Regional Coordination Group
on Economics Issues

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RCG ECON 2023 REPORT

5th – 8th June 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Supported by

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ERRATA SHEET

Date:	24th November 2023
Document Release:	Version 1.1
Page affected:	page 15, Recommendation 8

This errata sheet describes the omission occurred at the release date of this document.

The RCG ECON 2023 report was released omitting recommendation number 8:

Price per capacity unit and PIM assumptions should be regularly updated so that changes in technologies and investments can be better considered.

Recommendation number 8 was discussed and agreed during RCG ECON 2023 Technical Meeting. Therefore, recommendation number 8 has been included in this version 1.1. The full recommendation with the justifications and follow up actions can be found in page 15.

Recommended format for purposes of citation:

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This document is the product of the Regional Coordination Group under the auspices of the Expert Group on Fisheries Data Collection (EC - DCF) and does not necessarily represent the view of the EU Expert Group (NCs).

Contents

Acronyms

AER	Annual Economic Report
COM	Commission
DCF	Data Collection Framework
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DTMT	Data Transmission Monitoring Tool
ECON	Economic issues
EMFAF	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
ESS	European Statistical System
EWG	Expert Working Group
FDI	Fisheries Dependent Information
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ISSG	Intersessional Subgroup
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MS	Member State
NA	Not applicable
NANSEA	North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Arctic
NWP	National Work Plan
PGECON	Planning Group on Economic Issues
PIM	Perpetual Inventory Method
PCU	Price per Capacity Unit
QAF	Quality Assurance Framework
QPI	Quality and Performance Indicators
RCG	Regional Coordination Group
RWP	Regional Work Plan
SBS	Structural Business Statistics
SIM	Statistical Issues and Methodologies
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
WP	Work Plan

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Executive summary

The Regional Coordination Group on Economic Issues (RCG ECON) was established in 2021 as an expert group to assist the Commission in the implementation of the (DCF) Data Collection Framework concerning the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. This was the third annual RCG ECON meeting organised.

The RCG ECON 2023 meeting was held from 5th to 8th May in Brussels with the option to join online through the Teams virtual meeting platform, with 57 experts (Annex I) representing 22 Member States, Joint Research Centre, DG MARE and ICES. Of those, 29 persons joined the meeting in person in Brussels and another 28 joined through the Teams platform.

The meeting agenda included the reporting of several ISSGs that took place during the last year: Fish Processing, evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values, the effects of alternative segmentation and the Regional Work Plan. The ISSG on Fish processing discussed the population definition and the variable definitions for this sector and made recommendations for the definitions in the Regional Work Plan and the reporting on raw materials. Moreover, the group recommended a change in the variables for the future DCF to be clearer. The ISSG on the tangible and intangible capital values discussed the pros and cons of using the PIM method in various MS and proposed additional guidelines for the application of the methods to estimate tangible capital values and the description of the methods in Annex 1.2 of the National Work Plan. With regards to the valuation of intangible assets, the ISSG concluded that the current estimated values are still to be used with caution as the methodology is still in development. More work should be done for the hedonic valuation of intangibles that are attached to the vessel and a study was proposed. The ISSG on the alternative segmentation approach progressed on the application and standardisation of this new approach that seems to be promising in narrowing the gap between the economic fleet definitions and the target fish populations. However, some remaining issues were identified (standardising the use of gears in the pre-segmentation and the clustering of species), that will need further analysis in an additional workshop.

The draft Regional Work Plan was presented, based on the ISSG held in November 2022, together with the amendment for the ISSG on the processing industry. The resulting draft RWP includes the definitions of all variables from the DCF framework and the overview of statistical methods. It will be discussed and agreed during the September Decision meeting, and thereafter to be sent to STECF for evaluation. The results of the various ISSGs and the feedback from STECF groups using the DCF data in the last year also affect the guidance documents, which are available on the DCF website. The resulting changes in these documents were discussed and agreed. The updated guidance documents will be published on the DCF website. Outstanding issues, such as the inclusion of decommissioning subsidies in the data collection will be taken up during the ISSG in the coming year.

