



Regional Coordination Group
North Atlantic
North Sea & Eastern Arctic



Regional Coordination Group
Baltic

Regional Coordination Group North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic Regional Coordination Group Baltic

RCG NANSEA AND RCG BALTIC REPORT

Decision Meeting

20th September 2021

Virtual Meeting

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RCG NANSEA AND RCG BALTIC 2021 REPORT – Decision Meeting

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Acronyms

COM	Commission
DCF	Data Collection Framework
FDI	Fisheries Dependent Information
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ISSG	Intersessional Subgroup
LDF	Long Distance Fisheries
LM	Liaison Meeting
MRF	Marine Recreational Fishery
MS	Member State
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
NANSEA	North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Arctic
NC	National Correspondent
NWP	National Work Plan
PGECON	Planning Group on Economics Issues
RCG	Regional Coordination Group
RDB	Regional Database
RDBES	Regional Database & Estimation System
RSP	Regional Sampling Plan
RWP	Regional Work Plan
SSF	Small Scale Fisheries
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
TM	Technical Meeting
WP	Work Plan



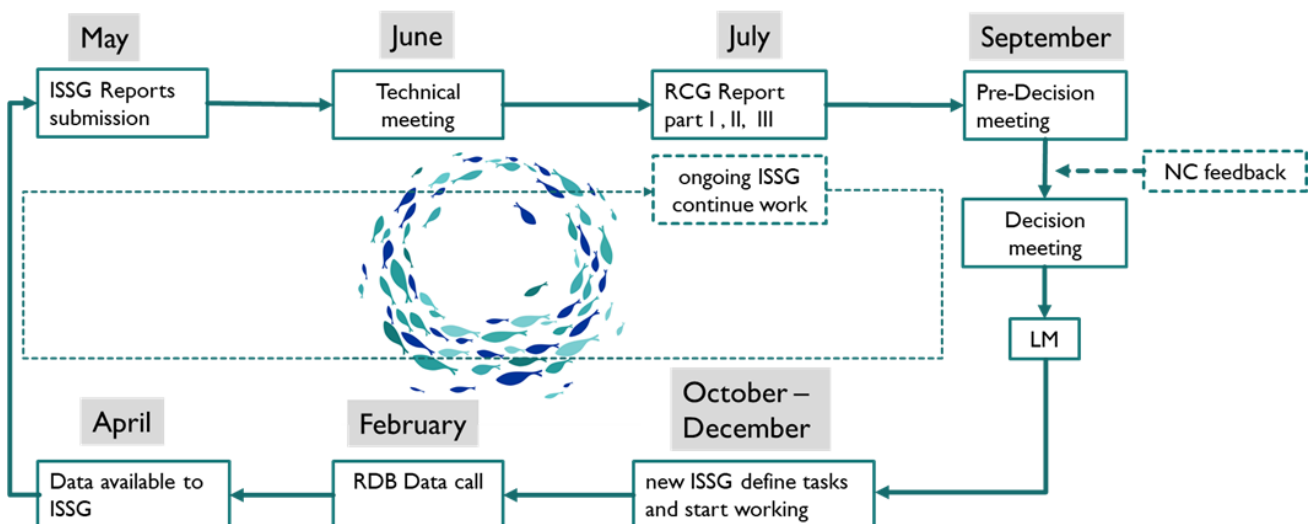
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1. Background

The objective of the Decision Meeting was to have the formal approval on the Decisions and Recommendations formulated during the RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic 2021 Technical Meeting.

In preparation of the Decision Meeting, two weeks beforehand a pre-Decision Meeting was organized, where National Correspondents (NCs) were briefed and informed about the recommendations and the proposed decisions from the two RCGs. During the pre-Decision Meeting, NCs were able to ask questions and receive further clarifications on as well the recommendations as the decisions. This new approach to the RCG set up and to the Decision-taking process in general, is reflected in figure 1.

Figure: 1. Process, flow RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic and Decision Meeting



2. Recommendations

Overview of the recommendations formulated by the Technical Meeting of the RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic meeting (June 2021) were fully presented and discussed during the pre-Decision Meeting. All NCs of both regions, endorsed all the recommendations and where needed, some clarifications were given (see table 1).

R01: Collate examples of data sharing agreements [addressed to ICES WGRDBESGOV]

R02: Take into account non-ICES data calls in future developments of the RDBES [addressed to ICES WGRDBESGOV]

R03: Provide data extraction from RDBES [addressed to ICES WGRDBESGOV]

R04: Implement new RDBES métier codes into the FDI data call [addressed to STECF]

R05: Implement new RDBES métier codes into the data calls [addressed to ICES]

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- R06:** Provide justification and roadmap for changing the design and setup of the North Sea Mackerel egg survey [addressed to ICES WGWIDE]
- R07:** Respond to questionnaire to capture end-user needs on the pelagic stocks [addressed to ICES WGWIDE, WGDEEP and HAWG]
- R08:** Provide support to evaluate the sampling coverage of SSF [addressed to ICES WGCATCH]
- R09:** Provide support to estimate catch, effort and biological parameters of SSF [addressed to ICES WGCATCH]
- R10:** Provide support about the RDBES data model for SSF [addressed to ICES WGRDBESGOV]
- R11:** Provide advice on how much sampling effort is needed for estimating bycatch [addressed to ICES WGBYC]
- R12:** Provide advice to improve the risk assessment evaluation methodology [addressed to ICES WGBYC]
- R13:** Provide support about the inclusion of MRF into the RDBES [addressed to ICES WGRDBESGOV]
- R14:** Provide support about the development of a RWP for MRF [addressed to ICES WGRFS]
- R15:** To define the criteria to propose a regional list of species [addressed to ICES WGRFS]
- R16:** Foresee funds allocation for the RCG secretariat in the new WP 2022-2027 [addressed to all NCs]

