11-18 (Review of economic data) will review the results of this workshop and propose follow up actions.

(18) A key area to be considered in a new DCF is the necessity for the DCF to provide all basic data necessary for calculation of Indicators for Impact Assessments of Multi-annual Plans.

(19) EWG 11-02 considered the increasing interest in recreational fisheries and their impact on conservation policies. The future DCF could include the assessment of the economic and social importance of recreational fisheries. However, considering the complexity of this sector and the methodological challenges in valuing recreational activities, the group suggested an investigation into the feasibility of collecting economic data on recreational fisheries.

(20) EWG 11-02 considered that the change from DCR and DCF created problems in the homogeneity of time series and in the comparability of data over time. Therefore, the group considered that, in case the DCF will be reviewed, fleet segmentation and definition of parameters to be estimated should not be changed, unless very strong reasons for doing so are presented.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP

Recommendations from TOR 1

DCF Evaluation Process for Annual Reports

Issue: Revised Annual Report Guidelines	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	The group recommends DG MARE to send the AR guidelines and questionnaire template to all NC (National Correspondents) as soon as possible (after STECF plenary).
Follow Up Action Needed :	Await Review by STECF Plenary in April
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE

Time Frame	After STECF April Plenary
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Issue: Homogeneous Annual Reports – Standardize Naming Conventions	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommended that a term of reference should be added to the 2011 RCMs asking them, when necessary, to prepare and define reference tables for the different modules.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Ensure on 2011 TOR's for RCM's
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE RCM Chairs
Time Frame	After STECF April Plenary

Issue: STECF List of Recommendations	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 suggests that it would be helpful if a summary list of all STECF recommendations (including the sub-group recommendations that have been endorsed) was produced after each STECF plenary meeting, with reference also to the STECF or sub-group report (and section) from which the specific recommendation originated
Follow Up Action Needed :	Bring to attention of STECF at April Plenary
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	STECF
Time Frame	2011

Issue: RCM and LM Recommendations	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommend that the RCMs and LM, when recalling the recommendations made, would sort them by module and section of the DCF.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Ensure on 2011 TOR's for RCM's
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE RCM Chairs
Time Frame	2011

Issue: STECF, RCM and LM recommendations	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommended that all relevant recommendations issued by RCMs, LM, STECF and its sub-groups should be compiled,
Follow Up Action Needed :	Compile the Information – Circulate to NC

Responsible For Follow Up Action :	Frans van Beek volunteered to do a list of STECF 2009 recommendations (see Annex 4) Recommendations are compiled in RCM report.
Time Frame	By end April 2011

Issue: Pilot Project for Automated Pre Screening of AR	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that initiatives be proposed to develop a pilot project that carried out an automated pre screening of the AR. The first set of functions could be available as soon as June 2011. Given the fact that only some functions will be developed, the group recommended giving priority to those checks that can hardly be done visually.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Pilot Run in May 2011
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	Independent Expert from France has Volunteered
Time Frame	May 2011

Issue: Pre Screening of Annual Reports before EWG 11-08	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that a group of 5-10 (?) experts carry out a pre screening of the 2010 AR evaluation questionnaire by correspondence. The exact procedure for such an exercise is for the Commission and meeting chair. The filling of the questionnaire does not require specific/scientific competence. The precondition for this procedure to be effective is that the AR should be available at least 3 weeks before the EWG meeting. The pre screening exercise should also include a compilation of recommendations derogations by STECF, RCM, LM in order to assist the AR evaluation.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Pilot Run in May 2011
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE EWG 11-08 Chair
Time Frame	May 2011

Recommendations from TOR 2

THE DCF and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Issue: DCF Surveys and the MSFD – A Research Proposal	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that the EU provide financial support for a research proposal that investigates the potential for DCF surveys to support the implementation of the MSFD. The proposal will address the need for a Survey Atlas, definition of data needs and priorities, the development of designed-for-purpose surveys and the integration of DCF surveys with other surveys.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out a Research Proposal
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	WGISUR ? DG MARE
Time Frame	After STECF April Plenary

Issue: Criteria for EAFM/MSFD Descriptors in Next Survey Review	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that new EAFM/MSFD contribution criterion be developed for the next survey review, based on the 11 descriptors and the region by region information on what GES descriptor data a particular survey type can deliver.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Details to be Worked out
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	STECF
Time Frame	2012 et seq.

Issue: Information on Non DCF Surveys	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommend that national correspondents/national representatives in ICES, GFCM or other relevant national authorities compile information on all surveys performed in their national marine waters and report to Commission..
Follow Up Action Needed :	Put on TOR's for Meeting with NC in June/July
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE National Correspondents
Time Frame	2011

Issue: ICES WGISUR	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 supports the ICES WGISUR and its associated Workshops. The group recommends that the reports from these groups are available to STECF. EWG 11-02 recommends that in the light of the EAFM, steps should be taken to extend formal collaboration in WGISUR between ICES and GFCM.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Contacts with GFCM
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	WGISUR STECF
Time Frame	2011 et seq.

Recommendations from TOR 3
Data Deficiencies

Issue: Recommendations on data Issues	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that the follow up of end user feedback needs to be improved. A common database that facilitates the transmission of recommendations on data issues is required
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out requirements for such a database.
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	ICES STECF
Time Frame	2011

Issue: Bridge between Data Collectors and Data End Users	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	The group recommends that the future DCF should support financially the establishment of a “bridge” between the data collectors and data end users either in terms of Regional Data Workshops.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out requirements for such a “bridge”
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	ICES DG MARE
Time Frame	2011

Issue: Data Calls for Stock Assessment Data	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that to overcome the issues on data transmission, ICES, or the EC on behalf of ICES should set data calls on data needed for Stock Assessment.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out requirements for such a data call
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	ICES DG MARES STECF
Time Frame	2011

Recommendations for TOR 4

Review of Surveys

NOTE : This TOR was dealt with under TOR 2.

Recommendations from TOR 5

Regional Data Bases

Issue: Regional Data Bases	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that regional data bases are considered in a revision of the present DCF and that efforts are made by the Commission to facilitate the use of regional databases where RCM find it appropriate. EWG 11-02 support the housing of the RDB at ICES.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out requirements for such a data call
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARES ICES RCM's
Time Frame	2011 et seq.

Recommendations from TOR 6

The DCF and the Control Regulation

Issue: Overlap in the Control Regulation and the DCF	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that overlap in the CR and the DCF should be avoided. Data collected under the CR should not be included in the DCF unless it is to be expected that the quality of the data collected under the CR does not fulfill the quality requirements of the DCF.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Assess what data sets can be collected under CR
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE
Time Frame	2011

Issue: Co-operation between Control Authorities and the NP of the DCF	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends including in the new DCF, commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level, a system to encourage cooperation between control authorities and the National Programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out requirements for such a co-operation
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	MS DG MARE
Time Frame	2011 et seq.

Issue: Control Regulation and Sampling Plans for Vessels not Subject to Logbooks	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	The CR includes commitments for Member States to develop and implement sampling plans for vessels not subject to logbook requirements and landing declarations. EWG 11-02 recommends that when Member States develop the sampling plans due notice is taken to the data requirements under the DCF. This could be done by actively involving at national level the DCF experts in the development of the sampling plans.
Follow Up Action Needed :	MS to Identify Sampling Plans under CR
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	MS Control Authority and DCF Personnel DG MARES
Time Frame	2011 et seq.

Recommendations under TOR 7

Future Needs of Economic Data

Issue: Time Delay with Economic Data for the AER	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that a WG should look into the possibilities for using more recent available data and propose the extra information that should be collected in order to enable this process. The group considered that EWG 11-03 could at least

	start discussion on this issue, even if it is outside the TORs for this meeting. The group would encourage EWG 11-03 could propose a specific TOR for EWG 11-18 (review of economic data) in order to finalize the issue (estimation procedure for projections of the economic position of the fisheries).
Follow Up Action Needed :	Discussion of TOR's on the estimation procedure for projection of the economic position of the fisheries
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	SGECA
Time Frame	2011

Issue: Economic Forum within DCF methodological and co-ordination issues	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends the setting up of Group for methodological developments within the DCF. Two proposals are put forward for consideration by STECF: PGECON (Planning Group Economic) would be defined by the different RCMs and coordinated by the Liaison Meeting. The setting up of a STECF EWG with specific TORs relating to DCF issues. This would ensure that all methodological proposals are reviewed by STECF and are linked with other WG.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Scope out TOR's for PGECON or EWG
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	STECF STECF
Time Frame	2011

Issue: Data Base for Economic Data	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends the setting up of an economic database with aggregated data. The issue should be investigated by the Commission, RCM , JRC.
Follow Up Action Needed :	Can JRC Database be used?
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	STECF JRC RCM's
Time Frame	2011

Issue: Accuracy Indicators reported by MS in AER	
EWG 11-02 Recommendation :	EWG 11-02 recommends that the guidelines proposed by SGECA 10-03 should be implemented by MS when preparing their AR for 2011
Follow Up Action Needed :	Circulate Guidelines to MS?
Responsible For Follow Up Action :	DG MARE
Time Frame	After STECF April Plenary

NOTE: The EWG 11-02 discussed whether data should be collected on an annual basis for all segments to meet the objective of the DCF (to get a proper dataset on the economic features of EU fisheries) or if inter annual sampling programs could be supplemented with statistical estimation procedures for some segments. The philosophy behind this is that the DCF segmentation is such that the cost structure of fleet segments should be rather constant. Short term, year to year, changes could possibly be estimated based on external developments and an analysis of the available data. **The group recommends that this issue is looked into before the implementation of the new DCF. The base of the analysis could be the work that is recommended for the for projections of the economic position of the fisheries. This issue needs to be looked at by STECF (also clarify if STECF have looked at this at the Barcelona meeting in 2010).**

8. INTRODUCTION

The STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) on *Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the Data Collection Framework (DCF)* (EWG 11-03) met at the Borchette Centre, Brussels from 21st to 25th March 2011. Over 32 invited experts participated at the meeting. The terms of reference for the EWG are given in annex 1 and the agenda is given in annex 2.

8.1. Participants

The list of participants is given below. The contact details of participants are given in annex 4.

Invited Experts

Anu Albert
Apostolos Apostolu
Rickard Bengtsberg
Matthew Camilleri
Paolo Carpentieri
Paul Connolly (Chair)
Marina Dias
Christian Dintheer
Roberto Emma

Leyre Goti
Francesca Gravino
Brian Harley
Aaron Hatcher
Eskild Kirkegaard
Philip Kunzlik
Ari Leskela
Maria Cristina Morgado
Pilar Pereda
Gheorghe Radu
David Reid
Katja Ringdahl
Evelina Carmen Sabatella
Romas Statkus
Christoph Stransky
Els Torreele
Frans van Beek
Hans van Oostenbrugge
Joel Vigneau

JRC Expert

Jarno Virtanen

Data End User observers

Claus Hagebro (ICES)
Neil Holdsworth (ICES)
Roberto Emma (GFCM)

Commission

Antonio Cervantes (DG Mares)
Herwig Ranner (DG Mares)
Hermann Pots (DG Mares)
Anna Cheilari (DG Environment)
Jarno Virtanen (JRC)

8.2. Opening Remarks by the Commission

The Commission welcomed everybody to this extraordinary meeting of EWG, in so far as for once the focus is not on the examination of national programmes and annual reports leaving little time to talk about more strategic issues. This time the meeting is entirely dedicated to reflections on the functioning of the current system and on possible improvements for the future. It has been called following the recommendation of STECF to discuss a number of issues that deserve special attention.

After two years of implementation of the DCF, it is actually a good moment to stand back and to analyse what has worked well and what needs to be improved. Such an analysis fits well into the timing for the CFP reform (for which proposals should be adopted by the Commission in early July). The objective for the DCF reform will certainly be to further improve the system.

Let me also mention in this context that Commissioner Damanaki attaches great importance to the availability of robust scientific data. She has recently written to Fisheries Ministers to draw their attention to the essential function of the DCF for the CFP and has called upon their support to improve our knowledge on fisheries for better scientific advice and fisheries management decisions.

The Commission recalled the most important improvements the new DCF of 2008 has already brought about. This framework innovated the way data were collected: on the one hand by moving from a stock based approach towards a metier based approach; on the other hand by contributing to the ecosystem approach by providing information on the impact of fisheries activities in the ecosystem. Another element was also to extend financial support for activities beyond data collection, such as data processing and modelling as well as the participation of scientists in the relevant working groups for stock assessment. The process has been evolving since the entry into force of the new DCF. In the last 2 years, the Commission has already launched some activities with a view to prepare the period after 2013. These include discussions on regional databases and the evaluation of the surveys programme undertaken in 2010. Both issues will be discussed further during this expert group meeting.

However, there are other areas that deserve more attention, such as the possible synergies between the DCF and the MSFD, and between the DCF and the control regulation. Such links may influence the future of data collection activities. At this expert Group meeting, representatives of DG ENV and the control unit in DG MARE will contribute their views to the respective discussions.

The Commission would also like this group to look into improvements concerning the quality and completeness of economic data. Such data are becoming increasingly important for assessing the socio-economic dimension of fisheries management decisions. A representative from the economic analysis unit will join us for that purpose.

In order to make the DCF a success, we have to make sure that data that are collected are also delivered. As end-users of scientific data, representatives of ICES and GFCM, will make the point on the state of play of this important aspect. The Commission wished the group a successful and fruitful meeting and were confident that the combined efforts of the group will help to pave the way for further improvements of the DCF under the current and the future programming period.

Following the opening remarks of the Commission and in order to prime the discussions on the DCF, three presentations were given to the Expert Group in the afternoon of Day 1. These presentations focused on current issues with the DCF; the current status on the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and future requirements of the DCF.

8.3. Some Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the DCF

In 2002 the EC introduced a framework defining biological and economic data requirements needed to support the Common Fishery Policy and defining sampling obligations for the Member States. In 2008, the Data Collection Framework (DCF) was revised. The major revisions were an introduction of a regional approach and introducing a metier based approach to data collection replacing the stock based approach used previously. Also the DCF specifies rules for quality, storage and access to data.

The DCF has introduced more transparency on the data collected in the different MS and the different methods which have been used to collect the data. It has stimulated harmonization of the data collection, introduced standards and enhanced cooperation between the MS. Also more attention has been given to

the quality of the data and mechanisms have been introduced to improve the coordination between data users and data providers.

An important development in the cooperation between MS is the initiative of the RCM's to establish a Regional Data Base (RDB). The main purpose for this database is to use it as a tool for coordination of the regional sampling activities and analyses of stock data which must be analysed on a regional basis. It is envisaged that the RDB can be used for provision of data to end-users in the future.

A revision of the DCF will have to take account for the need of new types of data. It will have to meet the requirements of the new CFP and other regulations such as MSFD. The new DCF also offers an opportunity to improve some of the deficiencies experienced in the past year when operating the DCF including simplifying the structure to make it more efficient and effective.

A main feature of the DCF was the introduction of the metier concept as the guiding principle for the collection of biological data. The concept was mainly introduced for the purpose of management data needs. A number of problems have been identified with the metier concept which have to be addressed at a revision of the DCF. In general, the introduction of the metier concept on a national basis has led to a fragmentation of data collection. For management purposes, adequate coverage of the data for the major metiers in a region is required. However, the present criteria select the metiers for sampling on a national basis. This leads to a selection of many small national operated metiers with only a small contribution to the fisheries in the region. In a new DCF, it is suggested to implement a selection system based on regional basis, if necessary, the selected metiers could be complemented with a selection of national metiers which are considered important for specific reasons.

The identification and selection of the metiers for sampling in the NP for 2011-2013 has been based on logbook information from the years 2007-2008. There is a time lag between selection and sampling which is too large. Between the years of selections and the years in which the data is collected significant developments can take place in the fishery. This has led to situations that metiers for which sampling obligations exist have disappeared. Furthermore, new more important metiers have been developed for which no sampling obligations exist.

The metier concept has been primarily introduced to satisfy the need of managers to receive information of defined parts of the fishery. The criteria for the definition of the metiers sampled under the DCF are using technical characteristics of the gear listed in the technical regulation and the catch composition of the trip. However, most of the data requests of managers are for metiers which are selected on other criteria. As a consequence there appears to be a mismatch between the stratification criteria used for sampling and those used for management. Consequently this may indicate that a large amount of sampling effort may have been wasted.

On many occasions it has been identified that the DCF has resulted in increased obligations, an increased workload and more administrative requirements. It is realised that this is to some extent unavoidable. However, it is recommended that the DCF aims at a cost efficient process. As suggested above, a selection of the sampling metiers on a regional basis rather than a national basis would reduce the numbers of metiers to be sampled and need to negotiate for derogations.

All Member States are affected by the current financial crisis and exposed to reductions in the national research budgets. In some cases this has made it more difficult to comply with all requirements of the DCF. A further expansion of the DCF, without considering the financial consequences, would exacerbate this problem.

There are many specific points which must be addressed before the revision of the DCF. These points concern contradictions and multiple interpretation of the text of the Decision, defining requirements more realistically and proposing improvements which contribute to data quality. A number of identified points are listed below. This list is, however, not exhaustive and not prioritized.

- For many stocks, scientific analyses is based on age structured data. Define age sampling rather than length sampling (also age sampling leads to higher precision);

- Make the data requirements of RFMO more explicit;
- Base required precision levels on data analyses of existing sampling activities;
- In the light of a fast development of new gears it is necessary to reconsider gear codes used in log book. For example, shrimpers, beam trawl, electric trawl, sum wing trawl are all recorded as beam trawlers whereas otter trawl, twin trawl, multigear trawl are all recorded as otter trawl. All these gears have different catch composition, by catches and impact on the sea bed. The present clustering in metiers make the data unusable as well for management as scientific analyses;
- Different regulations use dissimilar definitions of effort. This has caused problems in as well obtaining effort data in units which can be used in economic and biological evaluation as well in the provision of data to end-users. The DCF definition of effort is not appropriate for biological and economic analyses;
- There are discrepancies in the text which makes it unclear whether precision levels apply to length composition of the catch by metier or for all metiers combined;
- The requirement of fish weight at age or weight at length in the catch is missing;
- The requirement to provide a precision of the age composition for landings is missing. However, there is such a requirement for discards;
- The DCF requires estimates of stock parameters by MS. However, most MS do not have full access to the stock and such parameters can only be provided by analyses of regional data. Redefine the MS obligation.

a)

8.4. Principles of the DCR/DCF: STECF comments on SGRN 06-03 report

In order to contrast the original basic principles of the DCF with the achievements since its last review, EWG 11-02 reviewed the comments of STECF (Plenary, April 2007) on the SGRN 06-03 report (Dec. 2006, Revision of the Biological Data Requirements under the Data Collection Regulation). STECF pointed out that the aims of the revised DCR should be to:

1. Support new approaches to fisheries management, such as moving from stock-based to fleet- and area-based management
2. Support the ecosystem approach to fisheries management
3. Promote a regional dimension to fisheries management
4. Increase quality and validation of data used
5. Improve access to and exchange of data
6. Improve use of data
7. Integrate entire chain from data collection to stock evaluation in a single framework
8. Promote simplification of the data collection framework

In the view of EWG 11-02, aims 1 and 7 have been fully achieved, while aim 3 needs further improvement, aims 2, 4, 5 and 6 require improvement and re-thinking of procedures and outcomes in the light of recent related work (MSFD inclusion, ICES PGCCDBS progress on data quality framework, Regional Databases), and aim 8 was not achieved.

With respect to data needs, STECF commented that the following should apply to a revised DCR:

- Obtain reliable estimates of total removals from fish and shellfish stocks, incl. recreational and part-time fisheries

- DCR should be based on defined groupings of species with similar data needs, according to the requirements of the type of evaluation method used (e.g. trend in indices of abundance, length-based and age-based assessment methods, etc.)
- Need to ensure that the length compositions of catches by stratum are adequately sampled, which may imply increased sampling for length
- With respect to the ecosystem approach, valuable additional information can be collected without major changes to existing observer programmes and research surveys.
- Access to VMS data at an appropriate resolution is an absolute necessity for the scientific evaluation of spatial management measures and ecosystem effects of fishing.
- DCR should be sufficiently flexible to meet changing data needs and specific ad-hoc requirements. Therefore, it is essential that all DCR data are stored in raw format.

These points have been addressed in the DCR revision and DCF implementation. Access to VMS data, however, remains problematic for several MS. Regarding ecosystem parameters, see ToR 2 on MSFD inclusion in the DCF.

With regard to the metier approach, STECF commented:

- The proposal to use a métier matrix approach to the collection of fisheries related data under a revised DCR is conceptually good, and if it can be implemented effectively, it would be an improvement on the present DCR.
- It is appropriate for undertaking mixed-fishery evaluations and advising on fishery-based management proposals.
- There may be implementation difficulties however, and because of resource implications, it is possible that the amount and quality of the data collected may be compromised, thereby reducing their utility.
-

The metier approach has indeed caused problems of over stratification and mechanisms had to be found to establish a sensible structure and number of sampling units in order to utilise staff and budget resources in the most cost-effective manner and to address continuous data needs of data end-users.

Concerning stakeholder participation, STECF suggested that:

- the collection of appropriate fishery-related data may be better achieved with buy-in from the catching sector and other stakeholders.
- RACs should be consulted on how a métier approach to data collection could be tailored to ensure fisheries are adequately sampled.

Stakeholder participation still has to be improved, but RACs are increasingly involved in discussions on data collection (e.g. ICES WKDDRAC 2011).

STECF recommended that the SGRN 06-03 proposals for modification of related EU regulations (Logbook Reg., VMS Reg., other regulations governing the collection and transmission of effort and landings data) should be seriously considered in order to make some key data parameters required for assessment and management purposes mandatory.

EWG 11-02 noted that the linkage of the DCF to the data collection under the Control Regulation (1224/2009) adds into this request (see section 7 on ToR 6 DCF vs. CR).

Based on these STECF comments, EWG 11-02 derived the following ideas for necessary steps for the DCF revision:

- Intense co-ordination of data needs with data end-users
- Thorough review of statistical properties of sampling (WKACCU, WKPRECISE, WKMERGE, WKPICS)
- Workshop on integration of MSFD data needs into the DCF (see section X on ToR 2 MSFD inclusion)

8.5. SWOT Analysis of the DCF

A scan of the internal and external environment in which an organization operates (in this case the Member States of the DCF) is an important part of the strategic planning process. Environmental factors internal to the DCF can be classified as strengths (S) or weaknesses (W). Those external to the DCF can be classified as opportunities (O) or threats (T).

A SWOT analysis summarises the key issues from the business environment and the strategic capabilities of an organization that are most likely to impact on strategy development. It provides information that is helpful in matching the organisations resources and capabilities to the competitive environment in which it operates. The SWOT is a tool in strategy formulation and selection. The SWOT can be useful as a basis against which to generate strategic options and assess future courses of action (Johnson, Scholes and Whittington, 2005).

Overall a SWOT analysis should help focus discussion on future choices and the extent to which an organization is capable of supporting these strategies. A SWOT analysis can generate a very long list of apparent strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. What matters however, is to be clear about what is important and what is less important. Furthermore, there is a danger of overgeneralization. Identifying a very general explanation of strategic capability does little to explain the underlying reasons for that capability. SWOT analysis is not a substitute for a more rigorous, insightful analysis (Johnson, Scholes and Whittington, 2005).

During the plenary discussions on the new DCF, the Group decided to carry out an initial SWOT analysis on the DCF in order to develop a high level “snapshot” of the internal and external environment in which the DCF operates. The Group agreed that this exercise is an important part of the strategic planning process for the new DCF. Many issues were identified but only the important high level issues were listed in the SWOT table (i.e. avoid a long repetitive list). There was much debate on the issues themselves and how to categorise these issues (e.g. whether they were strengths or weaknesses or both). Furthermore, the Group wanted to achieve a balanced SWOT that highlighted the key issues in each cell. The objective was to produce a high level overview that would assist with identifying the main issues that need to be addressed in the new DCF.

