



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

19th September 2022

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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



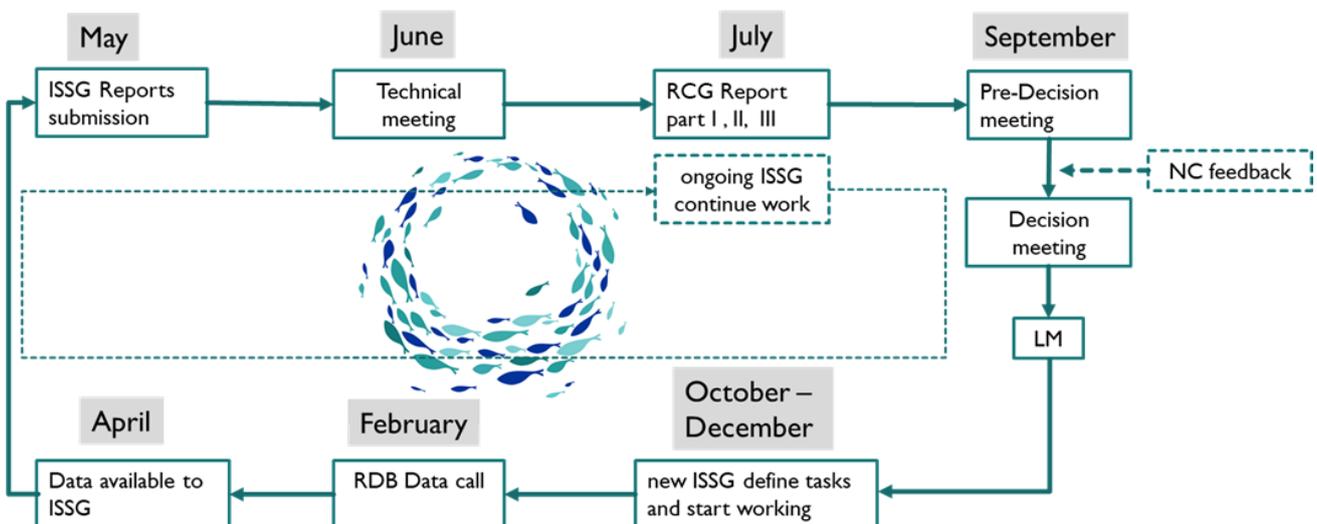
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I. Background

The RCG's Decision Meeting took place in the Centre Albert Borschette, Brussels, Belgium on the 19th of September 2022. 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 2022 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 approach to the RCG set up and to the Decision-taking process in general, is reflected in figure I.

Figure: I. 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 2022) 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.

R01: ICES give download rights of RDB/RDBES data to ISSG chairs for the ISSG [addressed to ICES]

R02: Each MS to assign at least one expert to participate in ISSG EMT and appoint an additional chair [addressed to NCs]

R03: Raise awareness among NCs and national institutes on the RDBES roadmap [addressed to NCs]

R04: Implement the collection of additional variables needed for SSF effort estimates in the regulation [addressed to DG MARE / MSs]

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- R05:** Implement the collection of additional variables needed for bycatch estimates in the control regulation [addressed to DG MARE / MSs]
- R06:** Provide prioritization of PETS species list [addressed to DG ENV]
- R07:** Participation in the regional stomach analysis program [addressed to NCs NANSEA]
- R08:** MS to evaluate options and capacities of national labs to become analysis hub for the collected IBTS case study stomachs [addressed to NCs]
- R09:** Naming of experts to ISSG RWP [addressed to NCs]

There are 6 on-going recommendations from year 2021:

- 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]
- R11:** Provide advice about how much sampling effort is needed for a robust estimation of bycatch [addressed to ICES WGBYC]
- R12:** Provide advice to improve the risk assessment evaluation methodology [addressed to ICES WGBYC]
- 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]

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In addition, there are 2 on-going recommendations from year 2020:

- R05:** ICES to setup a Workshop on a “pilot FIRMOG” in 2021 [addressed to ICES]
- R06:** Revision of the survey effort and coverage of the IBWSS [addressed to ICES WGIPS]

3. Decisions

An overview of the decisions formulated by the Technical Meeting of the RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic meeting (June 2022) 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 before the Decision Meeting.