Besides the ISSG outputs also other developments which affected the collection of social and economic data were discussed. The operationalisation of the social aspects of the CFP call for an extension of the analyses and data collection of the social aspect of fisheries and the dependent fishing communities. In ICES and STECF discussion are progressing on how to implement this, through the development of National Fisheries profiles and fishing community profiles and the development of additional social indicators to be collected. RCG Econ was updated on these developments and recommended that the practical implications of extra data collection should be taken into consideration in this process. Moreover, various MS will start to develop National Fisheries Profiles in the coming year. The transition towards sustainable energy use and the consequences for the fisheries and aquaculture sector were also discussed as this transition also affects the data collection.

Additional data collection on the energy use of various fuel types will be necessary to monitor the transition and analyse best practices. This topic will be discussed further during an ISSG in autumn 2023. Another ISSG will be held on the comparison of transversal variables from the FDI and AER data calls and the potential for using FDI data as a basis for the AER transversal data. This ISSG is organised as an attempt to further harmonise the data from various calls and streamline the workflow in data collection and reporting.

The RDBFIS II project was presented as the developed database provides an option for regional data storage and extended data validation and checking in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. The development of the data base was found as a useful tool and RCG Econ will be updated on the future developments.

With regards to organisational aspects of the data collection and RCG ECON activities there was a discussion on the facilitation of the RCGs by the secretariate and the effects of increasing prices on the data collection activities. The RCGs secretariat has been developed in the SecWeb project. It has been facilitating the RCG Econ and its' ISSGs activities and its' services (communication, facilitating meetings, hosting website) have been proven very useful. In the coming year, the activities of the secretariate will be extended. The consequences of high inflation rates and increasing prices present a challenge to many national data collection programmes. In view of all additional requests for data collection, RCG Econ recommended that the increased price levels should be considered in the development of the new DCF priorities.

1 Administrative details

Regional Coordination	Regional Coordination Group on Economic Issues (RCG ECON)
Year of Appointment with the current cycle	2022
Reporting year within the current cycle (1,2 or 3)	1 (2022-2023)
Chair(s)	Heidi Pokki, Hans Van Oostenbrugge

Meeting venue	Meeting dates
Brussels and hybrid	5 – 8 May 2023

The detailed list of participants is reported in Annex I.

2 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the meeting were drafted in advance of the meeting by the chairs with consultation from DG MARE and session moderators.

1. Feedback from ISSG Fish Processing
2. Stakeholder feedback presentation from the commission
3. Feedback from ISSG Regional workplan (Fishn'Co) and draft RWP approval
4. Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture
5. Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values
6. Feedback from ISSG Effects of alternative segmentation
7. Feedback from the STECF EWGs
8. Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles, and analysis of social data)
9. Fishn'Co: National and community profiles
10. Fishn'Co: Roadmap for Quality assurance framework in workplans
11. Quality assurance framework and improving the data collection using digital data
12. Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls
13. Effect of inflation on the data collection programs - inventory of best practices and possible problems
14. Future of the RCG secretariat - combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA
15. Updating and approving the guidance documents for economic data collection
16. RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries

The detailed agenda is reported in Annex II.

3 List of Recommendations

RCG ECON Annual technical meeting (5th – 8th June)

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS

Feedback from the ISSG Fish processing	
Recommendation 1	The population of fish processing shall refer to enterprises whose main activity is defined according to the EUROSTAT definition under NACE Code 10.20: 'Processing and preserving of fish and fish products'. Accordingly, a footnote should be added in the Regional Work Plan draft with the definition of the frame population of fish processing enterprises. The group proposed a new definition for the variable raw material: 'Weight of raw material per species and origin (optional)' to be added in the RWP/guidance template. MS should provide raw material data using 3-alpha FAO code for species. Also in case the raw material reporting is based on 'commodities', to convert these 'commodities' into species.
TOR 1	Feedback from ISSG Fish Processing
Justification	Several data issues were detected during STECF EWG 21-14. RCG ECON 2022 proposed a workshop to solve these issues. A questionnaire on the possible issues was sent before the meeting, replies from 17 MS. Main issues found: • Frame population and identifying the main-activity enterprises and non-main activity enterprises. Approximately one-third of the MS have difficulties defining the frame population. The group suggested including a footnote to the Guidance for the Regional Work Plan with the definition of the frame population. • Low coverage and high heterogeneity in reporting when providing data on raw materials. The group suggested changing the name of the variable (raw materials) for the adaptation of the Regional Work Plan.
Follow-up actions needed	• Regional Work Plan draft should take these modifications into account. • JRC should adjust the data call template for the raw material to allow MSs to clearly provide data in line with the 4 categories recommended by RCG ECON: Weight and value of raw material by: ○ Species (3-letter FAO code) ○ Production environment Origin (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector) ○ Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU, non-EU)