Table 1.1 SWOT Analysis on the current DCF

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established since 2002 • Data Availability • Common Framework • Financial Support • More transparency • Harmonisation in data collection • Introduced standards • Co-ordination and Co-operation by MS • Quality Control • Metier Approach • Bio- economic Framework • Regional Approach • Good Dialogue with EU • Included Data End User Input • Ensure redundant data are not collected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too Ambitious • Too little focus on use of data • DCF incomplete • Inefficient use of resources • Complexity • Mismatch between needs and outputs (stratification Metier Information) • Administrative Burden • Follow up of MS Actions • No Reporting website for Reference material • Metier data not used by RFMO • At sea observations - monitoring difficult (other means?) • Data quality • No catalogue of recommendations for MS • Dialogue with Data End Users could be better • DCF output driven (Data Delivery) not Results Based driven
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Policy - Support MSFD • New DCF • Surveys - Link Environmental and Fisheries Data • International exchange of experts • Improve efficiency and experts • Reduce administration burden • Regional co-operation • Driven by data end users and Managers • Integrated bio-economic advice • Cooperation with Commission /RAC/MS/RFMO • More results based approach • New CFP • Co-operation with stakeholders • Window of Opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Climate • Misaligned with National Priorities • MS resource base devoted to Fisheries • Complexity of DCF • Data Deficiencies • Non Compliance • Mismatch data delivery v's data needed • Metier data not used by RFMO • Easier to adopt a "Business as usual Approach" • Historical data consistency lost

The purpose of the SWOT analysis is to provide the Commission (and others) with material to promote discussions on a new DCF. Furthermore, in order to help the Commission develop strategies for the new DCF that take account of the SWOT profile produced in this meeting, a matrix of potential strategies can be constructed as follows;

Table 1.2 Matrix of Potential Strategies

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	S-O Strategies	W-O Strategies
Threats	S-T Strategies	W-T Strategies

S-O Strategies pursue opportunities that are a good fit to the DCF strengths;

W-O Strategies overcome weaknesses to pursue opportunities;

S-T Strategies strategies identify way that the DCF can use its strengths to reduce its vulnerability to external threats;

W-T Strategies establish a defensive plan to prevent the DCF's weaknesses from making it highly susceptible to external threats

The Group did not complete this matrix of potential strategies. This is an exercise that should be carried out by STECF or the Commission at a later date as they develop their thinking on a new DCF.

9. ADDRESSING TOR 1 DCF EVALUATION PROCESS FOR ANNUAL REPORTS

- *To propose a methodology and protocol for pre-screening and review of MS Annual Reports with the aim of implementing these ahead of the EWG 11-08 (June 2011).*

9.1. Introduction

In its July 2010 plenary meeting, STECF agreed with SGRN's proposal to strengthen the regional approach via the pre-screening of regional aspects in National Programme proposals and Annual Reports before the SGRN meetings. The pre-screening of the Annual Reports will save a considerable amount of time and the EWG can focus more on scientific issues (justification, acceptability of the argument, agreed positions) and so improve the consistency of the evaluation, both between MS and between modules. With this in mind, the group reviewed the questionnaire (Annex 7) used for the evaluation of the 2009 AR (SGRN, July 2010, Hamburg). The questionnaire was revised to ensure greater clarity and shaded in

grey, those cells that could be addressed in a pre-screening procedure (be it manual or automatic). Ideally, the EWG meeting would begin with the questionnaire pre-filled for each of the MS.

The JRC upload facilities used for importing data tables in response of data calls was seen as a potential candidate to serve as a pre-screening tool. The benefits would be the importation of the DCF files in the JRC website, where they are planned eventually to be stored, the use of the control and validation possibilities of the system, the official stamping of the date when the files have been imported, and the availability of engineering expertise in the JRC to develop and maintain the facility. The inconveniences would be that it cannot be implemented in 2011, it needs a formal agreement between DG MARE and the JRC, and the experience of using this facility showed that it can take several days before succeeding to upload all the files. Knowing how sensitive is the timely submission of all the files, this was seen as a disqualifying issue. **Nevertheless, the group expressed the view that this idea should be given more thoughts and support, and that it could be an objective to develop such a facility in the near future.**

Revising the EWG questionnaire for the Annual Report

For the evaluation process, EWG has already based the sub-group work in evaluating the Annual Reports on a questionnaire, that was agreed in plenary. Reviewing the questionnaire during this expert group meeting already saves time for the next EWG, and provides the opportunity to send the empty questionnaire to the National Correspondents (NC) before they draft their AR, so that they can test internally the quality of their report before submitting it. **The group thus recommends DG MARE to send the AR guidelines and questionnaire template to all NC as soon as possible.**

The objectives of the modification of the questionnaire were twofold: (1) improve the clarity and the non-ambiguity of the questions, and (2) distinguish the questions that can be answered by a pre-screening process. The pre-screening of the AR can take several forms, namely checking

1. the respect of report structure as demanded in the guidelines,
2. the completion of the information both in the text and tables,
3. the consistency of the information between the tables,
4. the integrity of the tables vs the agreed set of NP proposal tables,
5. the respect of naming convention,
6. the respect of the guidelines as regards the information reported in the columns of the tables,
7. the respect of international references,
8. the realisation vs the planned figures,

Some of the points above would benefit from automatic pre-screening (points 2 for the tables, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). The digital pre-screening of the Annual Report tables would permit inconsistencies to be identified between wholly numeric fields in the National Programmes and the Annual Reports, and for them to be potentially colour-coded within the Annual Report tables to identify the degree of discrepancy. However, other fields in the Annual Reports cannot be pre-screened in this way. It is proposed that the other fields should be completed before the EWG meeting and subject to certain exceptions, the completed

questionnaire should be available to EWG members at the start of the EWG meeting. The exceptions comprise those questions that require the judgement of EWG members to be exercised, specifically, the questions framed as:

Are well described?

Are acceptable?

Are justified?

9.2. Defining Agreed References for Cross-Checking

The references used to fill the tables are coming from different sources :

- The guidelines provide insights of how the information should be noticed
- The RCMs and LM provide references (naming conventions, agreed references for e.g. maturity data collection) and provide recommendations to be recalled in the text of the AR;
- DG MARE provides the list of eligible meeting, and the list of agreed derogations
- the STECF and its subsidiary bodies make recommendations to be recalled in the text of the AR;

In order to have homogeneous Annual Reports (both text and tables) between MS, the Group recognised the need to standardize the naming conventions and the codes present in the different modules (i.e. species, metier level 5, metier level 6, area, etc.). This task should be addressed by all the incoming Regional Coordination Meetings. **The Group recommended that a term of reference should be added to the 2011 RCMs asking them, when necessary, to prepare and define reference tables for the different modules.** Such references should be delivered in table format for utilisation in national database when exporting the information. In cases where the reference tables have already been created in previous RCMs, they should be reviewed. Reference tables should be made available for the analysis of the 2011 Annual Reports (i.e. STECF/EWG evaluation meeting 2012).

The group reiterated the SGRN demand to develop a dedicated website (under the JRC) as repository for such reference tables. The website should contain the most updated version of the tables.

RCMs are generally very good at providing summary lists of recommendations made at their meetings. In the case of STECF recommendations the position is not always as clear because, commonly, STECF endorses the recommendations made by its sub-groups as well as making recommendations on its own account. Moreover, STECF may endorse its sub-group reports either fully or in part. As a result, a user has then to be familiar with the STECF plenary reports, its sub-group reports and its conclusions about the sub-group reports before a clearly marshalled list of STECF recommendations can be compiled.

It would be helpful if a summary list of STECF recommendations (including the sub-group recommendations that have been endorsed) was produced after each STECF plenary meeting, with

reference also to the STECF or sub-group report (and section) from which the specific recommendation originated. These could then be compiled into an annual list of STECF recommendations for use by Member States when (i) planning their national proposals and (ii) producing their annual reports.

It would also be helpful if the RCMs and LM, when recalling the recommendations made, would sort them by module and section of the DCF. It was recalled that, for the drafting of the 2010 AR, only those recommendations applicable to the 2010 reference year should be considered, i.e. those issued in 2009.

The group recommended that all relevant recommendations issued by RCMs, LM, STECF and its sub-groups should be compiled, if possible in April for helping all MS in drafting their AR, or during the pre-screening procedure for helping the EWG to evaluate the responsive actions carried out by MS. It was agreed that a member of the EWG 11-02 (Frans van Beek) would compile a list of the STECF recommendations for 2009 and that this list would be inserted as an Annex to this report (see annex 6).

9.3. Implementation of the Pre-Screening Procedure

As previously described, the pre-screening procedure would involve man power possibly helped with a digital tool. To this effect, a R script was presented during the meeting showing the possibility to import all the tables in the R environment and enabling the development of checking functions. Regardless of the expertise needed, the building of a comprehensive set of check functions will take time and modifications following returns of experience. Nevertheless, **the group recommended that initiatives be proposed to develop a pilot project and make the first set of functions available as soon as June 2011. Given the fact that only some functions will be developed, the group recommended giving priority to those checks that can hardly be done visually.** France proposed to allocate one week of engineer to this effect.

In order to have the questionnaire pre-filled in advance of the EWG meeting **the group recommended that a group of 5-10 experts is attributed the task of filling the questionnaire by correspondence.** The exact procedure for such an expertise is let to the commission and meeting chair discretion, knowing that the filling of the questionnaire does not require specific/scientific competence. The precondition for this procedure to be effective is that the AR should be available at least 3 weeks before the EWG meeting.

9.4. Evaluation Process during the Meeting

If the evaluation questionnaires are completed prior to the EWG, then EWG attendees will have more time available to answer these ‘judgemental’ questions and to aim for greater consistency in the reviews of the Annual Reports. **This would be helped further if sub-groups of EWG members are tasked to review the Annual reports by chapter, ie, a single sub-group to review the same chapter (or**

chapters) across all Member State reports. The proposed division of chapters per sub-group and their composition is given below (the maximum number of sub-groups should be five):

- (a) Economic variables, Aquaculture and the Processing Sector (economists);
- (b) Transversal variables (economists & biologists)
- (c) Recreational Fisheries, Research Surveys at Sea and Marine Ecosystem Indicators (biologists)
- (d) Biological Metier-related variables (biologists)
- (e) Biological Stock-related variables and data use (biologists)

Sections on STECF recommendations and others not included above would be addressed by all sub-groups.

To continue on the route of improving the expertise given during the EWG, **the group recommended that precise tasks should be attributed to all participants 2 weeks in advance of the meeting.** To this aim, **the group proposed to set the closure of the registration to the meeting 6 weeks in advance of the meeting,** in order to give time to the EWG chair to define precisely the task allocation.

10. ADDRESSING TOR 2 THE DCF AND THE MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (MSFD)

TOR 2: The DCF and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

To examine how data collected under the DCF research vessel survey programme and under other DCF modules can be used to assist the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) by providing information for the indicators related to the 'non-fish stock' descriptors in Annex 1 of the MSFD.

10.1. Introduction

There ICES Working Group on integrating surveys for the Ecosystem Approach (WGISUR) has the ongoing remit to develop surveys to be applicable to the ecosystem approach. The work of WGISUR is highly relevant to TOR 2.

A sub group was formed to respond to ToR 2. The work of this Sub Group and its response was constructed under the following headings:

- Atlas of Survey Effort
- Survey data provision for the MSFD
- EAFM/MSFD data needs
- Costing options for expanding DCF survey data collection for the MSFD
- EAFM/MSFD evaluation criteria for future survey reviews
- Design surveys for purpose
- Non fishery-related surveys
- Specific issues of Mediterranean and Black seas
- ICES WGISUR, GFCM and the DCF/MSFD requirements from surveys

This response has focused only on the research vessel survey module of the DCF. The other major modules in the DCF; biological, economic and transversal, may all have some limited relevance to the MSFD, but focus primarily on the fishing sector, rather than the “non-fish” elements specified in the ToR.

10.2. Atlas of Survey Effort

The review of surveys carried out by SGRN on October 2010 (SGRN 10-03), provided a list of all the surveys currently being carried out by EU member states. In order to know whether DCF funded surveys can contribute to the EAFM and MSFD, it is necessary to get an understanding of the overall effort involved in collecting data for the DCF. By plotting surveys, using the list produced at the meeting of SGRN 10-03, onto maps of the sea areas, highlighting survey métiers and temporal information, an ‘Atlas of Effort’ by region could be produced as a way of visualising this. It is then possible to see which areas

have heavy effort and which areas have very light effort. Figure 3.1 is adapted from a presentation given by IMARES at ICES WKCATDAT in January 2011. It shows the effort expended by IMARES each year in the North Sea, temporally by métier.

From this it is possible to deduce that IMARES has very good coverage of the North Sea, over a wide temporal span with a varied number of métiers. By adding other countries effort on top of this, a picture is quickly built up of the substantial amount of survey effort in the North Sea.

The ‘Atlas’ would then be used in conjunction with the work being carried out to described how each survey métier can contribute to the MSFD descriptors. This will allow users to quickly assess where resources should be deployed in order to get the most complete coverage of each region to meet the full range of MSFD descriptors and therefore contribute fully to the EAFM. This may mean that some current survey programs may need adjusting to facilitate this. Ultimately this ‘Atlas’ should include all routine surveys, not just those funded under the DCF, to provide the fullest picture possible of the resource required to meet the MSFD by region.

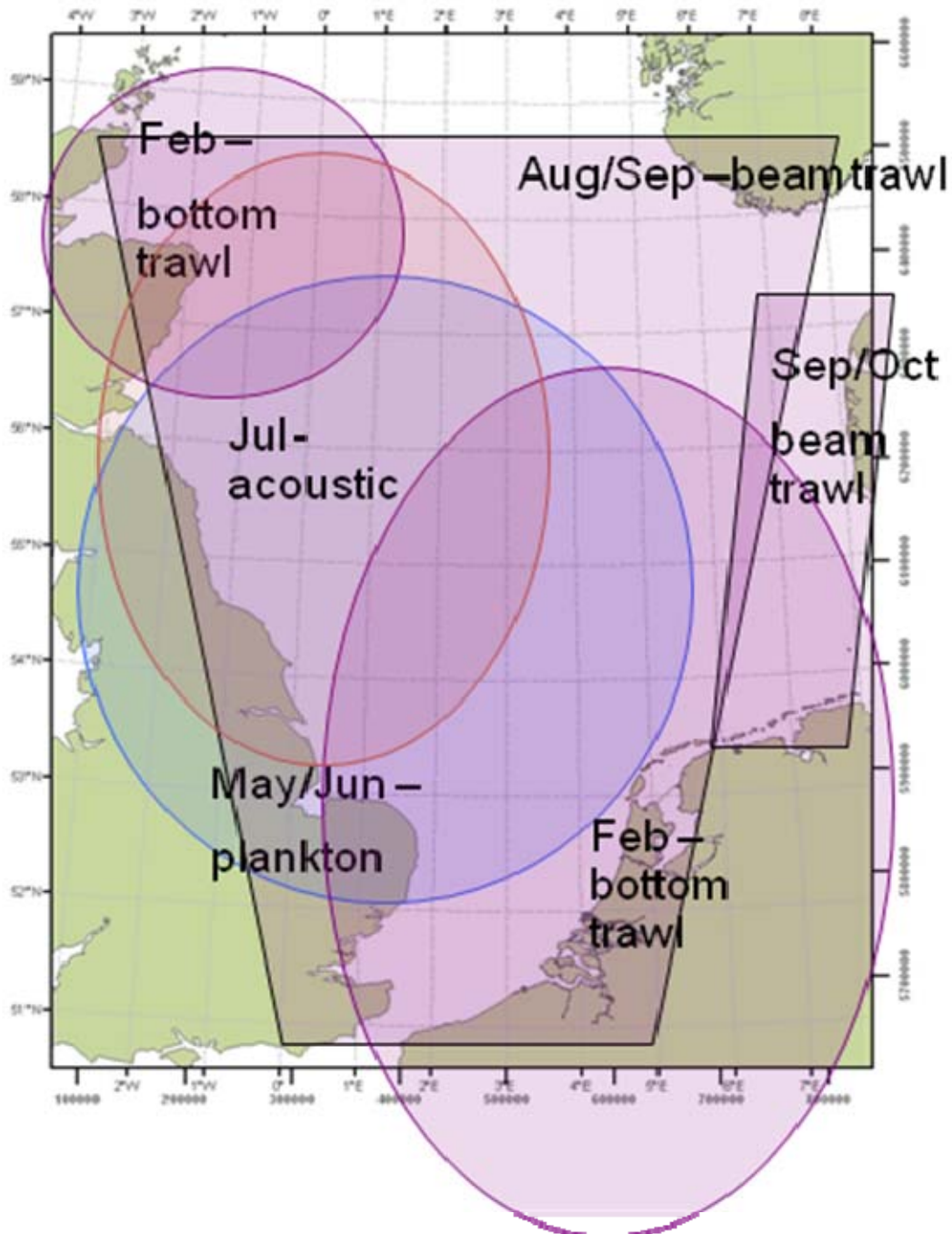
10.3. Survey Data Provision for the MSFD

It is also important to quickly be able to identify what surveys can currently deliver to the MSFD and could be able to deliver in the future. The Atlas of survey effort and the report of ICES WKCATDAT outline the potential data available from the surveys. In addition it is proposed to develop an inventory of what the individual surveys actually already can or do produce. ICES WGISUR have already initiated this process. The survey data products table from ICES WKCATDAT has been passed to the survey coordination working groups. They will be asked to describe where they already produce data relevant to the 11 GES descriptors, or where they could do so with relatively little impact on the conduct of these surveys. In addition these WG are asked to describe where they could collect such data but with substantial additional resources either under the “light” or “major” options (see later discussion). As this process is currently underway in the ICES system, the EWG supports the initiative and asks to be informed of the outcomes.

10.4. Ecosystem data needs

According to MSFD there are 11 qualitative descriptors for determining good environmental status. As explained in WKCATDAT 2011 report, surveys conducted by MS under DCF have unused current data and samples and therefore have a potential to deliver particular MSFD descriptors depending on the nature of survey methodology and the sea area covered by the survey. This needs to be linked to the data needs for

Figure 3.1 Adapted from a presentation given by IMARES at ICES WKCATDAT in January 2011. The map shows the effort expended by IMARES each year in the North Sea, temporally by métier.



the MSFD. The chosen indicators within each regional implementation of the MSFD will be quantitative, and will require data to establish levels, terms and critical values etc. This would represent the data need, and should be developed by the data users rather than the data providers. This could then be cross referenced with the potential for data provision from the surveys carried out in that region; to provide a simple analysis of what data can and cannot be provided under current operations.

Ideally, this analysis of data needs should also include some form of prioritisation. It is likely that within current cost models, it will be difficult to collect appropriate data for all existing fishery data needs and all MSFD data needs on the existing surveys. Survey operators should be given guidance on what data collection is the most important within the suite of 11 GES descriptors. This priority process may also need to include the difficulty of data collection (cost) under a particular category (e.g. seabed substrate sampling), and take pragmatic choices that include both the need and a cost/benefit appreciation

Given that these surveys are primarily tasked to fishery data needs, this should also be coupled with a similar cross analysis of fishery data needs (from the users) and potential survey data provision. Ideally, the end product would be a region specific description of data needs, priorities (based on cost/benefit), and an indication of which surveys and vessels could best fulfill these needs.

10.5. Costing Options for Expanding DCF Survey Data Collection for the MSFD

There are at least three possible cost options for the expansion of DCF funded survey data collection to include data for the EAFM and the MSFD. These were identified as:

- Status quo
- “Light” option
- “Major” option

Under the “Status quo” option, it is envisaged that there would be no significant changes in the costs of the surveys carried out. Any additional sampling would be carried out either along with the primary (fishery stock assessment) sampling exercise, or in “down time” during the survey. In the first case a complete analysis of the catch (commercial and non commercial species, invertebrates, non-living components) could be a first step to provide at a relatively low cost relevant information for MSFD descriptors on biodiversity, habitats and litter. In the second case, examples would include running on board equipment (e.g. echosounders, thermosalinographs, ADCP, taking stomach samples etc.) or carrying out beam trawls, CTD or substrate samples during the night on IBTS surveys. Under this option it is possible that operators would wish to alter the balance between the original survey activities e.g. bottom trawls, and the new MSFD data collection. The provisions in the DCF regulations for the survey conduct (e.g. number of stations) should be modified to allow this adjustment, whilst ensuring that the original data needs of the survey are not compromised, e.g. for assessment purposes.

Under the “light” option, it would be envisaged that surveys would be provided with additional personnel and equipment to enhance the MSFD style data collection. This would allow for additional work to be

carried out (e.g. on trawls samples, water samples etc.). It would allow the survey to include personnel with appropriate skills and equipment not normally available on that survey. Again, this would not necessarily change the conduct of the survey, but would be envisaged as being able to maximise the MSFD data collection, with minimal disturbance to the core purpose of the survey. Again, it should be made possible for operators to alter the balance between the original survey activity e.g. bottom trawls, and the new MSFD data collection.

Under the “major” option, it would be envisaged that surveys would be provided with additional personnel, equipment AND vessel time to enhance the MSFD style data collection. It is recognised that vessel time is probably at least an order of magnitude more expensive than personnel on a daily basis. The addition of extra time would allow a more comprehensive MSFD data collection programme, while still maintaining the core data collection.

It should be recognised that the inclusion of additional data collection on DCF funded surveys will also have implications for the shore based activity of the survey operators. This includes training and preparation time, and post survey material analysis and archiving. It also includes increased administrative overheads in the documentation for the DCF. This would be true even under the “Status quo” option, and should be considered in any new formulation of the DCF to include MSFD data collection. On this basis, it is arguable that the best minimum option is actually the “light” option, as this includes some increase in cost for personnel and equipment but not vessels.

10.6. EAFM / MSFD evaluation criteria for future survey reviews

The recent review of surveys carried out by STECF (SGRN 10 3) included a criterion for the contribution of the survey to data needed for the EAFM / MSFD. This evaluation was largely based on whether or not the survey had delivered data for the first four environmental indicators described in the DCF Annex 1. These are:

- Conservation status of fish species
- Proportion of large fish
- Mean maximum length of fishes
- Size at maturation of exploited fish species

These indicators are mainly a data product from bottom trawl surveys, and were considered inappropriate for the other survey methods. Therefore, any rational and transparent evaluation of a surveys EAFM/MSFD contribution was very difficult.

EWG propose that a new EAFM / MSFD contribution criterion be developed based on the 11 descriptors and the region by region information on what GES descriptor data a particular survey type can deliver. The details of this remain to be worked out, and will, to a considerable extent, depend on the choices for GES indicators in each region. Given consistent GES indicators within any given region, and an understanding for that region of what data the surveys could produce, this should allow consistent, transparent and equitable evaluation criteria for each survey covered by the DCF.

10.7. Design Surveys for Purpose

The concept of expanding the scope of existing DCF funded fishery surveys to include MSFD data collection raises the critical issue of survey design and the purpose of the survey.

The current suite of surveys have been designed in terms of geography, timing, stratification and sampling to fulfil the needs of the fishery assessment process. In many, if not all, cases, such areas, timings and stratification will not be appropriate for the MSFD data purposes. Perhaps most critically, the surveys are unlikely to comprehensively cover the EEZ areas envisaged in the MSFD. In addition, the proposal to expand the data collection on the existing surveys represents a probably ad hoc process of new data collection based on what can be done rather than what should be done, and which puts additional stress on the survey operation.

As detailed above, we would plan to generate an appreciation of the data needs for the CFP as well as the MSFD. This would then allow us to consider the full suite of data needs, hopefully, along with prioritisation among these data. Based on that, we should consider the possibility of designing an integrated survey that delivers on all the data needs or at least the most important. Such a survey would aim to make the best possible use of the vessel time available (drawn from the survey atlas) to deliver the data requirements and informed by the regional survey data delivery potentials. Such a survey could be planned to include a number of different vessels, quite possibly using different sampling tools. For instance one vessel could focus on trawling (bottom and pelagic) while another concentrates on underway sampling e.g. acoustics, undulators, thermosalinograph, ADCP etc, while another may concentrate on stations sampling e.g. substrate grab samples and TV observation. Equally, the trawling component, and possibly others, may best be carried out by commercial fishing vessels rather than expensive research vessels; these could then be dedicated to the tasks for which they are best suited. It may also be that such a survey might include different sampling approaches at different times of year.

Given that vessel time is by far the most expensive component in costs, it would be appropriate to examine what scale of integrated survey would be possible with the current commitment of vessel time by MS. This is not just a theoretical exercise. Many of the current surveys have evolved over many years, and are often targeted on a small number of commercial species e.g. North Sea herring acoustic surveys. One possible outcome from this exercise could be that using a designed-for-purpose multi-vessel survey, would be more cost effective than the current mosaic of restricted purpose surveys.