During voting procedure, NCs were instructed to only indicate if they did not agree to a decision. For each decision it was clearly specified which NCs had to vote. There were no disagreements expressed for any of the decisions proposed, therefore, all of them were adopted (section 3.3). Depending on the decision, the number of countries involved varied.

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One NC was not present at the Decision Meeting. The relevant NC was sent an email after the Decision Meeting, in which all relevant decisions were communicated accompanied with a deadline (start of Liaison Meeting), emphasizing that no response would be considered as agreement.

3.1. Decisions relevant to RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic

D01:

- a) NCs agreed that RCG starts to collaborate with benchmark groups and gather their feedback to create a "template for RDB data overviews in support of benchmark groups" (to be presented at the next TM),
- b) Baltic region NCs agreed that RCG provides the CBH benchmark group with a multi-annual RDB overview based on the WGBFAS document.

D02: NCs agreed to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IBWSS (WHB) survey for 2023.

D03: NCs agreed to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IESNS (ASH) survey for 2023.

D04: NCs agreed on the development of a binding RWP 2025-2027 for NANSEA and Baltic region without formal adoption.

D06: NCs agreed on the list of ISSGs suggested by RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic for season 2022-2023. Engagement to deliver participants.

D07: NCs agreed on the proposed RCG chairing set-up for 2022-2023, subject to the continuity of the Secretariat.

- keep NANSEA Baltic as combined RCG and reduce the number of chairs (i.e., one per region) and increase chairs term to three years, if the Secretariat is continued,
- alternatively: keep the 4-chair set-up if Secretariat is on hold/discontinued.

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3.2. Overarching decision on Secweb

The overarching decision (D05) on the long-term implementation of the RCG's Secretariat was presented at the beginning of the Decision Meeting by the Secweb project leader. This was a pan-regional decision, therefore NCs from all EU countries (including land-locked) were involved in it. The decision was accompanied by the following recommendation from Secweb:

RI0: NCs that have mandate to make decisions should be present at the DM 2022 [addressed to NCs & COM]

The Secweb decision was as follows:

D05:

- a) NCs agreed that each MS who does not have yet the text in the WP 2022-2024/2027 (under text box 1.b), to insert the text on regional contribution for the secretariat in their revision of the WP 2022-2024/2027. The text was provided by Secweb,
- b) NCs agreed that by the 1st of March 2023 each MS will formally agree on the principle of the implementation of a long-term secretariat in support of the work of all RCGs.

The Secweb decision was adopted (section 3.3).

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3.3. Overview on voting results

No	Decision	Countries	Agree	Disagree
D01 a)	Do NCs agree that the ISSG starts to collaborate with benchmark groups and gather their feedback to create a "template for RDB data overviews in support of benchmark groups" (to be presented at the next TM)?	14 (BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE)	14	0
D01 b)	Do NCs agree to provide the CBH benchmark group with a multi-annual RDB overview based on the WGBFAS document?	8 (DE, DK, EE, FI, LT, LV, PL, SE)	8	0
D02	Do NCs agree to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IBWSS survey for 2023?	7 (DE, DK, ES, FR, IE, NL, SE)	7	0
D03	Do NCs agree to conclude a cost-sharing agreement for the IESNS survey for 2023?	5 (DE, DK, IE, NL, SE)	5	0
D04	Do NCs agree on the development of a binding RWP 2025-2027 for NANSEA and Baltic region without formal adoption?	14 (BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE)	14	0
D05 a)	Do NCs agree that each MS who does not have yet the text in the WP 2022-2024/2027 (under text box I.b), to insert the text on regional contribution for the secretariat in their revision of the WP2022-2024/2027. The text was provided by Secweb.	26 (All EU Member States)	26	0
D05 b)	Do NCs agree that by the 1 st of March 2023 each MS will formally agree on the principle of the implementation of a long-term secretariat in support of the work of all RCGs	26 (All EU Member States)	26	0
D06	Do NCs agree on the list of ISSGs for season 2022-2023 and ensure that experts and manpower is assigned to ISSG work?	14 (BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE)	14	0
D07	Do NCs agree on the proposed RCG chairing set-up for 2022-2023?	14 (BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, LT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE)	14	0