In addition, there are 4 on-going recommendations from year 2020:

- R03:** Implement Upload-logs as standard tool into RDBES [addressed to ICES - WGRDBESGOV]
- R05:** ICES to setup a Workshop on a “pilot FIRMOG” in 2021 [addressed to ICES (and MS to participate)]
- R06:** Revision of the survey effort and coverage of the IBWSS [addressed to ICES WGIPS]
- R08:** PGECON to review NWP template tables 3a, 3b, 3c [addressed to PGECON]

3. Decisions

An overview of the decisions formulated by the Technical Meeting of the RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic meeting (June 2021) were all fully presented and discussed during the pre-Decision Meeting. The reasoning behind having pre-Decision Meeting was that all NCs could come to the Decision Meeting with a clear idea of the decisions proposed by the RCG and their implications. NCs had the opportunity to raise additional questions which were answered during the Decision Meeting before voting.

The voting was made online using the [SurveyMonkey](#) platform. The NCs of both regions or those needed for a specific decision, that linked to a limited number of member states, endorsed all the decisions (see table in annex I). All decisions were voted unanimously yes (see table I).

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Decisions taken were:

- D01:** NCs agreed to replace the current RDB/RDBES Data Policy with the proposed RDB/RDBES Data License.
- D02:** NCs agreed that RCG provides the requested data products to WGBFAS to be published in WGBFAS report.
- D03:** NCs agreed to conclude cost-sharing agreement for the IBWSS (WHB) survey for 2022.
- D04:** NCs agreed to conclude cost-sharing agreement for the IESNS (ASH) survey for 2022.
- R06-D1:** NCs agreed to change the set-up and timing of the North Sea Mackerel Survey, so that both survey areas will be covered in the same year, starting 2022.
- D05:** NCs agreed that draft RWPs for RCG Baltic and RCG NANSEA will be submitted to the COM in October 2021 for a non-binding test run.
- D06:** 5 MS (Germany, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden) agreed to participate in the Baltic small pelagic Regional Sampling Plan (RSP) and take part of the non-binding Regional Work Plan for 2022. 3 MS (Finland, Estonia, Latvia) agreed to participate in Baltic small pelagic Regional Sampling Plan (RSP), but would reflect it only in their National Work Plan.
- D07:** Baltic region NCs agreed to analyse “historical” misreporting of the proportion of herring and sprat fished by pelagic trawlers in Baltics in their national data.
- D08:** NCs agreed to start collecting stomachs in the IBTS survey in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat (Q1 and Q3), and to participate at the ISSG Stomach Sampling.
- D09:** NCs agreed on the combined Rules of Procedure for RCG Baltic and RCG NANSEA.
- D10:** The list of RCG ISSGs suggested by RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic were confirmed to take place during season 2020-2021. Engagement to deliver participants.
- D11:** NCs agreed to move the NAFO area from the remit of RCG NANSEA to the remit of RCG LDF.

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Table: 1. Overview of voting of the decisions

No	Decision	Countries	YES	NO
D01	Do NCs agree to replace the current RDB/RDBES Data Policy with the proposed RDB/RDBES Data License?	14	14	0
D02	Do NCs agree that RCG provides the requested data products to WGBFAS to be published in their report?	8	8	0
D03	Do NCs agree to conclude cost-sharing agreement for the IBWSS survey for 2022?	7	7	0
D04	Do NCs agree to conclude cost-sharing agreement for the IESNS survey for 2022?	5	5	0
R06-D01	Do NCs agree to change the set-up and timing of the North Sea Mackerel Survey, so that both survey areas will be covered in the same year, starting 2022?	2	2	0
D05	Do NCs agree that draft RWPs for RCG Baltic and RCG NANSEA will be submitted to the COM in October 2021 for a non-binding test run?	14	14	0
D06	Which of the following options for regional cooperation on small pelagics in the Baltic (large pelagic trawlers), NCs decide to follow? a) Participate in the Regional Sampling Plan (RSP). The sampling plan will be built on a set of minimum common denominators. The RSP will be a part of the non-binding Regional Work Plan 2022. b) Continue with the pilot study, and include sampling commitments in the NWP. The MS will then follow the same set of minimum common denominators agreed under option a), but will not participate in the RSP. c) Not attend the regional cooperation.	8	a) 5 b) 3 c) 0	NA
D07	Do NCs agree to analyse “historical” misreporting of the proportion of herring and sprat fished by pelagic trawlers in their national data?	8	8	0
D08	Do NCs agree to start collecting stomachs in the IBTS survey in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat (Q1 and Q3), and to participate at the ISSG Stomach Sampling?	5	5	0
D09	Do NCs agree on the combined Rules of Procedure for RCG Baltic and RCG NANSEA?	14	14	0
D10	Do NCs agree on the list of ISSG for season 2021-2022 and ensure that experts and manpower is assigned to ISSG work?	14	14	0
D11	Do NCs agree to move the NAFO area from the remit of RCG NANSEA to the remit of RCG LDF? (NB! The decision was taken in RCG LDF)	10	10	0