10.8. Non DCF funded surveys

Each MS, depending on national and international needs and strategy, has been carrying out a range of different surveys for environmental information, not all of which are funded via the DCF. Presumably, some survey programs are also conducted and financed by different ministries and departments within MS, and may not be internationally coordinated and standardised. A number of the environmental parameters listed in the MSFD are probably already collected (sampled) by institutes, universities and ministries of environment (this may vary between countries). This fact must be considered when new (additional) requirements for data collection of ecosystem elements will be implemented into fishery-related surveys.

In order to avoid overlapping of surveys or duplication of data collected EWG recommend that national correspondents/national representatives in ICES, GFCM or other relevant national authorities compile information on all surveys performed in their national marine waters and report to Commission.

10.9. Specific issues of Mediterranean and Black seas

Coordination of the two main survey series in RCM-Med & BS area, MEDITS – demersal resources and MEDIAS –small pelagics, is recognized as effective under the DCF framework. Nevertheless, improvement could be first gained by a broader coverage in terms of EU members states waters (Tyrrhenian and Ionian seas and Gulf of Cadiz for example for MEDIAS) but also by including concerned waters of non EU countries (Turkey, Croatia, eastern and southern countries). GFCM sponsoring could be a strong support to achieve these issues. Express and regular demands by GFCM working groups for data collected through international surveys would also strengthen the needs for carrying and improving the MEDITS and MEDIAS surveys series.

Regarding DCF and MSFD, specific needs on large pelagics (tunas, billfish, sharks) would also deserve to be assessed by relevant RFMOs (GFCM and ICCAT) and MS, in terms of collection of fishery-independent data (aerial surveys for example).

This discussion has focused on the Mediterranean and Black Seas, but it can be assumed that there will be region specific issues across most of the regions considered under the MSFD.

10.10. ICES WGISUR, GFCM and the DCF/MSFD requirements from surveys

EWG recommends that the ICES WGISUR be modified to include GFCM participation and sponsoring. ICES WGISUR was set up to examine issues surrounding the integration of surveys into the EAFM. It is recognised that many of the MSFD GES descriptors are closely linked to the EAFM, and therefore to the work of ICES WGISUR.

The first workshop under ICES WGISUR was held in Dublin in January 2011 – ICES WKCATDAT. This workshop catalogued the potential for survey data provision for the MSFD GES descriptors. ICES WGISUR participation is supported under the DCF, but as an ICES working group, it has not to date included participation from the Mediterranean and Black Seas, while the DCF is also funding survey work in these areas. Given the strong links between the work of ICES WGISUR and the aims of the DCF and MSFD, GFCM participation would greatly enhance the value and applicability of the WGs work and EWG encourage the collaboration between ICES and GFCM in WGISUR.

Some elements of this work are already being carried out by ICES WGISUR, however some it will require more detailed and extensive studies than are envisaged for ICES WGISUR. In particular, the Survey Atlas, definition of data needs and priorities, the development of designed-for-purpose surveys, and the integration of DCF surveys with other surveys will all require a considerable effort in terms of

accumulating and synthesising information to develop guidelines for EAFM/MSFD data collection via surveys. EWG recommend that this work be collated into a directed study that should be funded by the EC.

10.11. Recommendations

The group supports the continued work of ICES WGISUR and its associated workshops, and STECF should be provided with reports from these groups. EWG recommends that the conclusions of the sub-group be incorporated in the ToR of future WGISUR meetings.

The group recommends that ICES WGISUR explicitly extends its remit to the relevant coordinated surveys in the Mediterranean, and Black Sea (E.g. MEDITS & MEDIAS).

The group also recommends that steps be taken to extend formal collaboration in WGISUR between ICES & CFGM as soon as possible

The group recognizes that the recommendations for additional work proposed under ToR 2 will not be possible for WGISUR to carry out alone. It is therefore recommended that the EC provide financial support for a study contract to carry out this work.

11. SECTION 4 - ADDRESSING TOR 3 DATA DEFICIENCIES

TOR 3: Data Deficiencies

To catalogue the key issues in relation to data deficiencies and the DCF and to propose guidelines for the reporting of data deficiencies by data end users.

11.1. Feedback from Data End Users - ICES

The assessment of several stocks in ICES area suffers from data deficiencies. The degree of data deficiencies varies from stocks to stock. In extreme situations the assessment is based on abundance indices trends and it is not possible to conduct fishing possibility forecast. Under this category, there are several stocks that in the past did not have data availability and quality issues.

Data deficiencies that currently impact stock assessments and the scientific advice are not only related with DCF data.

Data deficiency could be in the form of

- i) data absence, either not being collected or not being transmitted, and
- ii) on data quality.

The feedback from data end-users is crucial to:

- a) Identified data transmission issues;
- b) Identified necessary data that at present are not being collected
- c) Comments on data quality.

11.2. Feedback from ICES as DCF end-user

At present ICES is ensuring the feedback from end users mainly in two forms: (1) the data contact person and (2) the data tables with information on data transmission.

The Data Contact Person

Each ICES assessment working group appoint one person, who is already a member of the working group, to facilitate the link between data collectors (i.e. PGCCDBS, RCMs, EWG) and end-users (i.e. the respective assessment working group). Usually this person is also involved in other data related fora such as PGCCDBS and RCMs. The “data contact person” has responsibility to compile, in a table format, the data issues that were identified in the meeting, and if possible to give recommendations on how to resolve

them. The table with all issues identified is available in the respective expert group (EG) report. This table is forward to PGCCDBS, RCMs and EWG.

The follow up of some recommendations is, at present, sometimes unclear. ICES is working on a database on recommendations, that in future will help on the follow up of recommendations and to evaluated progress made for those recommendations.

Data tables

ICES provides the EC with information on data provided to ICES EG dealing with the stock assessment, and also on the data used in those assessments. Since 2009 this information has been send on a stock basis and also in a database format. In the new Memorandum of Understandings between European Union and ICES, a new template (see table 3.1) to provide feedback on data coverage and data quality has been requested by the EC.

Table 3.1 New format from data end-user on data transmission

Country:												
Landings						Discards					Tuning fleet data	
Stock	Age	Length	Weight	Maturity	Sex ratio	Age	Length	Weight	Maturity	Sex ratio	Commercial fleets	Surveys at Sea

ICES is proposing the following approach to complete Table 3.1

Feed-back	Explanation
Not relevant	The data is not relevant for stock assessment (e.g. age data for a Nephrops stock)
Relevant but not available to the WG	The data is relevant and needs but was not available. This option highlights data transmission issues.
Data available to ICES, but not used in assessment	<p>The following footnote could be added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Time series too short (e.g. discard data available to the working but not used due to short time series) b) Not relevant in the model (e.g. age data when the stock is assessed with a length based assessment) c) Missing data from other countries (e.g. when relevant data from major countries in the fisheries are missing) d) Data quality, sampling representativity (e.g.

	scientific evidence of growth rates discrepancies, discard data from very low sampling intensity)
Data available to ICES and used in the assessment	

Actions on data quality

The lack of reliable data is also a very important source of data deficiencies. The work developed under the PGCCDBS and the recommended workshops are a greater tool to be use on the improvement of data quality.

In 2011 PGCCDBS proposal the establishment of Regional Data Workshops to ensure that fishery management advice is based on the best available, quality-assured and peer-reviewed data according to the ICES Quality Assurance Framework. This proposal aim to establish a “bridge” between data collectors and data users work, where data screening and data quality is addressed. This proposal is similar to the previously proposed “data compilation workshop”. However the regional data workshops are intend to take place well before the benchmark meetings.

The detailed description of this proposal is available in Section 5.2. of PGCCDBS report (ICES, 2011). All the available tools on data quality, namely the previous PGCCDBS WKs, COST and the Regional Database, will be key pillar of this bridge. Presently (at the time of EW-11-02) the regional data workshop is only a proposal and will need further internal ICES discussions (i.e. ACOM discussion).

4.3 Recommendation on Addressing Data Deficiencies in a new DCF

The feedback from end-users are crucial to ensure that the correct data is being collected and to improve data transmission. Data end-users should drive the identification of data needs to support the scientific advice regarding the CFP.

The follow up of the data end-users feedback also need to be improved. A common database that facilitates the transmissions on data issues could be a great tool in this process.

Future DCF should support financially the establishment of the “bridge” between on data collector and data end-users (stock assessors), either in terms of “Regional Data Workshops” or in any other activities that might contribute to close the link between collectors and users.

In case of ICES, and to overcome the issues on data transmission, EWG recommends that ICES, or the EC on behalf of ICES, set data calls on data needed for stocks assessment.

The storage of raw DCF data in a common platform with open access to end user (e.g. Regional Database), will improve data transmission and data availability information.

11.3. Feedback from Data End Users - GFCM

GFCM Members have an obligation to submit data according to data requirements, formats and protocols laid down in a number of GFCM binding Recommendations¹. Of particular relevance to the EU Data Collection Framework is the GFCM Task 1 – Operational Units multidisciplinary data collection scheme² which collates qualitative and quantitative information, by Geographical Sub Area³, on fleet capacity and economic data by fleet segment, fishing activity and resources targeted by Operational Unit (OU)⁴, catch and effort data by gear and species for a given fishing period and pertaining to a given OU, as well as basic biological data to describe the catch of OUs.

The GFCM Secretariat has established Task 1 data submission protocols⁵ and produced related technical guidelines to ensure a standard data reporting process; a Task 1 data entry / submission software has also been developed for use by Members who may not have data export facilities in their national systems. In parallel, the Task 1 Regional Information System (IS), where data submissions are stored, has been developed with inbuilt data processing and analytical routines; one of the outputs from this IS is the Task 1 Statistical Bulletin⁶ which is published on an annual basis.

Addressing the issue of data deficiencies with respect to the Task 1 framework and its connection with the DCF, albeit being in its initial phase of implementation, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- It appears difficult for catches and effort to be reported at the required level of disaggregation. This may be merely related to a data compilation / reporting problem or that the data is not available due to the absence of an appropriate data collection scheme.
- b) • Detailed information on fishing periods appears to be not always accurate and this may jeopardise the management decision processes which relies, inter alia, on such data. It is not known whether this information is collected / available in all Member countries.
- c) • It is not known whether biological data describing the catches of OUs is available at national level since little information has been submitted to date. It is acknowledged that this kind of information may require substantial sampling effort and resources.
- d) • There is currently no mechanism to fully assess the quality of the data submitted and the GFCM considers that the responsibility for data quality lies with the reporting Country. Data quality can be

¹ <http://151.1.154.86/gfcmwebsite/DataInformationReportingRequirements.html>

² Recommendation GFCM/33/2009/3

³ <http://www.gfcm.org/gfcm/topic/16162/en>

⁴ *For the sake of managing fishing effort within a Management Unit, an Operational Unit is the group of fishing vessels practising the same type of fishing operation, targeting the same species or group of species and having a similar economic structure. The grouping of fishing vessels may be subject to change over time and depends on the management objective to be reached.*

⁵ XML and CSV schemas

⁶ http://www.faosipam.org/Task1_Bulletin_2011_GSAs/

assessed through: data processing exercises, declarations by Members using a set of quality indicators, assessments of data collection methods used.

The current status of Task 1 Data Submissions by EU Member States (as at March 2011) is given in Annex 7.

12. SECTION 5 – ADDRESSING TOR 4 DCF REVIEW OF SURVEYS – ACTIONS REQUIRED

TOR 4: DCF Review of Surveys – Actions Required

To develop an action plan to address the issues and recommendations raised in the report of the STECF review of needs in relation to Surveys (SGRN 10-03)

12.1. Introduction

The Commission expressed their satisfaction with the review of surveys carried out by SGRN 10-03. STECF reviewed this report at their November 2010 plenary. One of the main issues from the review of surveys report concerns the criterion for the contribution of the survey to data needed for the EAFM/MSFD.

Furthermore, the STECF (Plenary Nov. 2010) noted that " ...*the inclusion of further ecosystem aspects, such as the collection of data on environmental conditions and other ecosystem elements such as plankton and benthos, was not in the scope of STECF-SGRN 10-03 WG and has to be discussed in relation to the revision of the DCF*".

As the discussion on ToR 4 is strongly related to the data collected on surveys to address ecosystem descriptors of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), EWG 11-02 dealt with this item under ToR 2.

12.2. RECOMMENDATIONS (FROM TOR 2)

The recent review of surveys carried out by STECF (SGRN 10 3) included a criterion for the contribution of the survey to data needed for the EAFM/MSFD. This evaluation was largely based on whether or not the survey had delivered data for the first four environmental indicators described in the DCF Annex 1. These indicators are mainly a data product from bottom trawl surveys, and were considered inappropriate for the other survey methods. Therefore, any rational and transparent evaluation of a surveys EAFM/MSFD contribution was very difficult.

The group recommend that new EAFM/MSFD contribution criterion be developed for the next survey review, based on the 11 MSFD descriptors and the region by region information on what GES descriptor data a particular survey type can deliver. The details of this remain to be worked out, and will, to a considerable extent, depend on the choices for GES indicators in each region. Given consistent GES indicators within any given region, and an understanding for that region of what data the surveys could produce, this should allow consistent, transparent and equitable evaluation criteria for each survey covered by the DCF.

13. SECTION 6 – ADDRESSING TOR 5 REGIONAL DATA BASES (RDB)

TOR 5 Regional Data Bases (RDB)

To examine the progress in relation to the establishment of RDB's Steering Committee and propose a plan of action over the next three years.

13.1. Introduction

SGRN have supported the Regional Data Base concept for a number of years (SGRN 09-04; SGRN 10-01) and welcomes the progress that has been made, driven by the RCM's. The approach taken by SGRN was to examine outputs from the Interim Steering Group meeting held in February 2011 and to highlight and support the plan of action for 2011 (critical year) and the key goal for the period 2011 to 2013.

The group consider that regional databases have a considerable potential to:

- i) were appropriate enable implementation of a regional approach to sampling programs and regional management of data,
- ii) in cases where data is collected but for different reasons not transmitted to end-users, decrease problems with data deficiencies through more centralised transmission processes
- iii) increase transparency on how data sets are compiled enabling assessment of quality. All these issues are of fundamental importance for the Data Collection Framework.

The group recommends that regional databases are considered in a revision of the present DCF and that efforts are made by the Commission to facilitate the use of regional databases were Regional Coordination Meetings find it appropriate.

The group is aware of the recent progress in the development of a road map towards implementation of a regional database achieved during the workshop on "Regional scenarios and roadmap on Regional Database" (2010), the meetings of the RCMs (2010) and in the meeting of the "Interim steering group for regional database" (2011).

Needs and perceived benefits of a regional database for different regions and for the different modules in the DCF were examined by the workshop on "Regional scenarios and roadmap on Regional Database" (2010).

A strong need for a regional database (containing biological and transversal data but also VMS data to support eco system indicators) was expressed by participants from the Baltic (where a regional database already is used) and North Sea regions. For the North Atlantic region the opinions were divided. Participants from some Member States saw the possibility to improve the quality of data and data

management through a regional database while other considered the present situation with national databases satisfactory and saw a risk with increased workload. In the Mediterranean the most common situation is that the stock distributions are limited to a given country and the participants thereby saw no need for a regional database. Data on large pelagics are further already managed by ICCAT.

Survey data from most Member States and regions are already stored in international databases (e.g. DATRAS database at ICES). The economists saw no need for a regional database for economic variables since these are collected on a supra regional level. Data collection on the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industries are new and the participants did not have a clear view if a regional database was needed to store these data at the time of the meeting (Anon, 2010).

The meeting of the “Interim steering group for regional database” (2011) developed a proposal on how the regional databases could be managed. Since there could be some financial implications for the MS it was however considered that the proposal needs to be adopted by the National Correspondents in the concerned MS. This proposal includes

- i) identification of the RCMs as the bodies governing content in the database and responsible for development of data processing features within the database from a user perspective,
- ii) establishment of a formal steering committee responsible for technical governance, operational and strategic issues,
- iii) composition of the steering committee (host, 3 persons appointed by each participating RCM),
- iv) establishment of ICES as the database host and v) selection of the existing database FishFrame as platform. The proposal intrinsically imply that there will be one supra regional database from a technical point of view but that the regional databases will be kept from a content point of view since the RCMs could prioritise differently.

The present proposal covers regions (RCM Baltic, RCM NS&EA and RCM NA) and Member States (RCM reports 2010) that have expressed a need and support for a regional database. It is however by no means exclusive to other Member States or regions that perceive a regional database beneficial.

The meeting of the Interim steering group for regional database (2011) further developed road maps on how to put the management system in place during 2011 (Table 6.1), how to initiate and enable upload of data into the database during 2011 (Table 6.2).

The Interim Steering Group also agreed on a medium term (2012-2013) goal. This goal is that all participating MS are uploading data sets, prioritised by the RCMs, to the RDB in order to enable better regional planning of sampling and to provide input to the DCF reform process.

13.2. Recommendations

The group support the proposed road-maps and the proposal from the Interim steering group for regional database (2011) on how the regional database should be managed and how the responsibilities should be divided between the RCMs and the steering committee. In particular The group want to point out that the proposal, which gives the RCM the responsibility of content and development, have the possibility to strengthen the role of the RCMs and make them more effective.

The group also wants to point out the effectiveness of having one regional database from a technical point of view. This mean that only one steering committee need to be gathered which will make it possible to make the best use of expertise in personnel, avoid duplicate work and most important ensure consistency in development between regions.

The group supports the hosting of the RBS at ICES. ICES, has wide experience in maintaining international databases and with obvious interest in the data, has accepted to host the database.

The group further want to point out that the current work plan, following the identified needs in the workshop on “Regional scenarios and roadmap on Regional Database” (2010) and the support expressed during the RCMs in 2010, covers regional databases for biological and transversal variables (including aggregated VMS data) in three regions. If needs are identified for other types of data or for other regions efforts need to be made to facilitate introduction of regional or international databases were appropriate and considered beneficial by users. The group suggests users and providers of data presently not considered for a regional database should re-evaluate the situation at some point. STECF has, for example, previously pointed out that a regional database is desirable in the Mediterranean Region.

Table 6.1 Road Map for 2011 to implement a system for regional databases. (From the report of the Interim steering group for regional database (2011)).

No.	Action needed	Responsible persons for following up	Deadline
1	Develop more detailed cost estimates and overall financial plan for maintenance, management and transfer of the RDB	DTU-Aqua (Jörgen Dalskov, Henrik Degel), ICES (Neil Holdsworth)	End March 2011
2	National Correspondents to agree on the organisation of the RDB and a cost sharing model (based on this report and the cost estimates) during the NC meeting arranged by the Commission .	NCs	Prior to the RCMs
3.	Plan for the transfer of the RDB from the present host to ICES,	DTU-Aqua (Jörgen Dalskov, Henrik Degel), ICES (Neil Holdsworth)	
4	Formulate priorities for the RDB Appoint people to the Steering Committee.	Chairs of the RCMs	During the RCMs
5.	Condense the input from the different RCMs and formulate some of the ToRs for the first meeting of the Steering Committee.	Chair of the Liaison Meeting	During the LM. First week October
6	First meeting of the Steering Committee. Develop a workplan including budget.	Chair of the RDB Steering Committee	Second week of October,
7	MS to amend their National Programmes in order to include eligible costs related to the RDB,	MS	31 st of October

Table 6.2 Road Map for 2011 in order to start and enable the upload of data into a regional database. (From the report of the Interim steering group for regional database (2011)).

No.	Action needed	Responsible persons for following up	Deadline
1	Specifications on Fishframe delivered to all participating Member States	DTU-Aqua (Henrik Degel)	As soon as possible
2	Establishment of a user forum. This forum could be in the form of a sharepoint and include FAQ, bug reports, instruction videos etc.	DTU-Aqua (Jørgen Dalskov, Henrik Degel), ICES (Neil Holdsworth)	Late spring 2011
3.	Data call to inform participating MS that effort and landings data for 2010 should be uploaded into Fishframe,	Chairs of the RCMs	1 st of June 2011
4	Participating Member States to upload effort and landings data 2010.	participating Member States	1 st of August 2011
5.	RCMs to discuss on the experiences of the upload trial and report findings/problems to the steering committee	Chairs of the RCMs	During the RCM. September
6	RCMs to discuss future (2012) data sets to upload.	Chairs of the RCMs	During the RCM. September
7	Workshop on upload of DCF transversal variables (landings and effort).	host	November

14. SECTION 7 – ADDRESSING TOR 6 THE DCF AND THE CONTROL REGULATION

TOR 6: The DCF and the Control Regulation

To examine linkages and possible co-ordination mechanisms between the Data Collection Framework and the Control Regulation in order to achieve coherence on common issues such as sampling of recreational fisheries or sampling schemes for vessels under 10 m to be checked.

14.1. Introduction

The new Control Regulation (CR) ((EC) No 1224/2009) went into force 1st January 2010. However, detailed rules for the application of the regulation were still to be adopted at the time of the Expert Group meeting. The Expert Groups examination of the CR was therefore based on a draft proposal for implementation measures made available to the Group. It is unlikely that minor changes to the draft implementation regulation will affect the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group. However, if the final implementation regulation deviates significantly from the proposal available to the Expert Group it may have implication for the description of the linkage between the CR and the DCF given below.

The Expert Group decided to evaluate the overall linkages between the DCF and the CR based on the draft proposal for implementation measures, not going into detail evaluation of the variables to be collected. The evaluation focused on the overlap in terms of data to be collected under the two regulations and how the CR may affect the future requirements of the DCF.

The Expert Group furthermore considered the need for a co-ordination mechanisms between the data collection and processing carried out under the two regulations.

14.2. Linkages between the DCF and the CR

The CR includes especially in the general principles and the articles dealing with the control of fisheries a number of commitments for Member States to collect and report data which are also included in the DCF. Table 7.1 gives a very general overview of areas with overlapping data collecting requirements.

In most cases overlapping requirements for data collection do not mean that two independent sampling systems are to be developed. The present experiences show that data collected under the CR is used directly in the DCF. Landings and effort information provided by the DCF is in most cases based on data collected under the CR. National DCF programs may include additional data collection but the majority of the landings and effort data is collected by the control authorities as part of the CR.

There is a high degree of consistency in the data to be collected under the two regulations in terms of definition of the variables and the sampling intensity. The requirements to data quality in the two regulations are in most cases comparable and it seems as an unnecessary duplication to have the commitments to collect the data both in the CR and the DCF.

The Expert Group, however, expressed concern that the actual quality of some of the data to be collected under the CR may not be adequate for the use in scientific analyses. The Group especially discussed the reliability of discard data to be provided as part of the logbook requirements. Masters of fishing vessels are obliged to report the volume discarded by species and fishing trip. Such data do in theory fulfill the discard data requirements under the DCF. However, logbook information on discards is almost impossible to control without a very comprehensive observer or camera documentation system. There is therefore a high risk that CR discard data may be biased and not representative for the fishery in question. To ensure reliable discard data it may therefore be necessary to set up a parallel discard sampling system under the DCF.

A parallel discard sampling system under the DCF may, however, result in two official national discard data series with conflicting information on discard levels and it may be necessary to develop clear rules for scientific and management use of the data.

The challenges of having two independent data series for the same variable are not limited to discard data but valued for all duplications of data collection requirements in the two regulations. The Expert Group therefore considers that duplication of CR data collection commitments in the DCF should be limited to the cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfill the data quality requirements of the DCF.

14.3. Sampling Schemes for Vessels not Subject to Logbook and Landing Declaration Requirements

The CR includes commitments for Member States to develop and implement sampling plans for vessels not subject to logbook requirements and landing declarations. The method to be used by Member States in developing the sampling plan is described in the implementation regulation. The main aim of the sampling program is to control the activity of the vessels concerned and to establish an estimate for the total catch by stock and métier on the basis of an evaluation of the risk for non compliance with the CFP. No sampling plans have so far been implemented and the Expert Group was not in the position to evaluate if the sampling plans are likely to deliver the data required under the DCF.

The Expert Group recommends that when Member States develop the sampling plans due notice is taken to the data requirements under the DCF. This could be done by actively involve at national level the DCF experts in the development of the sampling plans.

14.4. Sampling of recreational fisheries

Both the CR and the DCF have commitments for Member States to collect information on catches by recreational fisheries. However, the list of stocks/species to be collected is different in the two regulations. Under the CR Member States are obliged to collect information on stocks subject to recovery plans. This means that the stocks to be sampled under the CR may change over time.

The obligations under the DCF are given in form of a list of species to be sampled by region. The species may not necessary be subject to a recovery plan and separate sampling under the DCF may be required to fulfill the commitments.

14.5. Recommendations

e) The Expert Group recommends that overlap in data to be collected under the Control Regulation and the DCF should be avoided. Data collected under the Control Regulation should not be included in the DCF unless it is to be expected that the quality of the data collected under the CR does not fulfill the quality requirements of the DCF. The Expert Group notes that to fulfill the data submission requirements under the DCF, the DCF may include commitments to compile and process data collected under the CR.

f)

g) The Expert Group recommends including in the DCF commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level a formal system for cooperation between control authorities and the National programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF.

TABLE 7.1 Linking the Control Regulation and the Data Collection Framework

CR		DCF	Comments
Subject	Data type	Module/section with data overlap with the CR	
General conditions	Fishing licence - capacity data	Fleet segment (economic data)	
		Metier	
		Transversal data- capacity	
	VMS	Ecosystem data (indicator 5, 6 and 7)	No guidelines for evaluating VMS data
Control of fisheries	Logbook and landing declaration	Geographic Stratification	One strata per day
			Possible inconsistency

			with VMS data
		Metier	No mandatory inf. on selective devices in CR. Differences in gear types.
		Biological data Landings Discards	Quality of discard data
		Transversal data Effort Landings	Hours fishing not recorded in CR.
	Sampling plans for sampling of vessels not subject to logbook and landing declaration requirements.	Metier	Unclear if the sampling plans will deliver the data required under the DCF.
		Biological data Landings Discards	
		Transversal data Effort Landings	
Control of recreational fisheries	Catch of stocks subject to recovery plan	Catch of listed species by region	The list of species/stocks to be collected are different under the two regulations.

15. SECTION 8 – ADDRESSING TOR 7 FUTURE NEEDS OF ECONOMIC DATA IN THE DCF AND QUALITY INDICATORS

TOR 7: Future needs of economic data in the DCF and quality indicators.

To explore the future needs of economic data in the DCF in such areas as geographical disaggregation, assessment of the economic and social context of recreational fisheries and possible development of common database on economic data.

To examine quality of economic data and specifically development of instruments to check for data consistency, discrepancies and homogeneities in time series.

To compile an analyses of the quality of economic data submitted to SGMOS, SGMED, SGECA, and other relevant working groups (as outlined in their reports), in order that SGRN can gauge the utility of the DCF in providing the relevant economic data to these working groups.

15.1. Aggregation Level of Economic Data

Several end users have commented on the aggregation level of the economic data collected under the DCF (on the fleet segment level) and the consequences for the usefulness of these data in bioeconomic modelling. These comments are summarised in Table 7.1

Table 7.1 Comments on the aggregation level of economic data and consequences for the use of economic data in bioeconomic modeling:

WG	Comment
SG-MOS 10-01: Methodologies for Impact Assessments	Bay of Biscay Sole - Data requirements The standard DCF segments are normally too aggregated. Therefore, an additional data call with a higher disaggregation level for a selection of sub-fleets catching sole is needed
	Haddock VI and Vb, Data requirements For the economic data it was unclear if the DCF data is sufficient to assess the plan. Therefore, during the scoping meeting it has to be examined if <u>the aggregation level of the DCF data allows an assessment of the economic and social impacts.</u>
SGMED - Assessment of Mediterranean Stocks (Dec 2010)	... the geographical aggregation level appears inappropriate to elaborate the specific ToRs given to SGMED. SGMED experts therefore requests a revision of the SGMED data call in 2011 towards a finer disaggregation of the parameters by GFCM

	geographical sub-areas (SA), which is required for the given ToR.
SGMOS 10-06 Part e) Evaluation of multi-annual plan for Baltic cod	Collection of economic or transversal data should be organized so that it can be attributed to Eastern and Western stocks.
SGMOS-10-03 Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) in European seas	<p>Currently, biological and economic data are available at different scales. STECF suggests that the principle scale of analysis should be the ecosystem and data should be (dis)aggregated accordingly.</p> <p>Therefore economic analysis at the ecosystem level are clearly required while economic data are currently collected within the DCF only with reference to the three very large marine areas: the Baltic Sea, the Atlantic waters and the Mediterranean Sea. SG-MOS recommends that revised DCF should consider the ecosystem spatial reference for collecting the data using an agreed list of clearly defined ecosystems</p>

From these comments it is clear that the economic data available from the DCF (at supra-region and fleet segment level) often don't have the right level of detail in order to answer the questions raised. More specifically, the economic data can be used to assess the broad economic consequences of management measures, but cannot be used to evaluate and compare specific management measures at the level of métiers and sub-areas. In this analysis the behaviour of fishermen, changing their fishing patterns based on the costs and earnings in different métiers/areas, cannot be taken into account. These issues are of major importance in evaluation of the effectiveness of measures and their economic consequences.

The group considered that, in order to carry out such analyses, information on both income and costs on a more detailed (spatial disaggregation and métier) level should be available. Income can be estimated from the data collected under the DCF, but more detailed cost data should be made available. This only holds for variable costs as from a methodological point of view it does not make sense to attribute non-variable (fixed) costs to more detailed levels than the level of the economic agent (company or vessel). The group feels, however, that it is not practically feasible to collect these costs at low aggregation levels and recommends that, initially, methodologies should be investigated to disaggregate the costs at fleet level to lower levels using the available data. This investigation will start in the workshop on allocation of Economic Data at disaggregated level that is planned for 2011 within the DCF.

The group stresses that in order to develop proper methodologies test cases will be needed and therefore an evaluation of the availability of detailed data should be done before the WG in order to facilitate its work and improve the efficiency of that work. EWG 11-18 (Review of economic data) will review the results of this workshop and propose follow up actions. Ultimately, STECF should come up with a methodology which should be implemented by the MS, who will be responsible for the estimation process.

15.2. Time Delay in Economic Data

The group also discussed the time delay between the availability of the data and the reference year. Currently, the time delay for economic data is at least 1.5 years and for some data it might be as much as 3 years. In recent years the Commission has tried to make data calls earlier, but it seems that for several MS more timely transfer of the economic data is not feasible. The group observed that for some economic variables (such as oil prices, fish prices, interest rates, etc.) and for some transversal variables (landings and effort) more recent data are available and could be used for projections of the economic position of the fisheries. The group therefore recommends that a WG should look into the possibilities for such an estimation procedure and propose the extra information that should be collected in order to enable this process.

The group considered that EWG 11-03 could at least start discussion on this issue, even if it is outside the TORs for this meeting. In any case, EWG 11-03 could propose a specific TOR for EWG 11-18 (review of economic data) in order to finalize the issue (estimation procedure for projections of the economic position of the fisheries).

15.3. Organizational and structural issues

Participation of economists within the DCF machinery is limited by the absence of a systematic forum where methodological and coordination issues can be discussed. The group is supposed to do this task, but the TOR and workload in this WG is such that this task is not taken up appropriately. Furthermore, there is no clear procedure on how proposals for workshops and/or studies could be transmitted to the RCM for endorsement.

The group considers that this point should be investigated and suggests two alternative approaches:

1. The setting up of a STECF EWG with specific TORs relating to DCF issues. This would ensure that all methodological proposals are reviewed by STECF and are linked with other WG.
2. The setting up of a PGECO (Planning Group ECONomic) to be a planning group for methodological developments within the DCF. In this case, the TORs for PGECO would be defined by the different RCMs and coordinated by the Liaison Meeting. This proposal would create a body similar to the PGCCDBS/PGMED that cover the biological data collection. The weakness of this proposal is that methodological issues are discussed by national experts and there is no review from STECF.

The group discussed the weakness and strengths of both approaches and finally supported the second proposals.

Whatever approach will be implemented, even participation of economists in the RCM would be facilitated because the methodological group would ensure the presentation of appropriate TORs.

With regard to participation of economists in the RCM, the group also discussed on the benefits from having a co-chair of RCM to deal with the economic issues to be coordinated in the RCM.

The group also discussed the implementation of a European database for economic data. At the moment, economic data are disseminated through the publication of the Annual Economic Report. But the implementation of a database could increase access for the scientific community, fishery managers and

stakeholders. The group recommended to further investigate this proposal and to review different implementing procedures (within Regional Databases, JRC, etc.).

15.4. Quality Indicators

Over the last two years, two SGECA meetings have been convened to propose indicators to assess the quality of the economic data. These indicators have been included in guidelines for the preparation of the NP and AR.

SGECA 10-03 reviewed accuracy indicators reported by MS in the 2010 AR and considered that the present guidelines for the AR are not clear and lead to several inconsistencies. SGECA 10-03 reviewed the guidelines for presentation of AR in order to provide more precise indication on how MS should collect and present information on quality. This revision has been endorsed by STECF. However, to date revision of guidelines has not been implemented.

EWG 11-02 recommends that this revision will be implemented shortly so that the MS can use these guidelines for preparing the AR for 2011.

The group considered that a workshop on statistical issues of the collection of economic data will be held in 2011 within DCF. This workshop is aimed at assessing the quality of data collected and defining minimum targets for quality of economic data.

The group recommended that TORs of next EWG 11-18 (Review of economic data) will include the revision of the results of this workshop and the proposal follow up actions.

In terms of improving data quality, possible future activities could consider the development of instruments to check for data consistency, discrepancies and homogeneities in time series. Data checks should be under the remits of MS and JRC when preparing the AER. However, the group considered that it would be useful to draft some sort of check list to be undertaken by MS.

EWG 11-02 recommends the inclusion of this issue in the TORs of EWG 11-18 (Review of Economic Data).

The group also discussed the use of basic **fishery** data (landings, effort, fleet composition, etc.) in the economic data estimation (the definition of sampling plans and raising procedures). The group considered that the reliability of this data should be assessed in order to avoid bias in final estimates.

The group discussed whether data should be collected on an annual basis for all segments to meet the objective of the DCF (to get a proper dataset on the economic features of EU fisheries) or if inter annual sampling programs could be supplemented with statistical estimation procedures for some segments. The philosophy behind this is that the DCF segmentation is such that the cost structure of fleet segments should be rather constant. Short term, year to year, changes could possibly be estimated based on external developments and an analysis of the available data. The group recommends that this issue is looked into before the implementation of the new DCF. The base of the analysis could be the work that is recommended for the for projections of the economic position of the fisheries.

15.5. Other issues for the future DCF

The group considered that the reform of the CFP would increase the need for additional data in several areas such as:

- Social aspects (e.g., fishermen education, expertise in artisanal fisheries, regional dependence on fishing activities)
- Market data (prices and landings by different quality categories, distribution channels)
- Employment and labour conditions

The group considered that the assessment of the regional dependence on fishing activities is a complex issue that could include the estimation of multipliers. In this context, a detailed analysis of the scope of the new DCF is necessary in order to investigate what data are appropriate to be included in the DCF.

This argumentation is relevant also with regard to the inclusion of the Processing sector in the DCF that has been discussed several times and for which STECF already recommended a working group to deal with this issue.

Another area to be considered is the necessity for DCF to provide all basic data necessary for calculation of Indicators for Impact Assessments of Multi-annual Plans.

The group also considered the increasing interest in recreational fisheries and their impact on conservation policies. The future DCF could include the assessment of the economic and social importance of recreational fisheries. However, considering the complexity of this sector and the methodological challenges in valuing recreational activities, the group suggested an investigation into the feasibility of collecting economic data on recreational fisheries.

15.6. Principles for the Future DCF

The group considered that the change from DCR and DCF created problems in the homogeneity of time series and in the comparability of data over time. Therefore, the group considered that, in case the DCF will be reviewed, fleet segmentation and definition of parameters to be estimated should not be changed, unless very strong motivations will be presented.

16. ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Scientific and Technical Committee for Fisheries (STECF)
Expert Working Group 11-02**

**Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the DCF
Brussels, 21st to 25th March 2011**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TOR 1 : DCF Evaluation Process for Annual Reports

To propose a methodology and protocol for pre-screening and review of MS Annual Reports with the aim of implementing these ahead of the EWG 11-08 (June 2011).

TOR 2: The DCF and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

To examine how data collected under the DCF research vessel survey programme and under other DCF modules can be used to assist the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM) by providing information for the indicators related to the 'non-fish stock' descriptors in Annex 1 of the MSFD.

TOR 3: Data Deficiencies

To catalogue the key issues in relation to data deficiencies and the DCF and to propose guidelines for the reporting of data deficiencies by data end users.

TOR 4: DCF Review of Surveys – Actions Required

To develop an action plan to address the issues and recommendations raised in the report of the STECF review of needs in relation to Surveys (SGRN 10-03)

TOR 5 Regional Data Bases (RDB)

To examine progress in relation to the establishment of RDB's Steering Committee and propose a plan of action over the next three years.

TOR 6: The DCF and the Control Regulation

To examine linkages and possible co-ordination mechanisms between the Data Collection Framework and the Control Regulation in order to achieve coherence on common issues such as sampling of recreational fisheries or sampling schemes for vessels under 10 m to be checked.

TOR 7: Future needs of economic data in the DCF and quality indicators.

To explore the future needs of economic data in the DCF in such areas as geographical disaggregation, assessment of the economic and social context of recreational fisheries and possible development of common database on economic data.

To examine quality of economic data and specifically development of instruments to check for data consistency, discrepancies and homogeneities in time series.

To compile an analyses of the quality of economic data submitted to SGMOS, SGMED, SGECA, and other relevant working groups (as outlined in their reports), in order that the group can gauge the utility of the DCF in providing the relevant economic data to these working groups.

17. ANNEX 2: AGENDA

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Expert Working Group 11-02

Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the DCF

21st March to 25th March 2011

Borchette Centre, Brussels, Belgium.

AGENDA (Version 3)

Monday 21st March (Day 1)

14.00Hrs PLENARY - FOUNDATION FOR THE MEETING

Introduction and Welcome

Views of the Commission (Veronika Veits, DG Mares)

Tour de Table

Objectives and TOR's of EW 11.02

Logistics of Meeting

Adoption of the Agenda

Plenary/Sub Group Working Procedures

Rapporteurs and Report Structure

Reporting to April Plenary of STECF

15.00Hrs PLENARY

DCF Evaluation Process for Annual Reports (TOR 1)
Formation of Sub Group 1 (Lead Joel Vigneau)
Issues to be Addressed - Discussion

The DCF and the MSFD (TOR 2)
Formation of Sub Group 2 (Lead David Reid)
Issues to be Addressed - Discussion

Formation of Other Sub Groups as Required

16.00 Hrs PRESENTATIONS

Reflections on the DCF (Priming the meeting)
1. Current Issues with the DCF (Joel Vigneau)
2. MSFD Implementation (Anna Cheilari, DG Env.)
3. Future Requirements for the DCF (David Reid)
Discussion and Issues for Consideration

18.00Hrs Chair's Summary and CLOSE Day 1

Tuesday 22nd March (Day 2)

09.00Hrs Outline of Day 2 (Chair)

PLENARY

DCF Review of Surveys (TOR 4; Lead Christoph Stransky)
Presentation of the Report
Main Issues and Recommendations identified

Discussion - A Proposed Action Plan

11.00HRS Sub Group Work - Draft Text or Plenary if Required

13.00Hrs LUNCH

14.00Hrs Sub Group 1 – Start Work
Sub Group 2 – Start Work

Other Sub Groups + Individuals Prepare Thoughts/Text

18.00Hrs Chair's Summary and CLOSE Day 2

Wednesday 23rd March (Day 3)

09.00Hrs Outline of Day 3 (Chair)

PLENARY

Data Deficiencies (TOR 3 – Cristina Morgado ICES and Matthew Camilleri, GCFM)

Presentation by ICES and GCFM

Identification of the Key Issues

Guidelines for Reporting of Data Deficiencies

New Initiatives underway - required

13.00Hrs LUNCH

14.00Hrs PLENARY

DCF and Economic Data (TOR 7; Lead Evelina Sabatella)
Data Quality Indicators;
Participation of economists at EWG
Future Directions of Economic Data within DCF
Discussion and Recommendations

16.00Hrs PLENARY

Report from Sub Group 1 (Lead David Reid)
DCF and the MSFD
Draft Text

18.00Hrs Chair's Summary and CLOSE Day 3

Thursday 24th March (Day 4)

09.00Hrs Outline of Day 4 (Chair)
DCF and the Control Regulation (TOR 6; Lead Eskild Kirkegaard)
Presentation – The Control Regulation (Hermann Potts DG Control)
Linkages and Co-ordination Mechanisms – Discussion
Recommendations
Actions Required

- 11.00Hrs PLENARY**
Regional Data Base (TOR 5; Lead Katja Ringdhal)
Update on Progress
Thoughts of ICES (Neil Holdsworth)
Discussion
A Plan of Action for 2011 to 2013
- 13.00Hrs LUNCH**
- 14.00Hrs Report from Sub Group 1 (Lead Joel Vigneau)**
DCF Evaluation Process for Annual Reports
Draft Text
- 16.00Hrs PLENARY DISCUSSION ANY ISSUE (If Required)**
Draft Text
- 18.00Hrs Chair's Summary and CLOSE Day 4**

Friday 25th March (Day 5)

09.00Hrs Outline of Day 5 (Chair)

PLENARY

AOB

Finalise Outstanding Discussion Issues

Go Through Draft Meeting Report

Homework for TOR Leaders

Have we addressed our TOR's

Summary Main Recommendations and Conclusions on
The Present and Future Requirements of the DCF

12.45Hrs **Chair's Summary**

13.00Hrs **CLOSE of Meeting**

18. ANNEX 3 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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	Denmark	
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19. ANNEX 4 – LIST OF STECF RECOMMENDATIONS IN 2009

Compiled shortly after EWG 11-02 meeting by Frans van Beek

This file presents a scan of the recommendations listed in a selection of reports published by or on behalf of STECF in 2009. All considered reports were final numbered versions published on the STECF website. The work was carried out on request of EWG 11-02 to facilitate MS to respond on the STECF recommendations in their Report of Activities over the year 2010.

Not all listed recommendations in the reports are relevant for the Report of Activities but no selection has been made on the recommendations. The selection was made by scanning the documents on the word 'recommend' and all paragraphs containing a combination of the words 'STECF' and 'recommend' have been pasted into this document. Consequently, intended recommendations not using the word 'recommend' are omitted by this procedure. Examples are for instance 'STECF endorses', 'STECF is of the opinion', 'STECF considers', 'STECF notes', 'STECF requests', 'STECF highlights', 'STECF recognizes' and 'it is recommended'.

In most cases, the plenary reports by STECF provide a review of the Expert Working Groups. However, this is not always the case. Also only in a few situations in these reviews, STECF has endorsed all recommendations made by the expert group. In other cases a few recommendations are highlighted and it is not clear whether the other recommendations are endorsed or not.

In only a few reports, the recommendations are highlighted in a separate sections. In most other reports they are spread out in the text and it is unclear whether they should be interpreted as a recommendation which requires action. It is often also unclear to whom the recommendation is addressed and what action is expected.

The review of the recommendations contains almost 40 pages. It took me a few days to make this review and this will save time for others. However, it is still a high exercise for each MS to go through this summary and select the relevant recommendations they are expected to reply on in the Report of Activities. A more efficient system needs to be set up by STECF making clear that all important recommendations are compiled in a standard way and that it is clear to whom they are addressed.

The recommendations are presented by report in tables. The first column in the table lists the page number of the report and the section name and number. The second column list the paragraph which contains the recommendation.

The following reports have been scanned for STECF recommendations.

- PLEN-09-01_JRC52015
- PLEN 09-02_JRC53317
- PLEN 09-03_JRC95699

- SG-ECA/RN 09-04 - NPs & Roadmap Surveys _JRC58997
- SG-ECA/RN 09-02 - Review of Guidelines and Procedures _JRC53319
- SG-ECA 09-02 - Economic Data _JRC57575
- SG-ECA/RN 09-01 - Evaluation of DC Programs _JRC52236
- STECF OWP - Sampling Strategies _JRC51475
- SG-ECA 09-03 - Fish Processing Sector _JRC56380
- SG-ECA 09-01 - Annual Economic Report AER _JRC55030
- SG-MOS 09-05 - Deep Sea & Western waters _JRC59823
- SG-MOS 09-05 - Annex IIA of TAC _JRC58544
- SG-BRE 09-01 - Fleet capacity and fishing opportunities _JRC55727
- SG-MOS 09-02 - Evaluation of Fishery Multi-annual Plans _JRC58542

The following list of reports has NOT been scanned for STECF recommendations mainly because they deal with assessment or advice and not with data collection. However, if they contain recommendations they will have been picked up by STECF and listed in the PLEN reports and included in this review.

- SG-ECA/RN 09-03 - Guidelines for NPs-TRs _JRC55709
- STECF OWP - Consolidated response on effort exemptions _JRC51476
- STECF Written Procedure - Baltic sea salmon _JRC56282
- SG-ECA/MED/RST 09-01 - Mediterranean Stock _JRC52235
- SG-MED 09-01 - Black Sea Stocks _JRC52218
- SG-MED 09-02 - Mediterranean I _JRC55710
- STECF OWP - Trammel nets _JRC54649
- STECF OWP - Sampling Strategies _JRC51475
- Consolidated advice for 2010 _JRC56074
- SG-ECA-RST 09-03 - Stock review - Part II _JRC55700
- OWP - Sole in ices division viie _JRC54646
- OWP - Review of scientific advice Baltic Sea stocks _JRC52743
- OWP - Bay of biscay anchovy _JRC53015
- OWP - Baltic advice _JRC52743

30th PLENARY MEETING REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (PLEN-09-01)

PLENARY MEETING, 20-24 APRIL 2009, GALWAY

Edited by John Casey & Hendrik Dörner EUR 23829 EN - 2009

page/section	recommendation
12/4.1 AER	In addition, STECF highlights the need for an improvement in the analytical tools used for carrying out the assessment of the economic performance of the fleets, clarification on the methodology required to conduct the regional analysis and the identification of special issues to be investigated in future years' AER. Therefore, STECF recommends that a preparatory work aimed at addressing the above mentioned issues should be carried out before the SGECA meeting. The best way to approach this should be discussed by DG Mare and the STECF Board.
12/4.1 AER	In addition, STECF recognizes the need to make regional analyses but stresses that such analyses must be based on a clear methodology and assumptions. Therefore, STECF requests that JRC explores an appropriate methodology that accurately produces the desired outputs for regional analyses. This methodology should be developed taking into account previous STECF recommendations (STECF 08-03).
12/4.1 AER	STECF recognizes the effort in the application of the EIAA model. However, the results of projections for 2008 and 2009 presented in the report are not particularly informative or reliable because the model was not configured to take account of recent important developments, such as decommissioning, sudden price changes and policy changes like effort reduction schemes. In the event that the EIAA model is used for future AERs, STECF recommends that preparatory work be undertaken before the SGECA meeting, in order to ensure that the model is appropriately configured. The best way to approach this should be discussed by DG Mare and the STECF Board. At the same time, STECF notes that in future the report should present the criteria used to select the fleet segments for which the EIAA model will be applied.
12/4.1 AER	STECF also notes that, despite previous recommendations, no information is given on the quality of data and its reliability. STECF recommends including quality indicators in next years' AER. Some of

page/section	recommendation
	<p>them (coverage, sample size) are already available from the national technical reports. Other indicators will be proposed by the next working group on data quality (SGECA –09-02) that will suggest indicators of accuracy and precision that need to be provided in the national technical report to evaluate the quality of estimates for each economic variable.</p>
14/4.1 AER	<p>With respect to item (a) of the ToR, the Workshop reviewed in detail the most frequently applied methods used to estimate the natural mortality of exploited marine species and initiated discussion about the growth parameters for demersal and small pelagic stocks in the Mediterranean Sea. After considerable discussion, the Workshop agreed on the need to use vectors of M that have decreasing</p> <p>values with age/size. Two preferred methods for estimating M were proposed and this conclusion was endorsed by STECF. Providing there is a reasonable degree of confidence in growth parameter estimates STECF recommends the use of either one of the two following methods to calculate M:</p> <p>1. Gislason <i>et al.</i> (Gislason <i>et al.</i>, 2008a; Gislason <i>et al.</i>, 2008b):</p> $\ln M = a + b \ln L + c \ln L_{\infty} + d \ln K$ <p>or</p> <p>2. ProdBiom (Abella <i>et al.</i>, 1997) based on considerations about production and losses of biomass</p> <p>due to natural mortality which uses the Caddy (1991) equation:</p> $M_{(t)} = M_a + \left(\frac{\beta}{t} \right)$ <p>where M_a is the asymptotic M and β is the curvature parameter.</p>
15/4.2 Workshop on Mediterranean Stock Assessment Standardization SG-MED workshop 09-01 (formerly	<p>With respect to item (b) of the ToR, SG-MED agreed a series of changes to the current stock boundaries to be used for the next stock assessments of European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>), red mullet (<i>Mullus barbatus</i>) and deep water rose shrimp (<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>). Several of the existing divisions were based on geopolitical boundaries and had no basis in biology, ecology or fishery patterns. Recommendations for changes were based on a range of factors, including observed similarities in trends of recruitment indices estimated from MEDITS surveys, levels of similarity in biological parameters of relevant species, environmental</p>

page/section	recommendation
labelled as SG-ECA/RST/MED 09-01)	<p>trends and expert experience. The proposed changes should enable SG-MED to accomplish its work in a more consistent way within respect to basic stock parameters and thereby improve its support to the GFCM.</p> <p>STECF recommends the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge the following GSAs1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o GSAs 05+06; o GSAs 12+13+14+15+16; o GSAs 17+18; 2. Red mullet (<i>Mullus barbatus</i>) <p>Maintain the current GSAs boundaries or investigate smaller areas. In this context, a splitting of GSA09 into two sub-units should be investigated further by SGMED: GSA09a (north) and GSA09b (south).</p> 3. Deep- water rose shrimp (<i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge the following GSAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o GSAs 01+06+07 o GSAs 12+13+14+15+16.
16/4.2 Workshop on Mediterranean Stock Assessment Standardization SG-MED workshop 09-01 (formerly labelled as SG-ECA/RST/MED 09-01)	<p>STECF noted the mistakes identified by SG-MED in the names of the species, either common or scientific, listed in the Appendix VII of the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Considering the fact that this list is the base for the data collection on the various stocks of Community interest, that the various versions of the list of stocks were previously checked by STECF in several meetings, and that it is necessary to eliminate any possible sources of confusion, STECF recommends the following list of corrections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> h) to amend the common name of <i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>, and substitute “Pandora” with the correct name adopted by FAO and Fish-base, “Common Pandora”, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the scientific name.

page/section	recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) to amend both the common name and substitute “Sole” with the correct name adopted by FAO and Fish-base, “Common sole”, and the related scientific name, substituting “<i>Solea vulgaris</i>”, which is now a synonym, with the valid name “<i>Solea solea</i>”. j) to amend the common name and substitute “Picarels” with “Picarel”, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the related scientific name; Picarels might be intended as all the species belonging to the genus <i>Spicara</i>. k) to amend the scientific name for Tub gurnard, and substitute “<i>Trigla lucerna</i>” with the correct name adopted by FAO and Fish-base, “<i>Chelidonichthys lucerna</i>”. l) to amend the common name and substitute “Dolphinfish” with “Common dolphinfish”, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the related scientific name of <i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>. m) to amend the common name for <i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i> and substitute “White shrimp” with “Deep-water rose shrimp”, which is the common name adopted by FAO, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the related scientific name. n) to amend the scientific name of the Norway lobster and substitute “<i>Langoustine norvegicus</i>” with the correct name adopted by FAO and all scientific references, “<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>”. o) to amend the scientific name of the Giant red shrimp and substitute “<i>Aristeomorpha foliacea</i>” with the correct name adopted by FAO “<i>Aristaeomorpha foliacea</i>”.
<p>19/4.2 Workshop on Mediterranean Stock Assessment Standardization SG-MED workshop</p> <p>09-01 (formerly labelled as SG-ECA/RST/MED 09-01)</p>	<p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends amending the common name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute “Pandora” with the correct name adopted by FAO and Fish-base, “Common Pandora”, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the scientific name.</p> <p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends to amend both the common name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute “Sole” with the correct name adopted by FAO and Fish-base, “Common sole”, and the scientific name, substituting “<i>Solea vulgaris</i>” which is now a synonym, with the valid name “<i>Solea solea</i>”.</p> <p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends to amend the common name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>“Picarels” with “Picarel”, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the related scientific name. Picarels might be intended as all the species belonging to the genus <i>Spicara</i>.</p>
	<p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends to amend the scientific name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute “<i>Trigla lucerna</i>” with the correct name adopted by FAO and Fishbase, “<i>Chelidonichthys lucerna</i>” for Tub gurnard.</p>
	<p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends amending the common name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute “Dolphinfish” with “Common dolphinfish”, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the related scientific name.</p>
	<p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends to amend the common name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (but also for other areas) and substitute “White shrimp” with “Deep-water rose shrimp”, which is the common name adopted by FAO, because the actual one might generate confusion if not supported by the related scientific name.</p>
	<p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends to amend the scientific name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute “<i>Langoustine norvegicus</i>” with the correct name adopted by FAO, “<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>” for the Norway lobster.</p>
	<p>STECF/SG ECA/RST/MED 09-01 recommends to amend the scientific name reported in the Appendix VII by the Commission Decision (2008/949/EC) for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and substitute “<i>Aristeomorpha foliacea</i>” with the correct name adopted by FAO “<i>Aristaomorpha foliacea</i>” for the Giant red shrimp.</p>
22/4.3. SGMED-09-01 Black Sea	<p>STECF endorses the recommendation of SGMED 09-01 to keep the exploitation of turbot in the Black Sea at the lowest possible level in order to allow the stock to recover.</p>
24/4.4. SGRN/ECA 09-	<p>Finally, STECF endorses the recommendations of SGRN/SGECA 09-01:</p>

page/section	recommendation
01: Evaluation of data collection programmes for the 2009-2010 period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to review the guidelines for the submission of NP proposals 2011-2013 during the SGRN/SGECA 09-02 June 2009 meeting. The general comments within the SGRN/SGECA 09-01 report and the reports of the 2008 RCMs (Anon. 2008 a,b,c,d.) appear as a useful preparatory work for this task. • to develop working procedures for the review of NP proposals during the SGRN/SGECA 09-02 June 2009 meeting. In particular, a clear, standardized and applicable methodology for the evaluation of the NP proposals by modules and by regional subgroups should be developed and the expertise covering all the modules of the new DCR should be ensured. STECF supports the idea of an initial screening of the NP by a group of experts familiar with the DCF, who could work by correspondence. This report would then be used by SGRN as a starting point for the National Programme reviews. • to review the list of research surveys that are funded under the DCF. This review should be carried out in January 2010, before Member States submit their 2011 to 2013 National Programmes in March 2010.
35/ 5.1. Ecosystem approach and bio-economic modelling	<p>Based on the above considerations, STECF recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to set out a roadmap to further consider the possibilities for implementing an ecosystem approach, a STECF subgroup should be set up under the auspices of STECF-SGMOS, with participation of ecologists, biologists and economists. - It is recommended to devise the development of such a decision support system in three steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the first step a fisheries information system should be devised. This system, based on marinographic area, should bring together existing data on fish stocks, ecosystem indicators and economic data. For each area an analysis of available and lacking data should be made. Based on this data, ecosystem indicators can be developed. ○ In the second step for each marinographic area an appropriate set of analytical tools (models) should be devised based on the characteristics of the ecosystem and economic system. It is advised that a preparatory group will prepare a comprehensive overview of available models and applicability to given circumstances. Development of ecosystem models and bio-economic models can be set up parallel, with the bioeconomic models evolving from multi-species models on commercial species to models that include both direct and indirect effects (ecosystem interactions) on commercial and non-commercial species. ○ In the third part the data base and models should be brought together in a Decision Support System: a data and modelling environment capable of providing an <i>ex-ante</i> impact assessment of proposed management measures on the ecosystem and the economic system.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A pragmatic first step should be taken to use the tools described in relation to question 1 above, to show changes in the biological status of the species and to include economic information in the assessment.
42/5.3. Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea: Italian national management plans	As a general comment STECF wishes to point out that requests to evaluate such a large number of management plans is exceedingly difficult to manage in a Plenary meeting where there are other issues to address. STECF recommends that, in similar future cases, the workload could be managed more effectively by arranging ad-hoc contracts, or a separate working group meeting to provide an initial evaluation for further examination and adoption by STECF. It is suggested that DG Mare and the STECF Board discuss how this can best be achieved.
46/5.3.1. STECF COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT PLANS SUBMITTED BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES BY GSA	<p>Given that sardine is mostly fished by the Croatian fleet in the eastern part of the Adriatic, there is an urgent need that Italy collaborates with countries in the eastern part of the Adriatic, especially Croatia, in the assessment of small pelagic fish stocks and management of their fleets. This is not considered at all in the management plan. However, setting objectives for the Italian fisheries</p> <p>independently of the Croatian fisheries is unlikely to achieve the desired objectives. STECF therefore recommends that management arrangements for the Adriatic should be agreed through the GFCM level.</p>
55/5.6.1 Evaluation of possible exemptions of groups of vessels from the effort management system under the provisions of Article 11.2 of the 'Long-term plan for cod stocks' Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008: Submission to the	<p>STECF wishes to draw attention to the variable and often confusing nature of the material supplied by member states. This has led to unnecessary time being spent on establishing what material is available before undertaking the evaluation. STECF therefore recommends that a guidance note or template for submissions should be provided for member states to ensure that relevant material is</p> <p>supplied, in formats which can readily utilised by evaluators and with adequate description of all the material supplied. The guidance note should also draw attention to the 3 decoupling mechanisms identified, and requesting MS to provide evidence that i or ii is the case.</p>

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<p>European Commission by the French, the German, the Polish the Spanish and the UK Authorities.</p>	
<p>58/ 5.6.2 Exclusion of groups of vessels from the effort management system under the provisions of Article 11.2 of the ‘Long-term plan for cod stocks’ Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008:</p> <p>Submission to the European Commission by the Spanish Authorities.</p>	<p>As stated before, in order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that the Spanish authorities provide the following information:</p> <p>Catches (landings and discards) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and molluscs by all vessels identified as belonging to the group of vessels together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches. Spatial and temporal coverage, sampling intensity (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel) should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels.</p> <p>Catch and effort data should be provided by vessel by month of the year and for the most recent three calendar years. Any information on technical characteristics (gear, mesh sizes etc.) and exploitation patterns (e.g. target species) of these vessels will help identifying the grouping of the vessels. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group. If individual vessel data are not available, then the data should be aggregated over vessels within the group by month of the year. The vessels belonging to each group should be listed together with their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number. Fishing depth data should be provided and information on the depth frequency distribution of the fishing activity (not just average depths). This will enable an evaluation of the extent of separation between the fishing activity and the cod habitat.</p> <p>In order to assess the extent of spatial decoupling of the fishery and the cod stock, longer term spatial information is required on the percentage of cod catches, the period ideally including the time when the cod stock was</p>

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	above Bpa.
<p>61/ 5.6.3 Exclusion of groups of vessels from the effort management system under the provisions of Article 11(2) of the ‘Long-term plan for cod stocks’, Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008: Submission to the European Commission by the Polish Authorities</p>	<p>In order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that Polish authorities provide the following information:</p> <p>Catches (landings and discards) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and molluscs by all vessels identified as belonging to the group(s) of vessels together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches. Spatial and temporal coverage, sampling intensity (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel) should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels.</p> <p>Catch and effort data should be provided by vessel by month of the year and for the three most recent calendar years. Any information on technical characteristics (gear, mesh sizes etc.) and exploitation patterns (e.g. target species) of these vessels will help identifying the grouping of the vessels. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group. If individual vessel data are not available, then the data should be aggregated over vessels within the group by month of the year. The vessels belonging to each group should be listed together with their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number.</p> <p>In order to assess the extent of spatial decoupling of the fishery and the cod stock, longer term spatial information is required on the percentage of cod catches, the period ideally including the time when the cod stock was above Bpa.</p>
<p>65/ 5.6.4 Exclusion of groups of vessels from the effort management system under the provisions of Article 11.2 of the ‘Long-term</p>	<p>In order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that the French authorities provide the following information:</p> <p>Catches (landings and discards) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and molluscs by all vessels identified as belonging to the group of vessels together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches. Spatial and temporal coverage, sampling intensity (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel) should be given for</p>

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<p>plan for cod stocks' Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008:</p> <p>Submission to the European Commission by the French Authorities.</p>	<p>onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels.</p> <p>Catch and effort data should be provided by vessel by month of the year and for the most recent three calendar years. Any information on technical characteristics (gear, mesh sizes etc.) and exploitation patterns (e.g. target species) of these vessels will help identifying the grouping of the vessels. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group. If individual vessel data are not available, then the data should be aggregated over vessels within the group by month of the year. The vessels belonging to each group should be listed together with their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number.</p> <p>In order to assess the extent of spatial decoupling of the fishery and the cod stock, longer term spatial information is required on the percentage of cod catches, the period ideally including the time when the cod stock was above Bpa.</p>
<p>70/5.6.5 Exclusion of groups of vessels from the effort management system under the provisions of Article 11.2 of the 'Long-term plan for cod stocks' Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008:</p> <p>Resubmission to the European Commission by the German Authorities.</p>	<p>STECF recommends that the German authorities provide additional information on the observer trips carried out:</p> <p>In addition to the observer catch data provided, information on details of individual vessel characteristics, timings and locations of each sampling should also be supplied. Spatial and temporal coverage, and the precision of the estimation of the cod proportions in the catches should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels. In order to assess the extent of spatial decoupling of the fishery and the cod stock, longer term spatial information is required on the percentage of cod catches, the period ideally including the time when the cod stock was above Bpa.</p> <p>The submission from the German authorities makes general comments about the nature of the controls and sampling that the group of vessels are subjected to. Emphasis is placed on the DCF as a means of providing observer coverage. STECF, however, recommends that a more detailed outline of these procedures should be provided in particular focussing on plans for observer sampling of catch by this group of vessels so as to ascertain whether catches of cod continue to be below or equal to 1.5% of</p>

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	total catch.
<p>72/5.6.5 Exclusion of groups of vessels from the effort management system under the provisions of Article 11.2 of the ‘Long-term plan for cod stocks’ Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008: Resubmission to the European Commission by the German Authorities.</p>	<p>In order to complete its advice on the proportion of cod in the catch of this group of vessels, STECF recommends that the German authorities provide additional information on the observer trips carried out:</p> <p>In addition to the observer catch data provided, information on the discarded quantities observed would be helpful. Details of individual vessel characteristics, timings and locations of each sampling should also be supplied. Spatial and temporal coverage, and the precision of the estimation of the cod proportions in the catches should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels. In order to assess the extent of spatial decoupling of the fishery and the cod stock, longer term spatial information is required on the percentage of cod catches, the period ideally including the time when the cod stock was above Bpa.</p> <p>The submission from the German authorities makes general comments about the nature of the controls and sampling that the group of vessels are subjected to. Emphasis is placed on the DCF as a means of providing observer coverage. STECF, however, recommends that a more detailed outline of these procedures should be provided in particular focussing on plans for observer sampling of catch by this group of vessels so as to ascertain whether catches of cod continue to be below or equal to 1.5% of total catch.</p>

31st PLENARY MEETING REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (PLEN-09-02)

PLENARY MEETING, 13-17 JULY 2009, Copenhagen

Edited by John Casey & Hendrik Dörner EUR 23985 EN - 2009

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9/4.1. SGECA-09-02: Quality aspects of the collection of economic data, methods of calculation of the indicators and sampling strategies	<p>STECF reviewed the list of recommendations suggested by SGECA 09-02 and considers that their application will allow MS to better comply with the requirements of the DCF in relation to data quality assurance. Therefore, STECF endorses the SGECA 09-02 recommendations.</p> <p>In particular, STECF recommends that MS indicate the data collection category that is to be applied for each fleet segment and for each economic variable as listed in Appendix VI of Council Decision 949/08. SGECA 09-02 identified three different categories of data collection scheme that covers all the possible typologies of data collection :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Census, which attempts to collect data from all members of a population. B. Probability Sample Survey, in which data are collected from a sample of a population members randomly selected C. Non-Probability Sample Survey, in which data are collected from a sample of population members not randomly selected. <p>STECF notes that this classification will facilitate the comparison of survey methodologies among Member States (MS).</p> <p>STECF also recommends that MS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include in their NPs for the period 2011-2013, a methodological report to describe the sampling strategies. STECF also recommends that MS adhere to the guidelines for the preparation of the methodological report given in Table 4.1.1 below (adapted from the report of the STECF-SGECA 09-02). • include in their annual Technical Reports, the data quality indicators given in Table 4.2.2 below (discussed under TOR 2 of STECF-SGECA 09-02).
12/4.1. SGECA-09-02: Quality aspects of the collection of economic data,	<p>STECF notes that SGECA-09-02 did not suggest any specific indicator for the assessment of quality for the case of non-probability sampling. This was due to the fact there was no consensus on the indicators that could be used and to the fact that there is no solution readily available in literature to estimate the precision of estimators based on non-random</p>

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methods of calculation of the indicators and sampling strategies	sampling. Therefore, STECF recommends that a scientific study aimed at addressing the issue of quality reporting and at suggesting appropriate methodologies for the case of non-probability sampling should be carried out. The best way to approach this should be discussed by DG Mare and the STECF Board.
13/ 4.2. SGECA/RST-09-02: Review of scientific advice on North Sea, Westerns waters, widely distributed (part 1) and Black Sea stocks for 2010.	STECF reviewed and adopted the report of the SGECA-SGRST-09-02 of 29 June to 3 July 2009 (Brest) meeting. This report was updated with STECF comments and recommendations and endorsed by the Committee and is published as the STECF “ <i>Review of scientific advice for 2010 Part 1: Advice on Stocks of Interest to the European Community in the North Sea Celtic and Irish Seas, West of Scotland, West of Ireland, south western waters, Icelandic and North Sea, Celtic and Irish Seas, West of Scotland, West of Ireland, south western waters, Iceland and East Greenland, Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea, Faeroe plateau ecosystem, Black sea and widely distributed and migratory stocks, deep sea stocks and Elasmobranch Resources in the North East Atlantic</i> ”.
23/ 4.4. SGMOS 09-04: Assessment of fishing effort regimes – part 1	STECF recommends that the chairman should send a final data request reminder with a deadline of August 20th after which data will not be incorporated in the databases.
23/ 4.5. SGRN/ECA-09-02: Evaluation of National Programmes and Technical Reports and Evaluation of 2008 technical reports of DCR (review of the SGRN summary draft)	STECF endorses the recommendations of SGRN/ECA-09-02 and welcomes the working group’s approach to develop into a more strategic working group rather than focusing on the pure review of MS’s NP proposals and TR. Nevertheless, sufficient time should be devoted at its working group meetings for the complete evaluation of the NP proposals and TR.
24/ 4.5. SGRN/ECA-09-02: Evaluation of National Programmes and	STECF endorses SGRN’s recommendation for a workplan that foresees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of the guidelines and standard tables by the RCMs in Sep-Oct 2009 • a meeting of the ‘Guidelines and Procedures Group (GPG)’ in

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Technical Reports and Evaluation of 2008 technical reports of DCR (review of the SGRN summary draft)	<p>Oct. 2009 to complete guidelines and tables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subsequent endorsement of the by STECF at its November Plenary
30/5.2. General issues - EC Sharks action plan	<p>1. STECF recommends that the table in Appendix VII of Commission Decision 2008/949/EC be modified according to Table 5.2.1 below. Table 5.2.1 only relates to Chondrichthyan species and only columns 1-3 are presented.</p> <p>2. STECF recommends that it should be mandatory for MS to collect data on landings (size frequencies) and on biological aspects for all the shark species and that data should be collected independent of the threshold reported in the Commission Decision 2008/949/EC, and for all areas. STECF recommends that no derogation for the collection of the basic data for all the shark species should be allowed at least until 2013.</p> <p>3. STECF notes that the actual requirements for biological sampling under the DCF are not consistent with the requirements of the EC-APCMS (i.e.: data collection at landings, discards, biological data, etc.). STECF therefore recommends that the DCF be amended so that the requirements under the EC-APCMS can be met.</p>
39/5.3. General issues - Barcelona Protocol - Sharks Action plan	<p><i>Given the above concerns STECF recommends that the classification of marine organisms according to current IUCN criteria is inappropriate and that informative criteria for the classification of marine organisms should be developed. However, the suggested threat indicator is merely a composite of several categories with a specific rate of decline.</i></p>
43/5.3. General issues - Barcelona Protocol - Sharks Action plan	<p>STECF recommends that consideration should be given to the implementation of time or area closures to protect those areas that are important to the most endangered demersal Chondrichthyan species and to nursery areas of threatened species. Other appropriate management measures for those métier that exploit such species should also be considered.</p> <p>To collecting better data on catches of Chondrichthyans and to assess</p>

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	their exploitation rates, STECF recommends that all Chondrichthyans should be landed in a physical condition which permits them to be identified to species level.
44/5.3. General issues - Barcelona Protocol - Sharks Action plan	<p>Given the above, STECF recommends that the Community Plan of Action for the conservation of cartilaginous fishes include a specific task directed to the acquisition, management and analysis of fishery-independent data. In particular, this should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revision of the access and management policy for the raw data set of fisheries independent information (e.g. MEDITS, GRUND, etc). This should be in accordance to a framework of clear regulations reflecting current international agreements for access to public funded environmental data (e.g. Aarhus convention). A similar strategy is used by the International Commission for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO), and the American National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS), where their fisheries independent information is available to researchers outside their institutions via a formal request. 2. Development of a system of data collection and archival concerning all historical fishing surveys performed in the European waters. The data should be made available to the scientific community and would be used to derive baseline (historical) abundances for shark species in European Waters. 3. The European Community should supervise and act as a repository of data coming from fishery-independent surveys even if funded independently within Member States' frameworks, carried out throughout the EU. The data should be stored and managed by the EU in an ad-hoc database.
45/5.4. General issues - Format and timing of the forthcoming "fish processing" data call	STECF recommends that the Commission launches a data call for the fish processing industry at the beginning of September asking for all data collected under the DCR since 2006. JRC will provide a common format for the delivery of the data. STECF suggests that the STECF-SGECA 09-03 meeting scheduled for 19th to 23rd October 2009, should analyse the data received and report on its any conclusions and recommendations that can be drawn from the results of the analysis.
48/5.5. Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea - Mediterranean National management	<u>Data analysis</u> STECF recommends that data collected recently in the framework of the EU Data Collection Programs should be better used to provide information for points 1-5 above and produce preliminary assessments of stock status for the main target species (in SGSA/SAC/GFCM and/or SGMED/STECF). Furthermore, the MP should include a socioeconomic impact assessment.

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plans under Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 - Malta	<u>Derogations</u> : In its previous evaluation (see STECF Plenary report of summer 2008), STECF suggested that pilot studies on the “tartarun” (boat seine) and “gangmu” (bottom towed dredge) fisheries should be undertaken for at least one year using a specified number of vessels with observers onboard. These pilot studies should include information suitable for the evaluation of derogations and specifically for the assessment of the impact of the two fisheries on <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> beds. It should be noted that the Maltese Management Plan includes the proposal to carry out such a pilot study for the “gangmu” fishery. However, basic data to evaluate the requested derogations are currently unavailable in the Plan. Nevertheless, STECF notes that the physical impact of the two fisheries on <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> beds and wider ecosystem impacts, will be difficult to evaluate for a short timeframe project (1 year). Thus, on the basis of the precautionary approach and also considering that <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> is currently legally protected by EU legislation under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) ² , STECF recommends that no derogation should be granted for fishing on <i>Posidonia oceanica</i> beds.
50/5.6. Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea - Mediterranean National management plans under Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 - Greece	The MP states that the evaluation of the evolution of the fishery and of the stocks status in terms of spawning biomass, recruitment and exploitation rates will be conducted on an annual basis. The only HCR proposed in the plan is to revoke the derogations for one year if the reference point $E=F/Z=0.4$ is exceeded. STECF is unable to quantify the likely consequences of such a rule, but it is clear that since the vast majority of catches are obtained in the areas to which the derogations would apply, revoking the derogation to fish in such areas for a year would have serious implications on catches and revenue. STECF notes that such a rule is likely to lead to instability in the fishery and recommends that other catch and /or effort control rules be developed in order to achieve a target exploitation rate of $E=0.4$ and at the same time provide some stability in fishing opportunities without causing a risk to the stock.
59/5.8. Atlantic Waters and bordering Seas - Possible format for annual reports MS have to pro	STECF notes that evaluating the initial and resubmitted requests for exemption from the effort regime has resulted in significant work both at the plenary meeting and by correspondence. This has largely resulted from the variable nature of the evidence supplied by Member States. Submission of annual reports in a standard format with all data at an appropriate temporal and spatial scale will substantially help the

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vide in accordance with Art. 11(3) to R(EC) No 1342/2008	evaluation process. STECF anticipates that providing an evaluation of a Member State's annual report is likely to require a few days work. STECF recommends that reviewers should be given advance notice of when such evaluations are likely to be required so that other work commitments can be scheduled accordingly.
62-63/5.9. Atlantic Waters and bordering Seas - Evaluation of the Harvest Control Rule adopted in the Southern Hake and <i>Nephrops</i> plan R(EC) No 2166/2005	<p>Given that since the implementation of the plan in 2006 fishing mortality has increased, and the TAC for hake has been overshoot, the provisions of the management plan have been ineffective in controlling catches or effecting a reduction in fishing mortality.</p> <p>To achieve MSY by 2015 there is a need to reduce F to 0.27 well before 2015. STECF recommends that the provisions of the present plan are strictly enforced. Furthermore, on the basis of data available, STECF is unable to determine whether the effort limits provided for in the plan are adequate to effect the reduction in fishing mortality required to achieve MSY. However, the data available to STECF indicates that a significant proportion of the landings of hake is taken by vessels not subject to the effort limitation.</p> <p>STECF also considers that measures to improve selectivity to reduce the catch of small fish could help to improve SSB in the long term.</p> <p>STECF recommends a finer-scale management of catches and/or effort at a geographic scale corresponding to the distribution of the <i>Nephrops</i> functional units should be implemented, in order to rebuild the stocks to safe biological limits.</p> <p>In relation to the above remarks, STECF recommends that a formal evaluation of the recovery plan be conducted in line with the terms or reference for evaluation of recovery plans detailed in section 5.1, of this report, prior to the implementation of any changes to the plan. STECF also recommends that any amendments to the current recovery plan for Southern hake and <i>Nephrops</i></p> <p>including the incorporation of anglerfish be deferred pending the outcome</p>

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	<p>of the formal evaluation and the ICES benchmark assessment, which is presently scheduled for March 2010.</p> <p>In order to facilitate any future evaluation of the effort regime implemented in the Recovery plan, STECF recommends that the effort data should be provided in days at sea and in Kw x days at sea in such a way that all data can be allocated to specific fishing activities.</p>
<p>70/5.11. Atlantic Waters and bordering Seas - Development of a multiannual salmon management plan in the Baltic Sea</p>	<p>Gulf of Finland salmon is taken in the Main Basin. Zero catch in the Gulf of Finland will therefore, not offer maximum protection of the wild Gulf of Finland stocks. The fact that part of the catches of Gulf of Finland wild salmon is taken in the Main Basin has been used as argument for merging the TAC for Gulf of Finland with the TAC set for the remaining part of the Baltic Sea. A combined TAC may result in increased fishing effort in the Gulf of Finland and thereby increased fishing mortality on wild Gulf of Finland salmon. STECF therefore recommends that under the present management system a separate TAC for salmon in the Gulf of Finland should be maintained.</p> <p>STECF recommends that any revision of the current TAC regime for salmon in the Baltic should be linked to the development of a new management plan.</p>
<p>74/6.1. Saisine de la France - Plan d'action communautaire pour la préservation des raies et des requins</p>	<p>Regarding the request on the Elasmobranch stocks situation the STECF recognises the potential utility of a of compilation of current information on Chondrichthyans. STECF notes that the EC Plan of Action contains an Annex prepared by the Commission Staff where most of the available information on sharks around the world is already summarized. The Annex includes specific bibliographic information on: i) taxonomic position, ii) biology and distribution, iii) stock status, iv) management measures, v) effectiveness of management measures, and vi) recent management advice, for 2 shallow water sharks, 8 pelagic sharks, 2 deepwater sharks and 6 demersal Elasmobranchs, most of them Rajids. The STECF further notes that this document is limited in terms of the number of species covered but constitutes a good basis to build upon by extending and updating it with more recent information on Elasmobranchs. STECF therefore recommends</p> <p>this work be pursued either by the EC staff by consulting appropriate</p>

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	sources of information, or by any scientific body such as ICES or by the means of a specific call for tenders. STECF suggest the Commission and the STECF Board discuss the best way to address this.
	Regarding the most suitable method to control finning practices the STECF was not in a position to analyze in depth the options proposed by France. Nevertheless, in the absence of a more qualified advice on the question it considers that current control provisions in COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1185/2003 must be respected. The STECF therefore recommends maintaining measures contained in COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1185/2003 until the EC Action Plan application gets into force.

32nd PLENARY MEETING REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (PLEN-09-03)

PLENARY MEETING, 9-13 NOVEMBER 2009, Brussels

Edited by John Casey & Hendrik Dörner EUR 24100 EN - 2009

page/section	recommendation
12/4.1. SGMED-09-02: Assessment of Mediterranean Sea stocks	<p>STECF endorses the SGMED recommendations regarding its future working procedures. The stocks to be assessed within each working group should be clearly identified by the TORs prior to the meeting, rather than being faced with an open list of potential assessments and with experts facing ad hoc decisions on which stock to assess. Also, the data call should cover the needs to fulfill the TORs rather than having to undertake additional analyses at the meeting. In this context, SGMED considers a reasonable approach would be to attempt no more than 25 stock assessments over the 2-weekly working group meetings scheduled for future years. SGMED considers that a system, whereby each stock is assessed every 2 or 3 years, could represent an achievable working arrangement. This will also allow SGMED to conduct a more careful examination of the quality of input data and dedicate more time to a discussion of the observed trends and provision of advice.</p> <p>Furthermore, SGMED-09-02 recommends the stock assessments should be continued in 2010 within two meetings. SGEMD considers that a maximum of 10-15 selected stocks should be assessed in each meeting, which should also include predictions of catch and biomass under different management scenarios in the short-term for the assessed stocks.</p>
13/4.1. SGMED-09-02: Assessment of Mediterranean Sea stocks	<p>ToR c: After a general discussion on candidate reference points applied in fisheries management of Mediterranean fish and shellfish stocks, SGMED recommends that high priority should be given to exploitation indicators (fishing mortality) and the appropriate levels to achieve high sustainable long-term yield. Considering data availability and the recent political agreements (UN, 2002) and EU communications (Council Conclusions 2007), SGMED recommends the application of FMSY (maximum sustainable yield), with F0.1 derived from Yield per Recruit analysis as the appropriate proxy in cases where data are lacking or there is uncertainty (Kell and Fromentin, 2007). In contrast, state indicators of</p>

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	<p>stock size in terms of biomass are rather difficult to interpret, as decreases in biomass below reference levels such as Blim (biomass of all adult specimens at the level of impaired recruitment) and Bpa (precautionary reference of the biomass of all adult specimens including uncertainty) can be due to many ecological effects in addition to fishery impacts. In addition, the shortness of the assessment time series for most of the Mediterranean stocks and the lack of appropriate historical data, impede the establishment of biomass reference points. In the light of the fact that the actual stock size cannot be directly controlled through fisheries management, SGMED recommends stock biomass reference points be given lower priority in the management of Mediterranean fisheries (finfish and shellfish) than exploitation indicators. SGMED further recommends that levels of fishing mortality FMSY or its proxy F0.1 should rather be interpreted and applied as management targets than any category boundaries, accounting also for uncertainty. Therefore, SGMED considers that emphasis should be given to exploitation rates rather than level of biomass. STECF agrees with SGMED 09-02.</p> <p>STECF endorses the SGMED recommendations regarding fisheries management reference points for European hake in GSA 6. STECF recommends that $F=0.16$ (F0.1) be adopted as the reference point for fishery management. SGMED is not in the position to estimate or propose adequate limit (Blim) or precautionary (Bpa) biomass reference points given the data available due to the shortage of the time series and the limited stock dynamics it covers. The time series indicates that the stock has always been below the proposed $Blim=2,200t$ and $Bpa=4,000t$. SGMED notes that the recent stock size is estimated at a much lower level and thus recommends as an interim measure, the proposed biomass reference points of Blim and Bpa be adopted as biomass reference points. Those values may be revised in future when more information becomes available.</p> <p>STECF endorses the SGMED recommendations regarding fisheries management reference points for pink shrimp in GSA 6. SGMED is not in the position to estimate and propose appropriate management targets of fishing mortality or biomass reference points due to the shortage of the time series and the extreme stock dynamics it covers. SGMED notes that the proposed $F \leq 0.2$ is much lower than the current exploitation of $F = 0.5$ for ages 2-5. In the light of the management advice of SGMED to</p>

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	<p>reduce F in order to allow the stock to rebuild, SGMED recommends that as an interim measure $F \leq 0.2$ be adopted as the reference point for fishery management. This value might be revised in the future when more information becomes available. After a continuous decline in spawning stock biomass, the 2008 SSB is estimated to amount to 111 t, the lowest level observed since 2002. STECF notes that this level is much lower than the proposed management references of $B_{lim}=300t$ and $B_{pa}=1,200t$, respectively. Given the management advice of SGMED to allow the stock to recover, STECF recommends the proposed state reference points of B_{lim} and B_{pa} be adopted as biomass reference points. Those values might be revised in the future when more information becomes available.</p>
<p>14/4.1. SGMED-09-02: Assessment of Mediterranean Sea stocks</p>	<p>STECF endorses the SGMED recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the exploitation rate $E \leq 0.4$ for anchovy and sardine stocks in the Mediterranean Sea as a sustainable fisheries management reference point consistent with high long-term yield. SGMED concludes that the short-term responses of the assessed anchovy and sardine stocks to recent exploitation rates indicate that an exploitation rate in the order of $E \leq 0.4$ might be consistent with the management goal of high long-term yields, taking into account the dynamic of the stocks. SGMED underlines that limited area and temporal coverage of the available stock assessments impede any quantification of risk related to this statement. As such, the expressed indication regarding Mediterranean small pelagic stocks is in agreement with empirical findings of Patterson (1992), who has proposed this exploitation level. SGMED recommends the application of the proposed exploitation rate $E \leq 0.4$ as management threshold for stocks of anchovy and sardine in the Mediterranean Sea. This value might be revised in the future when more information becomes available.</p> <p>STECF endorses the SGMED recommendations regarding the biomass reference points for anchovy in GSA 17. SGMED bases its recommendations regarding the proposed biomass reference points of $B_{lim}=50,000t$ and $B_{pa}=80,000 t$ on a revised stock assessment accounting for natural mortality rates as advised during the SGMED workshop in Murcia, 2-6 March 2009. The visual inspection of the scatter plot of recruitment versus spawning stock biomass clearly indicates that recruitment is impaired at stock sizes below 50,000t. Thus, SGMED recommends that $B_{lim}=50,000t$ be adopted for the stock of anchovy in</p>

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	<p>GSA 17. According to FAO recommendations (Cadima, 2003), Bpa should be in the range of $1.39 \cdot \text{Blim}$ - $1.64 \cdot \text{Blim}$, accounting for uncertainty in the estimations of fishing mortality. Such factors would determine Bpa being in the range of 70,000t - 82,000t. Thus, SGMED recommends that Bpa=80,000t be adopted for the stock of anchovy in GSA 17.</p> <p><u>ToR g and h</u>: STECF notes that SGMED has provided specific advice on how to undertake standardization of MEDITS and GRUND surveys and that a more structured approach is needed. STECF supports the SGMED recommendation noting that this particular issue would best be solved by convening an ad-hoc working group to develop and test species-specific R script to be applied to standardize MEDITS and GRUND time series for use as quantitative fishery-independent information in stock assessments.</p>
15/4.1. SGMED-09-02: Assessment of Mediterranean Sea stocks	<u>ToR i</u> : STECF endorses the recommendation by SGMED 09-02 that the bio-economic models MEFISTO and/or BIRDMOD should be used in future studies to simulate the effects of the management measures of Mediterranean fisheries and evaluate the models' outcomes. Such work is planned for the forthcoming meeting SGMED 09-03.
15-16/4.2. SGBRE-09-01: Review of national reports on Member States efforts to achieve balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities	<p>STECF endorses the suggestions and recommendations of the working group report.</p> <p>STECF recommends that the Commission and MS take the appropriate actions, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The date of submission should be included in the MS reports. 2. The requirement in the regulations to restrict MS reports to 10 pages should be reconsidered. 3. Commission summaries of MS reports should follow the template format as suggested so that they contain the same information in the same order. This would greatly assist STECF to evaluate the Commission summaries should STECF continue to be required to do so. 4. MS should complete the report summary template suggested for their own report and include it at the front of their reports. 5. In its summary report, the Commission should make only factual observations regarding MS conclusions on balance, rather than adding any further interpretation to MS reports. 6. MS should be encouraged to provide suitable alternative approaches to the technical indicator for their passive or static gear fleet segments, since days at sea is not appropriate in these cases. It would be

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	<p>appropriate to update the Guidelines accordingly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. MS may have to revise their timetable for data collection in order to ensure the previous year is reported on for the Technical indicator by the required date in the current year. 8. Specific suggestions to individual MS in the working group report regarding data availability should be communicated by the Commission to MS. 9. MS should reveal why indicators have not been reported, this may help to resolve any underlying problems and make it possible to report indicators in subsequent years. 10. The suggested improvements to the Guidelines on Balance Indicators contained in response to ToR 5 in the WG report should be implemented. <p>STECF also recommends that the description of fleets should follow the fleet segmentation proposed by the DCF in order to be useful.</p>
<p>47/4.4. SGMOS 09-05: Assessment of fishing effort regimes</p>	<p>STECF notes that discard data are still incomplete from some member states and areas. Furthermore, STECF is unable to comment on the quality of the fleet specific estimates of total catches mainly due to shortfalls in the discard data, lack of requested data quality parameters, i.e. number of discard samples, fish measured and aged. STECF therefore recommends that care is exercised in the use of metrics, such as CPUE that involve catch data.</p> <p>STECF supports the view that more permanent future resourcing, support and maintenance of the STECF database is necessary. STECF also recommends that more transparent arrangements for access to the database are discussed and agreed.</p> <p>Given the repeated experience of late and inconsistent data reports received from some Member States, STECF considers that continuing efforts by the Commission will be required to inform and educate national administrations on the required procedures, timescales and quality of data submissions. To this end, STECF recommends that there is i) a repeat of the 2009 effort workshop early in 2010 ii) early notification and subsequent release of the 2010 data call.</p>
<p>58/4.4.2.</p>	<p>Member States, STECF considers that continuing efforts by the</p>

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Summary of findings for Annex II, Celtic Sea and Baltic	<p>Commission will be required to inform and educate national administrations on the required procedures, timescales and quality of data submissions. To this end, STECF recommends that there is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. a repeat of the 2009 effort workshop early in 2010 ii. early notification and subsequent release of the 2010 data call
61/4.5. SGECA-09-03: Evaluation of data related to the fish processing sector	<p>STECF observes that the SGECA 09-03 working group developed a format and structure for the national chapters and for some useful indicators. STECF notes that a publication equivalent to the Annual Economic Report of EU Fishing Fleets would be a useful presentation of the data and analysis conducted by the working group and may be done every year to be able to show trends in the industry. For next year STECF recommends additionally a follow up on some of the issues not adequately addressed in this first report. The TORs for next year's meeting should include at least: data coverage and quality, national chapter, EU level analysis, discussion of possibilities for deeper economic analysis, analysis of cost structures and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>STECF observes that section 7.2. of the working group report presents possible deeper economic analysis based on data collected under the old and new data regulations. The possibilities presented here are ambitious, and are not feasible if economic data are provided on a national level only, as requested by the DCR/DCF. In order to be able to conduct the analyses proposed here, STECF recommends that at the national institutes, data should be disaggregated by either type of commodity or by company size.</p> <p>STECF recommends that working groups and calls for data are better organised and co-ordinated so that data are received by JRC staff, analysed and checked with the appropriate MS where necessary, before the start of the STECF working group. The previously suggested STECF time frame (see STECF 20083 [winter plenary report]) the preparation of the fleet data could be taken as a basis.</p>
62/4.6. SGRN/ECA-09-03: Review of NP	<p>SGRN/ECA requested clarification from STECF regarding the remit of the RCM on Long-Distant Fisheries (and corresponding participation of MS) and the species for which economic data from aquaculture should be collected. STECF recommends that at least Cyprus, France, Germany,</p>

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& TR Guidelines	<p>Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain should participate in the RCM on Long-Distant Fisheries, considering their fisheries in the CECAF area, South Pacific, Indian Ocean and 'other regions where fisheries are operated by EU vessels and managed by RFMOs'.</p> <p>Regarding the species list for economic data collection from the aquaculture sector (Table IV.A.1), STECF recommends to leave the list open (groups of species instead of exact species names) in order to include species that might become important for aquaculture in future.</p>
91/5.2. General issues - Experimental fisheries improving the knowledge on components of the herring stock in ICES subdivisions VIa(S) & VIIb, c	<p>In terms of data collection, STECF recommends that vessels should be required to keep a daily log of their activity and catch, and record echo traces from their echo-sounders for potential further analyses. STECF further recommends that participating vessels should be required to accept scientific observers</p> <p>Biological data are also required. STECF recommends that catches should be sampled for length, age, sex and maturity on a monthly basis. Additionally, otoliths should also be collected for the purpose of otolith microstructure/shape analysis to help determine the spawning origin of the catch. STECF notes that biological data from sentinel fisheries in operation in other parts are often collected by the participating fishers. However, the Marine Institute (Ireland) has volunteered to collect and process samples in this case.</p>
94/ 5.2. General issues - Experimental fisheries improving the knowledge on components of the herring stock in ICES subdivisions VIa(S) & VIIb, c	<p>STECF considered that sampling levels should to be at least in accordance with DCF precision targets that require a CV of 20% (level 1) (COM Decision 2008/949/EC). STECF notes that as the level of 'true' cod catches approaches 1.5%, the level of sampling required to demonstrate that catches are below 1.5%, increases exponentially (Figure 1). STECF recommends that statistical analysis of observer data be undertaken to determine the level of sampling required in order to demonstrate that cod catches are under 1.5% with a CV of 20%. STECF notes that the level of sampling required is likely to be well in excess of current sampling levels under the DCF, particularly with fisheries where the cod catches exceed 0.5%.</p>
101/ 5.4.	STECF recommends that data collected by Slovenia in the framework

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Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea - Mediterranean National management plans under Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 - Slovenia	of the EU Data Collection Programs should be used to produce assessments of stock status for the shared Adriatic stocks in collaboration with other Countries fishing within the same GSA (in SCSA/SAC/GFCM and/or SGMED/STECF). The Slovenian MP should be based on these assessments. Furthermore, the MP should include a socioeconomic impact assessment.
107/ 5.6. Atlantic Waters and bordering Seas - Possible extension of the Anchovy multi-annual plan to the ICES area VII	Furthermore, as, up to now, no assessment and management exists for anchovy in the Celtic Sea, the English Channel, the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, all areas where anchovy has been reported, STECF recommends that The Commission takes steps to initiate studies to better understand the structure of the population in those areas as a prelude to the development of a more general management plan for anchovy in the NE Atlantic. STECF finally notes that if, in the light of new studies on the links between the stock from the Bay of Biscay and more northern stocks, the assessment and management units were revised to combine, for example, area VII and VIII, a new combined assessment and multiannual management plan would have to be developed.
117/ 5.10. North Sea & Baltic Sea - Development of a multiannual salmon management plan in the Baltic Sea	<p>STECF supports the idea that a TAC should cover all catches from the Baltic Sea</p> <p>(maritime waters) commercial as well as recreational. However if a separate TAC has to be set for the commercial fishery, STECF recommends that the anticipated recreational catch should not be based on the average catches over the latest three years but should be based on scientific advice on the likely recreational catches.</p> <p>STECF considers that the fishing possibilities in the rivers should be set on the basis of stock specific conditions reflecting the state of the stock and should not be part of the overall TAC.</p>
120/ 5.10. North Sea & Baltic Sea - Development of a multiannual salmon management plan	In addition, STECF suggests a major change to current release practices. Taking into account the suggested aims of the management plan (exploitation of wild salmon at FMSY, maintaining genetic diversity and integrity of wild salmon stocks, sustainable use of resources), STECF recommends that in the long-term, the practice of compensatory releases should cease. In order to preserve the genetic make-up of stocks used in

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in the Baltic Sea	compensatory releases, there is a need to establish a natural life cycle for such stocks in the wild
126/ 6.2. Irish Sea (VIIa N) Herring - Catch Opportunities for 2010 and Latest Scientific Information on Stock Status	<p>Furthermore, STECF noticed that the survey timing was changed during the time series as the survey period was moved from November to April since 2008. Although the report stated that changes in survey period would not affect the CPUE estimation of the survey (i.e. no seasonal effect was foreseen as the survey always covered the entire depth range of the species), STECF considers that a possible seasonal effect on CPUE could also arise from changes in catchability.</p> <p>Therefore, STECF recommends that the survey data should be formally analyzed to determine whether there is any seasonal effect on catch rates.</p>

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Quality aspects of the collection of economic data - methods of calculation of the indicators and sampling strategies **SGECA-09-02**

11-14 MAY 2009, BARCELONA

EDITED BY EVELINA SABATELLA, JENNY NORD AND JORDI GUILLEN EUR 24307 EN – 2010

The list below is summarising what the SG calls the major recommendations which are listed in the executive summary

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9-10/2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	SGECA-09-02 recommends that in case non-probability sampling is applied, MS describe clearly in the methodological reports the methods used to overcome problems of bias and possible ways to assess the quality of the estimates and their outcomes. Based on this information, SGECA recommends to launch a call for a study to harmonise quality reporting and propose methodology in this specific situation. SGECA-09-02 also recommends that the suggested study on quality indicators for non probability sampling should also address the question of the impact of non random non response on the final estimates.
	SGECA-09-02 recommends that MS should carefully assess the impact of non-response, especially in the case of census with low response rate.
	Regarding the clustering issue, SGECA-09-02 considered that approaches to clustering should depend on the particular characteristics of fleet segments. The group proposed that MS should distinguish between segments considered for clustering as follows: 1. important segments with distinct characteristics, 2. segments similar to other segments, 3. nonimportant segments with distinct characteristics. SGECA-09-02 recommends a set of guidelines for

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	clustering for each of these three cases.
	Due to concerns raised over the implications for data time series if clustering practices change over time, SGECA-09-02 recommends MS to take this into account when they segment the fleet in order to produce consistent time series over time.
	SGECA-09-02 recommends that MS assess the comparability of economic variables over time, include the results in the TR and discuss inconsistencies in trends.
	SGECA-09-02 recommends that RCM should check for comparability within a region through an analysis of definitions and methodologies. If an RCM notices any inconsistency this should be communicated to STECF.

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report of the Sub-group on Research Needs (SGECA/SGRN 09-02)

22-27 JUNE 2009, GALWAY

Edited by Paul Connolly & Tiit Raid

EUR 23982 EN - 2009

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17/ 3 ON PRECISION LEVELS	<i>“SGRN has repeatedly recommended every MS to estimate the precision of the data obtained by sampling in order to assess the quality of the associated estimates. In SGRN opinion, the best way to explore data is to evaluate the precision with the aim of optimising the sampling design (see Section 7.2 in SGRN-06-03 report, Anon. 2006). More than the exact quantification of the level of uncertainty, the objective of calculating precision levels should be to improve the quality of the data that is collected. In parallel, SGRN has supported the idea of developing a common tool for assessing the accuracy and precision of the biological parameters estimated through sampling programmes. Such a tool has been granted financial support by the Commission through the Call for Service Contracts FISH/2006/15. (COST project) SGRN will continue to request all MS to assess the quality of the estimates even if the different methodologies used prevent the direct comparisons of the results between MS.”</i>
18/5 ON SPECIES LANDED AS MIXED CATEGORIES	by the DCR (EC 1581/2004; EC 949/08), and not by group of species (based also on the exercise “ <i>Sampling for mixture of species in the landings</i> ” carried out in 2008). SGRN notes that data collected for some species (e.g. <i>Mullus</i> spp, <i>Trachurus</i> spp., <i>Lophius</i> spp., <i>Raja</i> spp., among others), is aggregated at genus level. SGRN recommends that species recorded under mixed categories should be reported at species level and this requirement should be enforced. The collection of such data is also important in view of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Management, where data for example on sharks and rays is required at the species level. MS should find solutions for the next NP with respect to this problem either by rectifying the reporting of landings in ports and markets or by estimating the percentage contribution of the relative species in the genera (see ICES PGCCDBS report 2009).

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	All recommendations to the MS on the Technical Report of 2008 have been ignored as they have been dealt with by the Commission in the responses to the MS,
168/5.6. ISSUES RELATED TO LARGE PELAGICS	c) SGRN recommend that derogations for sampling landings of species having relevant quantities (i.e.: <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> , <i>Sarda sarda</i>) shall not be provided. See general comments.
	The biological sampling (age, sex, maturity and fecundity) for several large pelagic species showed persisting problems due to the difficulties in manipulating large animals or high costs. SGRN recommend that, when observers on board programmes are not in place, these sampling activities will be conducted in a reduced way, agreed at the RCM level, with the purpose to increase cost-efficiency.
	due to many and various compliance problems in getting the data at the RFMO level, SGRN recommend that data on large pelagics must be transmitted by using the forms and the formats adopted by each RFMO concerned.
169/5.7. RESPONSE OF MEMBER STATES TO THE CALL FOR ECONOMIC DATA	In order to facilitate in-time and complete delivery of data, SGRN recommends that data calls for the preparation of the AER will be launched at a constant date in the year that allows MS to have finished the collection of all relevant data. JRC has requested information from MS which date would be appropriate. Having the date for this recurrent call in the work plan, MS can be prepared for a consistent and timely submission of data. SGRN is aware that this measure is not a guarantee for immaculate data delivery in every case, but it will be a very beneficial boundary condition for most MS.
173/5.8. REVIEW OF SURVEYS	SGRN recommends that the current list of surveys should remain in place (i.e. status quo position) until the survey review is completed in 2010. MS would therefore submit their 2011 to 2013 NP's in accordance with the current Annex IX. The 2011 to 2013 NP's would then be modified to reflect any the new or removed surveys in Annex IX.
	SGRN recognises that research surveys are a key part of data collection process and a major financial component of the DCF. There is a need to review the list of funded surveys (Annex IX - DCF) before 2011, as outlined in SGRN 07-01. SGRN is of the strong view that this review must be carried out in a planned, impartial and effective manner, ideally with external experts, during 2010. SGRN will develop a draft plan for this exercise as part of the work at the SGRN 09-03 meeting in December

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	2009. SGRN recommends that the <i>status quo</i> remain in place until this review is completed in 2010 and that the present list of surveys form the basis of MS National Programme submissions in March 2010.
175/5.11. COMMENTS BY RCM's AND LIAISON MEETING	<p>SGRN recommends that the various RCM meetings in September and October give careful consideration to the draft Guidelines TABLES for submission and evaluation of NP and TR.</p> <p>The need for regional data bases has been discussed in the past and endorsed by both STECF and the Commission, but little progress has been made on the issue. SGRN recommends that the various RCM meetings in September and October deal with the issue of regional data bases. SGRN recommends that lead MS are identified to progress the issue of regional data bases in partnership with other MS. This will ensure a shared ownership of the regional database. SGRN recommends that RCM's agree a FISHFRAME compatible data base for the regional data bases. SGRN recommends that the work programme for developing the regional database should be included in the NP for 2011 – 2013 under the data base development.</p>
190/Annex 5. Guidelines for the submission of National Programmes 2011-2013	relevant for updates of the NP. The document contains the word recommended many times. If these can be interpreted as recommendations these are all endorsed by STECF
247/Annex 6. Guidelines for the submission of Technical report 2009	not relevant anymore for the 2009 TR. The document contains the word recommended many times. If these can be interpreted as recommendations these are all endorsed by STECF

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report of the Sub-group on Research Needs (SGECA/SGRN 09-01) – Evaluation of Data Collection Programmes of Member states for 2009 and 2010

9-13 FEBRUARY 2009, BILBAO

Edited by Paul Connolly & Tiit Raid EUR 23789 EN - 2009

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8/3. STECF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>STECF endorses the recommendations of SGRN/SGECA 09-01:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to review the guidelines for the submission of NP proposals 2011-2013 during the SGRN/SGECA 09-02 June 2009 meeting. The general comments within the SGRN/SGECA 09-01 report and the reports of the 2008 RCMs (Anon. 2008 a,b,c,d.) appear as a useful preparatory work for this task.- to develop working procedures for the review of NP proposals during the SGRN/SGECA 09-02 June 2009 meeting. In particular, a clear, standardized and applicable methodology for the evaluation of the NP proposals by modules and by regional subgroups should be developed and the expertise covering all the modules of the new DCR should be ensured. STECF supports the idea of an initial screening of the NP by a group of experts familiar with the DCF, who could work by correspondence. This report would then be used by SGRN as a starting point for the National Programme reviews.- to review the list of research surveys that are funded under the DCF. This review should be carried out in January 2010, before Member States submit their 2011 to 2013 National Programmes in March 2010.
6.10. ON ECOSYSTEM INDICATORS	<p>For environmental indicators 1-4, Annex XIII refers solely to fishery-independent surveys for data collection. However Table IIIC3, which is métier-based, indicates that fishery-dependent sources are also appropriate. SGRN considers this contradictory. SGRN</p>

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	recommends that this be resolved in the proposed review of the Guidelines for submission of MS National Programmes.
6.11. ON REVIEW OF SURVEY	The issue of how do we deal with surveys in which not all relevant Member States take part was discussed (e.g. For ASH & BW, all relevant states must contribute, subject to derogation). SGRN notes that this approach is not enacted for other surveys. SGRN also considered the wider issue of survey utility and prioritization. SGRN recommends that a review of eligible surveys should take place before the next set of NP is submitted by MS in March 2010 for the years 2011 to 2013. Therefore, this review should take place in early 2010 and should include feedback from the data end users. TOR's should be developed by STECF as soon as possible. The TOR's from the last review of surveys are given below.
6.14. ON MEETINGS TO BE ATTENDED	Because the official list of approved meetings did not appear until mid-December, many of the proposals try to anticipate which meetings might be eligible for co-financing while other MS do not. This has made it very difficult to review the NP and the review itself may be inaccurate. SGRN recommends that Member States should be asked to review their programmes for 2009 in light of this. SGRN would ask the Commission to identify meetings for 2010 as soon as possible.
6.15. ON INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATION	Reviewers of the NP neither found that while MS listed their bi-lateral agreements in the annexes, they did not refer to them in the report text (Section III B). SGRN recommends MS to address this in future NP submissions.
6.21. ON CLUSTERING OF SEGMENTS	SGRN reminds MS that in case of clustering of segments, the scientific evidence justifying it should be explained in the text. At the same time, SGRN recognizes that no common methodology exists on the approach to be followed and to assess whether or not clustering of fleet segments is appropriate. SGRN recommends that this issue will be discussed in the next SGECA meeting on data quality (May 2009).
6.26. ON FISHERIES CONDUCTED UNDER A DEROGATION REGIME	The Data Collection Regulation does not make any specific mention to the fisheries acting under a derogation regime (i.e. several Mediterranean fishing practices allowed till 2010). This grey area is particularly relevant, because the absence of a specific obligation to collect data on these fishing activities will make it impossible to evaluate the effects of the

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	derogations. This can also negatively affect the national management plans. SGRN recommend that each fishery acting under a derogation regime “should” be identified, included in the ranking system and sampled if selected.
6.27. ON SAMPLING IN DISTANT AREAS.	SGRN invites STECF to recommend that no derogations should be provided for collecting data in all areas where EC fleets are operating accordingly to fishing agreement with non-EU third Countries. SGRN underlines that all target species concerned and all species for which it is mandatory to collect data according to the provision of the RFMO concerned, must be included in the NP of each MS concerned.
6.28. ON TUNA CAGING ACTIVITY (TUNA FARMING AND TUNA FATTENING) – COLLECTION OF ECONOMIC DATA.	At the moment, several member states involved in tuna farming activity included these plants among the aquaculture sector. Tuna caging plants have been supported by aquaculture subsidies and this activity is included by FAO among the aquaculture systems (wild-caught aquaculture). SGRN recommends that all MS having tuna farms shall include them among the aquaculture plants and carry out the data collection activities required.
6.29. ON TUNA CAGING ACTIVITY (TUNA FARMING AND TUNA FATTENING) – COLLECTION OF BIOLOGICAL DATA.	SGRN notes that sampling bluefin tuna in cages is not well addressed by several NP and no mention of bilateral agreements is included in any of the MS concerned either by the bluefin tuna fishery or by the tuna cages. SGRN recommends that a particular attention should be devoted to better identify the MS responsibilities for the sampling in cages and to establish the necessary agreements urgently before the 2009 bluefin fishing season, due to the relevance of this particular activity. SGRN also recognise that data collected from tuna cages will bias the data coming from the wild population as the level of natural mortality and growth are clearly different. SGRN recommends that clear guidelines should be developed on how these data are incorporated into routine stock assessment.
6.30. ON DATA COLLECTION ON SHARKS CAUGHT BY LARGE PELAGIC FISHING ACTIVITIES.	SGRN recommends that all MS concerned with large pelagic fisheries, make every effort to report catches of pelagic sharks at the species level and establish the proper sampling for the pelagic species to be reported to ICCAT or other RFMOs. SGRN would point out that this is in line with the new EU Shark Action plan.
6.31. ON DATA	If a fishing activity is carried out by a MS by using a gear not

page/section	recommendation
COLLECTION FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES USING GEARS NOT LISTED AMONG THE RECOGNISED ONES.	officially listed and if this segment is relevant in term of catches or to improve the data used for the stock assessment of the target species concerned, than SGRN recommends that the related sampling shall be properly included in the NP, by using the general gear category and appropriate codification. SGRN recommends that the gear category to be used for the data transmission to the RFMO concerned should use an appropriate codification and encourage co-operation among relevant MS.
6.32. ON LIST OF SPECIES FOR DISTANT WATER FISHERIES	During the evaluation process, it was evident that some MS have fleets fishing in distant waters (i.e.: various Pacific Ocean areas) and were asking for a full derogation for certain target species because they did not appear on appendix VII of the new DCR. Due to the relevance of the quantities reported, SGRN recommends that MS concerned shall detail by species their catches in distant areas and submit these lists to STECF, with the purpose to propose amendments and improvements of the current appendix VII. SGRN point out those sampling stocks providing relevant quantities of catches in distant waters is an obligation of the EU MS, according to the Common Fishery Policy.
	All recommendations to the MS on the NP of 2009-2010 have been ignored as they have been dealt with by the Commission in the responses to the MS,
10. SUMMARY OF KEY SGRN RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>SGRN-09-01 has identified four major areas that require urgent attention and would make the following recommendations.</p> <p><u>Review of Guidelines for Submission of NP</u></p> <p>SGRN recommends that a major review and revision of the guidelines for the submission of National Programmes should take place by early 2010. This review should also highlight inconsistencies in the DCF regulations.</p> <p><u>Development of Procedures for review of NP</u></p> <p>SGRN recommends that working procedures are developed for the review of National Programmes and that this should take place in early 2010.</p> <p><u>Review of Surveys</u></p> <p>SGRN recommends that a review of eligible surveys should take</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>place before the next set of NP is submitted by MS in late 2010 for the years 2011 to 2013. This review should take place in early 2010 and should include feedback from the data end users. TOR's should be developed by STECF as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Data End User Feedback</u></p> <p>SGRN recognises the critical importance of data end user feedback and welcomes the developments at ICES and at GFCM.</p>

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Evaluation of Revised National Programs for 2010 under the Data Collection Framework and a Roadmap for the Review of Surveys.

Report of the Subgroup on Research Needs (SGECA/SGRN 09-04)

Joint Subgroup on Economic Affairs (SGECA) and on Research Needs (SGRN) of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

07-11 DECEMBER 2009, HAMBURG

Edited by Paul Connolly, Tiit Raid & Hendrik Doerner

EUR 24422 EN - 2010

page/section	recommendation
6/3. STECF COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS	Regarding the review of surveys to be undertaken in 2010, STECF recommends that the chair for the survey review group (SGRN-10-03) should be selected soon in order to arrange a timely preparation of the meeting including the collation and review of the relevant documentation. Among
	STECF notes that in principle there should be no discrepancies in data and stresses the need for appropriate quality checks on all fisheries data used in support of fisheries management advice. Such discrepancies not only impact on the quality of assessments and advice but also affect the distribution of sampling effort declared and carried out under the DCF. To this end

page/section	recommendation
	<p>STECF proposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to include the following request in Terms of Reference for all of its Working Group meetings: "Examine all data for consistency and quality. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of the relevant responsible authority, Member State and the Commission." 2. that the issue of data consistency and quality is addressed under the DCF. To do so, STECF recommends that at the forthcoming SGRN WG meetings, a template and procedure for reporting data deficiencies by data user groups should be developed.
several places	SGRN recommends that RCM insists that all MS to deliver the landings by individual species.
61/ Section 2 Regional Co-ordination	In order to harmonise sampling of eels between freshwater and marine waters, SGRN recommends waiting for outcome of EU Study expected in 2011. The RCMs 2010 should provide an overview on all sampling activities on eel, based on the model developed at the RCM NS&EA 2009.
71/Section 5 Review of Surveys	In discussions on the review of surveys, it was noted that issues raised in some survey planning groups are sometimes missed by the RCM. SGRN recommends the RCM to consider survey planning issues raised in data end user reports.
103/ Section 10 Main SGRN Recommendations	<p>SGRN considers that running the LM in parallel to the main SGRN meeting is not a satisfactory and that such a practice should not happen again.</p> <p>SGRN recommends the continuation of the SGECA Working Group as an STECF sub-group, meeting at least annually, and that further work be undertaken to formalise the role of economists within the RCM in order to maximise their contribution to the DCF.</p> <p>SGRN recommends waiting for outcome of EU Study expected in 2011. The RCMs 2010 should provide an overview on all sampling activities on eel, based on the model developed at the RCM</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>NS&EA 2009.</p> <p>SGRN proposed some items to be included in the terms of reference for the RCM in 2010. In particular, the RCM's should compile information provided by MS according to templates agreed by SGRN-09-04 (See Section 5 of this report with associated Tables and Annex).</p> <p>SGRN recommends that a Workshop on Regional Data Management Strategies is held in 2010.</p> <p>The terms of reference suggested are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the situation regarding RDB in the different regions and their implications in data management b) Define the needs, objectives, scope, and benefits expected for a RDB c) provide options for the different regions of the implications of developing no RDB, an aggregated data RDB, a detailed data RDB) d) provide a brief roadmap attached to the different options. <p>This workshop is to be given a high priority status and must be convened before the 2010 RCMs. In order to ensure the efficiency of the workshop, LM recommended to the four RCM chairs to appoint four participants from their region, trying to achieve a balance between IT experts, economists, biologists and data managers.</p> <p>If accepted for DCF financial support, the NC should immediately anticipate the travel of one person for 4 days in Brussels in their revised NP proposal and finform for 2010. The proposed date and venue for the workshop are late February in Brussels.</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>The workshop will be co-chaired by ICES and the JRC.</p>
	<p>SGRN strongly recommends a Workshop and/or followed up by a Study on identifying adequate methods on allocating economic data at different disaggregation levels (e.g. metiers). This should also consider the case of vessels active in more than one fishing area or, more generally, being active in more than one metier. This could also serve to address other more specific issues such as cooperation with other countries, e.g. candidate or third countries.</p>
	<p>As a starting point for development of guidelines and methods for allocating economic data, SGRN recommends that the following points should be included in the TOR of SGECA 10-03:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying needs of exemplary applications, like: Long Term Management Plan Regional Analysis for funding purposes • Identifying methods to allocate costs and earnings as well as other economic variables. This could/will include the identification of cost drivers. Transversal variables could serve for this purpose • Assess data quality requirements of allocation methods with regard to particular characteristics of DCF data sources at each MS (e.g. logbooks). • Specify TOR for the recommended Workshop/Study <p>SGRN recommends the invitation of experts to the SGECA 10-03 meeting.</p>
	<p>SGRN agrees with the proposed schedule for the submission of economic data in relation to the AER as being reasonable. SGRN strongly recommends MS to submit the requested data according to this time schedule (Call end jan 2010) to enable SGECA to prepare a AER of high quality. This means complete and up-to-date data of necessary quality are necessary. In the light of experience with the next year's data call some adjustment might be necessary.</p> <p>SGRN recommends that a meeting to review the list of eligible surveys in Annex IX of the DCF be carried out at a meeting of experts in September 2010. The report from this review will be considered at the STECF plenary in November 2010. SGRN has</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>defined terms of Reference, review criteria and terms of reference for the group.</p> <p>SGRN stresses the importance of this review and the obligation on member states to supply the relevant data to the review group in good time. ICES and PGMED will work closely to ensure the survey table information required for the review is available for checking by the RCM's in April/May. The Commission will then circulate the Tables to member states who must ensure the information is complete.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Group are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To set up a list of candidate surveys at sea to be supported by the DCF with their priorities, based on the list of criteria as proposed by SGRN 09-04. Priorities can be 1 (good candidate), 2, 3 (no candidate). In case of priority 2, the review group might give options how the survey can be moved into priority 1. (2) To identify data gaps and research needs for the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, based on the review of the DCF surveys. (See also SGRN 06-03 data gaps). (3) To provide feedback on the lessons learned during the survey review and ways to improve the selection system of surveys funded under the DCF <p>In discussions on the review of surveys, it was noted that issues raised in some survey planning groups are sometimes missed by the RCM. SGRN recommends the RCM to consider survey planning issues raised in data end user reports.</p> <p>SGRN stress that the revised guidelines which will be circulated to National Correspondents must be used by Member States in their 2011-2013 National Programme Submissions. Furthermore, SGRN stresses that Member States must fill in new forms in the submission of their 2009-2010 Technical Reports, transposing the informational contained in their 2009-2010 National Programmes from the old forms.</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>SGRN recommends the need for a core group of economists who will bring a continuity and a focal point for DCF economic issues. .</p> <p>SGRN recommended that SGECA should consider a permanent DCF chair.</p>
	<p>SGRN notes that the review of the updated NPs did not bring up any issues regarding the interpretation of transversal variables. In terms of how to define the quality of the estimate, SGRN recommends the SGECA 09-02 report on data quality issues as a reference.</p>

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF) OPINION BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE

STECF advice on sampling strategies in fisheries for blue ling

MARCH 2009, WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Edited by John Casey & Hendrik Dörner

EUR 23802 EN - 2009

page/section	recommendation
4	<p><i>ICES ADVICE</i></p> <p><i>“ICES advises that information on the proportions of spawning blue ling (defined as running males and females, including females with hyaline eggs) and of non-spawning blue ling (all other maturities) at length are recorded at the individual haul level, and that geographical coordinates and depth are also recorded. Sample size should be at least 50 fish at all sampled hauls. Data to be collected should, for each fish sampled, include length, sex, and whether spawning or not.</i></p> <p><i>ICES recommends that the above information be made available for the period January to June for all areas in ICES Divisions Vb, VIa and VIb in order to obtain a full overview of spawning aggregations across the known range of spawning blue ling.</i></p> <p><i>ICES recommends that MS review their Sampling Plans to ensure that the maturity of sampled blue ling is recorded and that adequate sampling is carried out in, and adjacent to, the blue ling</i></p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p><i>protection areas.</i></p> <p><i>These data should be compiled and preserved in a database by MS, and be made available to appropriate ICES expert groups for analysis.</i></p> <p><i>Fishers have expressed an interest in contributing information on spawning blue ling. ICES recommends that fishers be requested to record the presence/absence of spawning blue ling on a haul-by-haul basis and to pass this information (along with position and date) to the appropriate RAC and/or national laboratories. The collected information will be used to identify spawning grounds as well as areas where the species occurs but does not spawn.”</i></p> <p><u>STECF observations and conclusions</u></p> <p>STECF agrees with the ICES advice.</p> <p>Furthermore, STECF recommends that in addition to providing observer data and fishers’ data to ICES Expert Groups and the appropriate RAC, the data collected under the provisions of Article 8 of Regulation (EC) NO 2347/2002 should also be transmitted to the STECF Secretariat. This is to ensure that such data are available to the STECF in anticipation of any future requests from the Commission to STECF on fisheries for blue ling.</p>

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report of the Working Group on the review of national reports on Member States efforts to achieve balance between fleet capacity and fishing opportunities (SGBRE 09-01)

Subgroup on Balance between resources and exploitation (SGBRE) of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

7-11 SEPTEMBER, EDINBURGH

Edited by Hazel Curtis & John Anderson EUR 24284 EN - 2009

page/section	recommendation
7/ 3. STECF comments and conclusions	<p>In particular, STECF notes that only 6 of the 22 MS gave an overall assessment of whether the capacity of their fishing fleet was in balance with their fishing opportunities.</p> <p>STECF endorses the suggestions and recommendations of the working group report. STECF recommends that the Commission and MS take the appropriate actions, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The date of submission should be included in the MS reports. 2. The requirement in the regulations to restrict MS reports to 10 pages should be reconsidered.2. Commission summaries of MS reports should follow the template format suggested so that they contain the same information in the same order. This would greatly assist STECF to evaluate the Commission summaries should STECF3. continue to be required to do so.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MS should complete the report summary template suggested for their own report and include it at the front of their reports. 5. In its summary report, the Commission should make only factual observations regarding MS conclusions on balance, rather than adding any further interpretation to MS reports . 6. MS should be encouraged to provide suitable alternative approaches to the technical indicator for their passive or static gear fleet segments, since days at sea is not appropriate in these cases. It would be appropriate to update the Guidelines accordingly . 7. MS may have to revise their timetable for data collection in order to ensure the previous year is reported on for the Technical indicator by the required date in the current year. 8. Specific suggestions to individual MS in the working group report regarding data availability should be communicated by the Commission to MS. 9. MS should reveal why indicators have not been reported, this may help to resolve any underlying problems and make it possible to report indicators in subsequent years. 10. The suggested improvements to the Guidelines on Balance Indicators contained in response to ToR 5 in the WG report should be implemented. <p>STECF also recommends that the description of fleets should follow the fleet segmentation proposed by the DCF in order to be useful.</p>
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Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report of the STECF Study Group on the Evaluation of Fishery Multi-annual Plans (SGMOS 09-02)

23-27 NOVEMBER 2009, LISBON

Edited by E J Simmonds EUR 24367 EN - 2010

page/section	recommendation
10/ STECF COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS	STECF recognizes that the time lag in availability of economic data currently restricts the timing of this type of evaluation. Although data on costs and earnings are only available one year after the reference year, information on effort, catches, fish prices, fuel prices, and interest rates are available with a shorter time delay. The recommended changes for the organization and data compilation for the AER (see section 5.6 of this report) would enable the use of more up to date economic data in the evaluation. Therefore STECF recommends that the proposed changes in procedures and in the models should be made.

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report of the SGMOS-09-05

Working Group on Fishing Effort Regimes Regarding Annex IIA of TAC & Quota Regulations and Celtic Sea

Edited by Nick Bailey & Hans-Joachim Rätz

28 September – 2 October, ISPRA, ITALY

Prepared in draft by SGMOS-09-04: 25-30 May, IPIMAR, LISBON, PORTUGAL

EUR 24369 EN - 2010

page/section	recommendation
27/3. STECF COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS	STECF notes that discard data are still incomplete from some member states and areas. Furthermore, STECF is unable to comment on the quality of the fleet specific estimates of total catches mainly due to shortfalls in the discard data, lack of requested data quality parameters, i.e. number of discard samples, fish measured and aged. STECF recommends that particular attention is paid to the report sections dealing with CPUE and to the cases where only LPUE figures are provided owing to the shortage of discard data
28/3. STECF COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS	STECF supports the view that more permanent future resourcing, support and succession planning to ensure maintenance of the STECF database is necessary. STECF also recommends that more transparent arrangements for access to the database are discussed and agreed
30/3. STECF COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS	Given the repeated experience of late and inconsistent data reports received from some Member States, STECF considers that continuing efforts by the Commission will be required to inform and educate national administrations on the required procedures, timescales and quality of data submissions. To this end, STECF

page/section	recommendation
	recommends that there is i) a repeat of the 2009 effort workshop early in 2010 ii) early and subsequent release of the 2010 data call
59/5.1. <i>Data call</i>	Given the repeated experience of late and inconsistent data reports received from Member States, STECF-SGRST reiterates its recommendation that the task of European fleet specific data compilations of nominal effort and catch continues to be improved and further institutionalised and conducted on a routine basis. STECF-SGRST further recommends that it would advantageous to align more closely the categories of the effort regulation with recognised métiers operating in the different areas covered by the Annexes. To some extent there has been a move towards the métier based approach set out in the new DCF and further alignment of the regulations would ensure relevant biological data could be collected.
85/6.1. <i>General remarks</i>	Specific technical or gear configurations defined in the special conditions of the derogations are often not registered in the logbook databases, i.e. multi rigging, sorting or escapement devices (special conditions 8.1.a, b, j) or in-season management plans (8.1.d, h, i, k). STECF-SGRST notes that in-season information and fleet aggregations imply the direct involvement of the national control and enforcement institutions in the review process. STECF-SGRST recommends that to the fullest extent possible, national logbook data bases be made consistent with both the regulations defined in Annex IIA of the fishing opportunities regulation and the fleet-métier definitions defined under the revised data collection regulation (Council Reg. 199/2008).

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report of the SGMOS-09-05 Working Group Fishing Effort Regime

Part 3 Deep Sea and Western Waters

Edited by Nick Bailey & Hans-Joachim Rätz

28 September – 2 October 2009, ISPRA, ITALY

Prepared in draft by

SGMOS-09-04: 25-30 May 2009, LISBON, PORTUGAL

and SGMOS-09-03: 13-17 July 2009, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

EUR 24528 EN - 2010

page/section	recommendation
9-10/STECF COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS	STECF strongly recommends that the Commission establish a more permanent basis for the future resourcing and support of existing and future databases holding the effort and catch information and also ensure that the issue of successional planning is adequately addressed.
	STECF also recommends that more transparent arrangements for access to and use of data are discussed, formally agreed and publicised.
	STECF considers that the work should be regarded as preliminary at this stage and recommends that the quantitative information on effort and catches should not be taken as a representation of the true situation.
	STECF observes that good progress was made in the review of Annex I and Annex II species and recommends that the adjustments proposed are incorporated in a future revision of the deep sea regulation (Council Regulation (EC) 2347/2002).

page/section	recommendation
17/2.3. Data Call	Given the repeated experience of late and inconsistent data reports received from Member States, STECF-SGMOS reiterates its recommendation that the task of European fleet specific data compilations of nominal effort and catch continues to be improved and further institutionalised and conducted on a routine basis

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)

Evaluation of requests from Member States to exclude certain groups of vessels from the effort regime under provision of Article 11(2) of Council Regulation 1342/2008 of 18 December 2008

MARCH 2009, WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Edited by John Casey & Hendrik Dörner

EUR 23803 EN - 2009

page/section	recommendation
8/3. REQUEST FROM UK AUTHORITIES	<p>In order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that UK authorities provide the following information: Catches (landings and discards) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and molluscs by all vessels identified as belonging to the group(s) of vessels together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches. Spatial and temporal coverage, sampling intensity (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel) should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels.</p> <p>Catch and effort data should be provided by vessel by month of the year and for the most recent three calendar years. Any information on technical characteristics (gear, mesh sizes etc.) and exploitation patterns (e.g. target species) of these vessels will help identifying the grouping of the vessels. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group. If individual vessel data are not available, then the data should be aggregated over vessels within the group by month of the year. The vessels belonging to each group should be listed together with their</p>

page/section	recommendation
	Community Fishing Register (CFR) number.
11/4. REQUEST FROM IRISH AUTHORITIES	<p>In order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that Member State provide the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spatial and temporal information of the fishing activity conducted by the vessels exempted from the effort management regime. 2. Catches (landings and discards) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and mollusks by all vessels included in the observer programme together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches and spatial and temporal information of the trips. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group together with their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number to assess if some of the vessels exempted have been included in the observer programme. 3. How large has been the coverage of the observer programme in relation to the total number of trips of the fleet (i.e. métiers) and related precision level of the estimate. 4. To which métiers the vessels exempted from the effort management regime belong together with their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number.
14/5. REQUEST FROM THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES	<p>In order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that Member States provide the following information :</p> <p>Catches (landings and discards separately) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and molluscs by all vessels identified as belonging to the groups of vessels for together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches. Spatial and temporal coverage, sampling intensity (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel) should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels. Catch and effort data should ideally be provided by vessel by month of the year and for the most recent three calendar years. Any information on technical characteristics (gear, mesh sizes etc.) and exploitation patterns (e.g. target species) of these vessels will help identifying the grouping of the vessels. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group. If individual vessel data are not available then the data should be aggregated over vessels within the group by month of the year.</p> <p>The vessels belonging to each group should be listed together with</p>

page/section	recommendation
	their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number.
18/6. REQUEST FROM THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES	<p>The data are sufficient to evaluate the proposal by Sweden. As noted in the submission, reporting of cod landings in excess of 1% of the total landings should be used as a trigger to initiate targeted inspections by the control and enforcement authority.</p> <p>In order to advise on the proportion of cod in the catch of a specific group or groups of vessels in future, STECF recommends that Member States provide the following information:</p> <p>Catches (landings and discards) in weight of cod and all other fish, crustaceans and molluscs by all vessels identified as belonging to the groups of vessels together with the fishing effort (kW days) deployed to obtain those catches. Spatial and temporal coverage, sampling intensity (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel) should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels. Catch and effort data should be provided by vessel by month of the year and for the most recent three calendar years. Individual vessel data are required in order to assess between-vessel variation within the group. If individual vessel data are not available then the data should be aggregated over vessels within the group by month of the year.</p> <p>The vessels belonging to each group should be listed together with their Community Fishing Register (CFR) number.</p>
217. REQUEST FROM THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES	<p>In order to complete its advice on the proportion of cod in the catch of this group of vessels, STECF recommends that the German authorities provide additional information on the observer trips carried out:</p> <p>In addition to the observer catch data provided, information on the discarded quantities observed would be helpful together with the effort expended during the sampling trips. Details of individual vessel characteristics, timings and locations of each sampling should also be supplied. Spatial and temporal coverage, as well as sampling intensity of sampling (e.g. sampled effort vs. total effort for a given vessel), and the precision of the estimation of the cod proportions in the catches should be given for onboard observer schemes for the considered group(s) of vessels.</p> <p>In view of the fact that the average time spent during a year using</p>

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	<p>the BT2 gear by this group of vessels appears to be relatively short, STECF considers that detail of the activity and catch composition at other times would be very valuable.</p> <p>The submission from the German authorities makes general comments about the nature of the controls and sampling that the group of vessels are subjected to. STECF recommends that a more detailed outline of these procedures should be provided in particular focussing on plans for observer sampling of catch by this group of vessels so as to ascertain whether catches of cod continue to be below or equal to 1.5% of total catch.</p>

The 2009 Annual Economic Report on the European Fishing Fleet

Report EUR 24069 EN

Edited by John Anderson & Jordi Guillen 2 0 0 9

page/section	recommendation
203-204/ 3. STECF comments and recommendations	In addition, STECF highlights the need for an improvement in the analytical tools used for carrying out the assessment of the economic performance of the fleets, clarification on the methodology required to conduct the regional analysis and the identification of special issues to be investigated in future years' AER. Therefore, STECF recommends that a preparatory work aimed at addressing the above mentioned issues should be carried out before the SGECA meeting. The best way to approach this should be discussed by DG Mare and the STECF Board.
	STECF recognizes the effort in the application of the EIAA model. However, the results of projections for 2008 and 2009 presented in the report are not particularly informative or reliable because the model was not configured to take account of recent important developments, such as decommissioning, sudden price changes and policy changes like effort reduction schemes. In the event that the EIAA model is used for future AERs, STECF recommends that preparatory work be undertaken before the SGECA meeting, in order to ensure that the model is appropriately configured. The best way to approach this should be discussed by DG Mare and the STECF Board. At the same time, STECF notes that in future the report should present the criteria used to select the fleet segments for which the EIAA model will be applied.
	STECF also notes that, despite previous recommendations, no information is given on the quality of data and its reliability. STECF recommends including quality indicators in next years' AER. Some of them (coverage, sample size) are already available from the national technical reports. Other indicators will be proposed by the next working group on data quality (SGECA –09-

page/section	recommendation
	02) that will suggest indicators of accuracy and precision that need to be provided in the national technical report to evaluate the quality of estimates for each economic variable.

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Report on the Evaluation of Data Collection Related to the Fish Processing Sector (SGECA 09 03)

19-23 OCTOBER, ISPRA

Edited by Ralf Döring & Jordi Guillen

EUR 24140 EN - 2009

page/section	recommendation
9/3. STECF comments and recommendations	<p>STECF observes that the SGECA 09-03 working group developed a format and structure for the national chapters and for some useful indicators. STECF notes that a publication equivalent to the Annual Economic Report of EU Fishing Fleets would be a useful presentation of the data and analysis conducted by the working group and may be done every year to be able to show trends in the industry. For next year STECF recommends additionally a follow up on some of the issues not adequately addressed in this first report. The TORs for next year's meeting should include at least: data coverage and quality, national chapter, EU level analysis, discussion of possibilities for deeper economic analysis, analysis of cost structures and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>STECF observes that section 9.2. of the working group report presents possible deeper economic analysis based on data collected under the old and new data regulations. The possibilities presented here are ambitious, and are not feasible if economic data are provided on a national level only, as requested by the DCR/DCF. In order to be able to conduct the analyses proposed here, STECF recommends that at the national institutes, data should be disaggregated by either type of commodity or by company size.</p> <p>STECF recommends that working groups and calls for data are better organised and coordinated so that data are received by JRC staff, analysed and checked with the appropriate MS where</p>

page/section	recommendation
	<p>necessary, before the start of the STECF working group. The previously suggested STECF time frame (see STECF 20081 [winter plenary report]) the preparation of the fleet data could be taken as a basis.</p>

20. ANNEX 5 - LIST OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

Legal documents

Council Regulation (EC) No **199/2008** of 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy

Commission Regulation (EC) No **665/2008** of 14 July 2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy

Commission Decision No **2008/949/EC** of 6 November 2008 adopting a multiannual Community programme pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy

Commission Decision No **2010/93/EU** of 18 December 2009 adopting a multiannual Community programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013

STECF Plenary and working group reports

34th PLENARY MEETING REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (PLEN-10-02), 12-16 JULY 2010, COPENHAGEN, Ed. by John Casey & Hendrik Dörner, ISBN 978-92-79-15628-1

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Evaluation of 2011-2013 National Programmes linked to the Data Collection Framework. Report of the Subgroup on Research Needs (SGRN 10-01). 14-19 JUNE 2010, ISPRA, ITALY. Edited by Paul Connolly and Jarno Virtanen

Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Evaluation of 2009 Annual Reports related to the Data Collection Framework. Report of the Subgroup on Research Needs (SGRN 10-02). 5-10 JULY 2010, HAMBURG. Edited by Christoph Stransky & Hendrik Doerner

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF). SUB-GROUP ON RESEARCH NEEDS (SGRN 10-03). REVIEW OF NEEDS RELATED TO SURVEYS. 4 - 8 OCTOBER 2010, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM. Edited by David B Sampson

Other documents

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Baltic Sea (RCM Baltic) 2008

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & Eastern Arctic (RCM NS&EA) 2008

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Atlantic (RCM NA) 2008

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Mediterranean & Black Sea (RCM Med&BS) 2008

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Baltic Sea (RCM Baltic) 2009

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & Eastern Arctic (RCM NS&EA) 2009

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Atlantic (RCM NA) 2009

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Mediterranean & Black Sea (RCM Med&BS) 2009

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Long-Distance Fisheries (RCM LDF) 2010

Report of the 5th Liaison Meeting, Brussels, Feb. 2009

Report of the 6th Liaison Meeting, Hamburg, Dec. 2009

Report of the 7th Liaison Meeting, Ostend, June 2010

21. ANNEX 6 – ROADMAP FOR EWG 11-02

	MORNING SESSIONS		AFTERNOON SESSIONS	
Mon. 21st Day 1	TRAVEL		Meeting Foundation Logistics, Sub Groups, Report, Commission Views	Presentations Current Issues; MSFD, Future Requirements
Tues. 22nd Day 2	Review of Surveys TOR 4 Report Discussion - Action Points	Sub Group Work Prepare TOR's Draft Report	Sub Group Work Prepare TOR's Draft Report	Sub Group Work Prepare TOR's Draft Report
Wed. 23rd Day 3	Data Deficiencies TOR 3 ICES GCFM Key Issues - Initiatives	Sub Group Work Prepare TOR's Draft Report	Sub Group Work Prepare TOR's Draft Report	DCF and MSFD TOR 2 Report of SG 2
Thurs. 24th Day 4	Control Regulation TOR 6 Presentation DC Control Linkages	Regional Dats Base TOR 5 Update Action Plan ICES	Economic Data TOR 7 Data Quality, Other Issues Future Directions	DCF Annual Reports TOR 1 Pre Screening Review
Fri. 25th Day 5	Finalise Outstanding Discussion Draft Report Summary Main Recommendations and Conclusions		TRAVEL	

22.

ANNEX 7 - REVISED QUESTIONS AND TEMPLATE FOR REVIEW OF DCF ANNUAL REPORTS

Member State:				Compliance class	Compliance level
	Reference year			No	<10%
	Version of the AR reviewed			Partly	10-50%
	Version of the NP proposal			Mostly	50-90%
	Overall compliance	Answer	SGRN COMMENTS	Yes	>90%
				NA	not applicable

I General framework

II National data collection organisation

A National correspondent and participating institutes

Are the partners involved in the national data collection and their roles well described?
 Is there an overview and description of contents of national coordination meetings?

(cells in grey can be filled in advance of the SGRN evaluation meeting)

B Regional and International coordination

B1 Attendance of international meetings

Is Table II.B.1 complete?
 Are the reasons for non-attendance at planned meetings explained?

B2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

Are the general recommendations from Liaison Meeting listed?
 Are the responsive actions described ?
 Are the responsive actions acceptable?

SUPRA-REGION XXXX

III Module of the evaluation of the fishing sector

A General description of the fishing sector

Are changes in the fishing sector (if any) and their impact on the NP implementation well described?

B Economic variables

Is Table III.B.1 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?
 Is Table III.B.2 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?
 Is Table III.B.3 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?

B1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Are the achievements consistent with the NP proposal?
 Are the deviations explained?
 Are the deviations justified?

B2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Are the deviations explained?
 Are the deviations justified?

B3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?
 Are the responsive actions described ?
 Are the responsive actions acceptable?

B4 Actions to avoid shortfalls

Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?

Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?

REGION XXXXX

C **Biological metier related variables**

C1 **Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal**

Is Table III.C.3 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?

Is Table III.C.4 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?

Is Table III.C.5 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?

Is Table III.C.6 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?

Are there deviations from the NP proposal?

Are the deviations explained?

Are the deviations justified?

C2 **Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal**

Were CV targets met?

Are the deviations explained?

Are the deviations justified?

C3 **Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations**

Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?

Are the responsive actions described ?

Are the responsive actions acceptable?

C4 **Actions to avoid shortfalls**

Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?

Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?

REGION XXXXX

D **Recreational fisheries**

D1 **Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal**

Are the achievements consistent with the NP proposal?

Are obtained derogations mentioned?

Are the deviations explained?

Are the deviations justified?

D2 **Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal**

Were data quality targets met?

Are the deviations explained?

Are the deviations justified?

D3 **Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations**

Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?

Are the responsive actions described ?

Are the responsive actions acceptable?

D4 **Actions to avoid shortfalls**

Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?

--	--

REGION XXXXX		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?		
E	Biological stock-related variables			
E1	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
		Is Table III.E.3 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
		Are there deviations from the NP proposal?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
E2	Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
		Were CV targets met?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
E3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations			
		Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?		
		Are the responsive actions described ?		
		Are the responsive actions acceptable?		
E4	Actions to avoid shortfalls			
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?		
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?		
F	Transversal variables			
		Is Table III.F.1 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
F1	Capacity			
F11	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
		Are there deviations from the NP proposal?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
F12	Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
		Were data quality targets met?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
F13	Actions to avoid shortfalls			
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?		
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?		
F2	Effort			
F11	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
		Are there deviations from the NP proposal?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
F12	Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
		Were data quality targets met?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		

F3	F13	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations		
		Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?		
		Are the responsive actions described ?		
	F14	Are the responsive actions acceptable?		
		Actions to avoid shortfalls		
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?		
	F11	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?		
		Landings		
		Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal		
	F12	Are there deviations from the NP proposal?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
	F13	Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal		
		Were data quality targets met?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
G	F14	Are the deviations justified?		
		Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations		
		Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?		
	F13	Are the responsive actions described ?		
		Are the responsive actions acceptable?		
	F14	Actions to avoid shortfalls		
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?		
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?		
	Research surveys at sea			
	G1	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal		
		Is Table III.G.1 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
		Are there deviations from the NP proposal?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
	G2	Is there a map of the survey with achieved sampling activities ?		
		Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal		
		Is the quality of the survey indices likely to be impaired (by e.g. a change in gear settings, insufficient geographical coverage etc.)?		
		Are the deviations explained?		
		Are the deviations justified?		
	G3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations		
		Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?		
		Are the responsive actions described ?		
	G4	Are the responsive actions acceptable?		
		Actions to avoid shortfalls		
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?		

		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?		
IV	Module of the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industry			
A	Collection of data concerning the aquaculture			
		Is Table IV.A.2 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
		Is Table IV.A.3 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
A1	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
	Are there deviations from the NP proposal?			
	Are the deviations explained?			
	Are the deviations justified?			
A2	Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
	Were data quality targets met?			
	Are the deviations explained?			
	Are the deviations justified?			
A3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations			
	Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?			
	Are the responsive actions described ?			
	Are the responsive actions acceptable?			
A4	Actions to avoid shortfalls			
	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?			
	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?			
B	Collection of data concerning the processing industry			
		Is Table IV.B.1 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
		Is Table IV.B.2 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?		
B1	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
	Are there deviations from the NP proposal?			
	Are the deviations explained?			
	Are the deviations justified?			
B2	Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal			
	Were data quality targets met?			
	Are the deviations explained?			
	Are the deviations justified?			
B3	Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations			
	Are the relevant recommendations from LM listed?			
	Are the responsive actions described ?			
	Are the responsive actions acceptable?			
B4	Actions to avoid shortfalls			
	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?			
	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?			
V	Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystem			
	1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal			

		Is Table V.1 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	Actions to avoid shortfalls	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
VI Module for management and use of the data				
1	Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal	Is Table VI.1 complete and consistent with AR guidelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are there deviations from the NP proposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are the deviations explained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are the deviations justified?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	Actions to avoid shortfalls	Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future described ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are actions to avoid shortfalls in the future acceptable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
VII Follow-up of STECF recommendations				
		Are the relevant SGRN recommendations listed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are the responsive actions described ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
		Are the responsive actions acceptable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
VIII List of acronyms and abbreviations				
		Is there a list of acronyms and abbreviations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
IX IX. Comments, suggestions and reflections				
		Are there any comments, suggestions and/or reflections ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
X X. References				
		Is there a complete list of references?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
XI XI. Annexes				
		Do the provided annexes contain the relevant information to support statements made in the main text?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

23.

ANNEX 8 - CURRENT STATUS OF TASK 1 DATA SUBMISSIONS TO GFCM BY EU MEMBER STATES (AS AT MARCH 2011)

Data call	Type of data	Coverage	Missing data
As disposed by Rec. GFCM/33/2009/3		Data call: 8 EU Countries provided a valid data submission (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia).	Romania did not comply with the data submission
	Task 1.1: Fleet and area information, capacity at Fleet Segment level	Task 1.1: Same as above.	Task 1.1: Same as above.
	Task 1.2: Main resources targeted and fishing activity information per Operational Unit	Task 1.2: With some exceptions (France and Italy), whereas data up to the group of target species level has been reported, the rest of the above specified Countries covered at least partially the request for data up to the species level, also providing the specific catch amount for most of the entries.	Task 1.2: Catch data at species-level has not been reported by France, Italy and Spain. Coverage from Greece for such data is very low. Spain indicated one fishing period and related targeted species for one out of the sixty-eight operational units identified.
	Task 1.3*: Economic variables including engine power, salary share, variable costs / fishing day per vessel, landing weight, landing value.	Task 1.3*: 7 Countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia) reported the fleet capacity by fleet segment, aggregated at national level. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia reported information on fleet segments' overall engine power.	Task 1.3*: Greece did not report any economic data. Cyprus, Spain, France and Italy provided no data for economic data other than the fleet capacity.

	<p>Bulgaria and Slovenia also submitted data on landing weight, landing value and number of working days per year (per vessel).</p> <p>Slovenia and Malta also included the rest of economic parameters, such as salary share, variable costs / fishing day per vessel, total fleet value, landing weight, landing value, yearly fixed costs, percentage of variable costs / fuel costs, number of working hours per day (per vessel), working days per year (per vessel).</p>	
<p>Task 1.4:</p> <p>Catch and Effort data (catch/landing by species and overall effort values for a specific fishing period/gear combination, pertaining a given OU. Catches of discards and bycatch are also required)</p>	<p>Task 1.4:</p> <p>Six Countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia) reported Effort Data, whilst five (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Italy, Malta, Slovenia) also provided information regarding catch or landing.</p> <p>Greece partially reported Task 1.4 data, by providing information on fishing periods time-frame and gears used.</p> <p>Spain submitted information for one fishing period.</p>	<p>Task 1.4:</p> <p>Greece did not report any information on overall catch and effort as well as on specific species being targeted during the fishing period.</p> <p>Spain did not provide details on overall effort and catch for the specified fishing period.</p> <p>No significant information has been provided on discards and bycatch by any Country.</p>
<p>Task 1.5*</p> <p>Biological data [describing the catch given in Task 1.4]</p>	<p>Task 1.5*</p> <p>No coverage for this Task 1 data subset</p>	<p>Task 1.5*</p> <p>No one among the reporting Countries did transmit any information on the biological parameters.</p>

	<p>*Task 1.3 and 1.5 came into force on January 2011: data submissions are currently being expected.</p>		

24. ANNEX DECLARATIONS OF EXPERTS

Declarations of invited experts are published on the STECF web site on <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/home> together with the final report.

European Commission

EUR 24896 EN – Joint Research Centre – Institute for the Protection and Security of the Citizen

Title: Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries. Reflections on the Present and Future Requirements of the DCF(STECF-11-04).

EWG-11-02 members: Anu Albert, Apostolos Apostolou, Rickard Bengtsberg, Matthew Camilleri, Paolo Carpentieri, Paul Connolly (Chairman), Marina Dias, Christian Dintheer, Roberto Emma, Leyre Goti, Francesca Gravino, Brian Harley, Aaron Hatcher, Eskild Kirkegaard (STECF), Philip Kunzlik, Ari Leskelä, Maria Cristina Morgado, Pilar Pereda, Gheorghe Radu, David Reid, Katja Ringdahl, Evelina Carmen Sabatella, Romas Statkus, Christoph Stransky (STECF), Els Torreele, Frans van Beek, Hans van Oostenbrugge (STECF), Joel Vigneau, Jarno Virtanen.

STECF members: Casey, J., Abella, J. A., Andersen, J., Bailey, N., Bertignac, M., Cardinale, M., Curtis, H., Daskalov, G., Delaney, A., Döring, R., Garcia Rodriguez, M., Gascuel, D., Graham, N., Gustavsson, T., Jennings, S., Kenny, A., Kirkegaard, E., Kraak, S., Kuikka, S., Malvarosa, L., Martin, P., Motova, A., Murua, H., Nowakowski, P., Prelezio, R., Sala, A., Somarakis, S., Stransky, C., Theret, F., Ulrich, C., Vanhee, W. & Van Oostenbrugge

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Abstract

The STECF EWG 11 02 meeting was dedicated to reflections on the functioning of the current DCF system and on possible improvements for the future. The Expert Working Group dealt with a broad range of issues that are important in the evolution of the DCF. The EWG proposed several procedures to improve the prevailing data collection framework. Especially it proposed new procedures for evaluation of the data collection programs. It also recognized challenges that have to be dealt with in the future data collection regulation. Specifically this meeting provided material that will help prime discussion on a new DCF. STECF reviewed the report during its plenary meeting on 11-15 April 2010 in Barza d'Ispra, Italy.

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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.



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