Feedback from the ISSG Fish processing	
	Recommendation: If collecting the volume of raw material also by typology of processing it is recommended to provide data according to the following categories: fresh, frozen and semi-processed materials.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG ECON chairs to adjust the Regional Work Plan draft
Time frame (Deadline)	2023 adjusting the Regional Work Plan draft
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Fish processing	
Recommendation 2	MS that has included the data collection of fish processing into their National Work Plans should collect the income and cost variables or social variables where possible that are part of the Regional Work Plan draft. MS are asked to follow the categories for social variables in the guidance document.
TOR I	Feedback from ISSG Fish processing
Justification	The current legislation does not include a Table of variables to be collected for the fish processing. Thus, the list of variables provided by the MSs can vary and some income or cost variables may be reported combined. In the light of the optionality characterising the fish processing data collection and emerging from the MSs replies on specific variables, e.g. the non-main "segment" (some MSs collecting both No. of enterprises and turnover, others just No.), the RCG ECON was asked to provide a general clarification on what can be considered optional or not, on the understanding that MSs are obliged to collect and report only what is planned in their approved Work Plans.
Follow-up actions needed	Update the guidance document for fish processing accordingly.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG ECON chairs to update the guidance document accordingly. JRC to publish the guideline document on the data collection webpage.
Time frame (Deadline)	2023
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Fish processing	
Recommendation 3	To consider including two turnover variables in the future in the data collection: Turnover or Gross premium written (e.g. total turnover) and Turnover from the principal activity at 3-digit level NACE Rev. 2 as in SBS.
TOR 1	Feedback from ISSG Fish processing
Justification	The definition of turnover was discussed thoroughly in ISSG fish processing and it was noted that the current definition differs from the definition of turnover in the SBS. The group acknowledges that SBS data provide two variables: Turnover or Gross premium written (e.g. total turnover) and Turnover from the principal activity at 3-digit level NACE Rev. 2. In order to have a full picture of the income returns from different activities, the group suggests having turnover from the main-activity (fish processing) and turnover from non-main activities reported separately.
Follow-up actions needed	Discuss the proposal during the development of the new DCF
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG Econ chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	2025
Comments	Agreed

Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission	
Recommendation 4	Member States should decrease the response burden for the data providers and make every effort to combine the questionnaires on different subjects and make them available online where possible. The group would like to remind that the members of the EU producer organisations can apply as observers in the STECF EWG on aquaculture.
TOR 2	Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission
Justification	AAC 2021-04 gave several recommendations on the DCF (March 2021). RCG ECON reviewed these recommendations and considered the following points (3 and 5) as the most relevant: **Point 3. Member States should make every effort to combine the questionnaires and make them available online.** Combining social data into economic surveys is becoming common practice, and the same approach should be encouraged for environmental data. The efficient use

Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission	
	of online questionnaires for data transfer is essential for simple and fast collection and analysis. **Point 5. A feasibility study should investigate the potential for farmers' associations to play an active role in collecting data.** Cooperation of the producers' associations is indispensable for several reasons: • They are an end user—the link between detailed indicators (as proposed below) and data collection will be beneficial for prioritisation and implementation. • To promote the legitimacy of analysis based on that data so that results are not disputed or discredited as being based on biased information. • Data analysis should remain to be executed by organisations already involved in the compilation of statistical data. After COM answer (July 2021), AAC followed up: The AAC would also welcome the Commission's support to encourage Member States to achieve recommendation 3 via the Open Method of Cooperation. COM replied (January 2023) that DG MARE acknowledges the AAC recommendation on the questionnaires which is addressed to the MS and will bring it to the attention of the RCG ECON. Recommendation 5 has been partly reiterated in AAC 2022-17 Recommendation on STECF Aquaculture Report 2022 (June 2022). **Point 2. Explore options for involving EU producer organisations in data collection.** COM replied (January 2023) that regarding the options to include producer organisations in data collection, the relevant forum to discuss such options would be the RCG ECON.
Follow-up actions needed	MS should combine the questionnaires on different subjects and make them available online where possible.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS and STECF EWG aquaculture
Time frame (Deadline)	By the next aquaculture data call and STECF EWG aquaculture meeting in 2024.
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Regional workplan (Fishn'Co) and RWP approval	
Decision I	RCG Econ agrees on the draft RWP as it was discussed during the meeting and recommends the national correspondents RCG decision meeting to agree with the draft RWP as it is now and propose it to STECF for evaluation.
TOR 3	Feedback from ISSG Regional workplan (Fishn'Co) and RWP approval
Justification	The Fishn'Co project produced the draft format for the RWP including the definitions agreed by the ISSG on the RWP. The group discussed the additional texts and agreed on the inclusion of the text as proposed by the chairs and the ISSG on the processing industry.
Follow-up actions needed	Discussion and agreement of the RWP by the RCG Decision meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG Econ chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	September 2023
Comments	Agreed

Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture	
Recommendation 5	The RCG ECON recommends organizing a workshop to discuss the methods used for the data collection and estimation of energy consumption. Based on the results from this workshop, pilot studies could be included in the national work plans on providing more data on energy consumption in the fleet and aquaculture sectors. This can be done after end users have provided more guidance on the data needs.
TOR 4	Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture
Justification	From the end user's perspective more data on energy consumption is needed for an improved economic and policy analysis. Fluctuating energy prices in the recent year creates profitability problems in the fleet and aquaculture sectors. The EU Commission has also set up a target of being carbon neutral by 2030. There is a current need to improve the quality and coverage of energy consumption data. RCG ECON needs more guidance from the end users about what additional data is needed.
Follow-up actions needed	Organising a workshop for sharing the best practices on the data collection and estimation of the energy consumption for the fleet. The workshop should also consult end users to understand if more detailed data is needed in order to respond to the broadening data needs of the end users.

Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG ECON chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	2023
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values	
Recommendation 6	MS should report assumptions used when applying PIM for valuing the fleet or the alternative methods of PIM in the NWP and AR. In the case the alternative valuation method to PIM is used, MS should provide justification for this. MS should also describe the method used to estimate investments and intangible assets in the methodological Annex of the NWP. A detailed description of the methods used to estimate investments (PIM or other methods) by segments would be reported in the methodological Annex of the NWP. In the NWP to specify which variables are collected according to the methodologies adopted (e.g PIM – sales of onboard equipment, SURVEY – sales and purchases of onboard equipment). MS should also include the methods of estimation of intangible assets by segment in the methods section of the NWP and AR. The outcomes of the valuations should be reported in data calls, but MSs should add a warning in the comments, i.e. not to use the data as this is a work in progress.
TOR 5	Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values
Justification	A detailed description of PIM assumptions, by fleet segments, should be reported in the methodological Annex of the National Work Plan. In case PIM is not applied and methods of estimation of fixed capital are implemented, according to the Guidelines MSs are requested to justify this choice in their NWP and AR. The methodology for determining the discount rates and life times for fishing rights could be harmonized further.
Follow-up actions needed	The Work plan guidance should be updated considering these recommendations. To report in the methodological Annex of the NWP a description of PIM assumptions used should be given for valuing the fleet, by fleet segments according to the following scheme: • Data sources for vessel value used for PCU • Price per capacity unit (to be included in the AR)

Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values	
	• Service life by assets • Depreciation rates by assets and depreciation scheme • Assets share on total fixed value • Price indexes used According to the Guidelines Investments in tangible assets= Gross investment in vessel and onboard equipment minus sales of (vessel and) onboard equipment. Methodologies include: 1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Estimated from PIM method 3. Obtained from administrative source However, with PIM it is not possible to produce net investment as currently defined as the use of PIM does not allow to estimate sales of onboard equipment but only the estimated "gross investments" in vessel and onboard equipment.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS to report in the NWP and AR the assumptions used in PIM or alternative methods used for estimating the capital value of the fleet and investments. To specify how the data for sales of onboard equipment has been collected or estimated, eg. 1. Sales of onboard equipment if PIM is used, 2. Sales and purchases of onboard equipment if a SURVEY is carried out. Sales and purchases of onboard equipment if BALANCE SHEETS are used
Time frame (Deadline)	2024
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values	
Recommendation 7	The RCG ECON recommends a study on the hedonic valuation of intangibles and a workshop on valuation of intangible assets. When applying the discounted cash flow method for valuing the fishing rights, RCG ECON recommends the MSs to consider the ISSG recommendations (eg. using gross vs. net profit for valuation).
TOR 5	Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values

Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values	
Justification	The current implementation the hedonic valuation by MS is low, and the data collection context might not result in increased involvement of MS. Therefore, more cases would be needed to gain experience with this method. An exchange of experiences with the valuation of intangibles is very useful and leads to further development of these methods. Therefore, a series of follow up meetings for exchange of experiences will be needed in the coming years to increase the application of the methods and the quality of the resulting estimates. Sometimes MS end up having negative values for fishing rights when applying the Discounted Cash Flow Method using net profit. The ISSG proposed to use the gross profit, which might be a better proxy of current cash flows than net profit that already considers a capital cost.
Follow-up actions needed	A study on the hedonic valuation of intangibles. To organise a workshop on valuation of intangible assets to increase MS involvement and to gain more experience with the methods and enable the discussion on different and potential indicators.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, ISSG chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	2024
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values	
Recommendation 8	Price per capacity unit and PIM assumptions should be regularly updated so that changes in technologies and investments can be better considered.
TOR 5	Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values
Justification	Many differences exist among MS in the estimation of the Price per capacity unit and for this reason surveys to estimate the refence prices and other PIM assumptions should be regularly carried out. Evidence from MSs application also highlight that, in case of questionnaires asking for estimated market value according to the vessels' owners, it is necessary to ask separately for the value of licenses and for the value of tangibles, taking into account that the market value of a vessel is heavily affected by the value of licenses. Over the last years technical innovations (mainly in fuel efficiency and alternative fuels) are being implemented and this might have important implications in the PCU of newly built vessels and in the cost structure of these vessels. The group suggests looking into this development and the consequences for the use of the replacement value based on newly built vessels and envisages that a diversification of the PCU per vintage vessel class could be an option to mitigate this issue. More analyses and surveys are needed on the service life of assets to collect more details on the composition of the "other equipment" group of assets (which is deemed to include very different type of assets) to better tailor PIM assumptions to the real cycles of capital of a vessel.
Follow-up actions needed	MS should update regularly the assumptions used in PIM to evaluate and to take into account the impact of changes in technologies and investments.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	2023 - 2024
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from ISSG Effects of alternative segmentation	
Recommendation 9	RCG Econ recommends continuing the development of the alternative segmentation approach in the next year to further analyse the issue of pre-segmenting by gear as well as the question of how to address the use of various gears by vessel (polyvalency) throughout the year. Moreover, the grouping of catches to describe typical catch profiles should be assessed. Moreover, RCG econ recommends to the group to extend the analyses on the consistency of the segmentation result over longer time periods and the regional comparison of the resulting segments in order to assess if the novel approach also leads to results that may facilitate better quality regional analyses.
TOR 6	Feedback from ISSG Effects of alternative segmentation
Justification	The results of the ISSG were presented. The group made progress on the pre-segmentation of the fleets and showed the results from cases for which the segmentation worked and also some cases for which the application of the alternative approach did not result in more homogeneous fleet segments. The group found four criteria for proper segmentation: • Connection to specific fisheries (high priority): Segmentation should aim for a closer link of segments to stocks or groups of stocks. • Cost structure (high priority): Segments should combine vessels with homogeneous cost structure (reflected by indicators or proxies) • Feasibility (high priority): The segmentation procedure has to be clear, doable without excessive extra burden, and repeatable. • Compatibility (lower priority): It is desirable that the segmentation is compatible with an existing time series. The novel segmentation has a more direct link to the fish stocks and may lead to a lower number of segments in some cases. In other cases, the method still results in a large number of small highly specific segments which might be due to the use of multiple gears by individual vessels and the occurrence of a high number of species and stocks in the catch. In order to further increase the usefulness of the method the group proposes to carry out additional analyses on these topics (standardising the use of gears in the pre-segmentation and the segmentation of species). Besides RCG econ concluded that although there are some indicative results about the effects of the alternative segmentation on the variability of the cost structure in the segments and clusters, these analyses, would need to be extended. Also, the consistency of the segmentation approach through time and among MS could be elaborated further.
Follow-up actions needed	The group identified a need for an additional workshop to solve the issues identified by the ISSG: standardising the use of gears in the pre-segmentation and the dimensionality reduction of heterogeneous, diverse catch profiles.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Jörg Berkenhagen, Erik Sulanke
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the next RCG ECON.

Feedback from ISSG Effects of alternative segmentation	
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from the STECF EWGs	
Recommendation 10	Voluntary variables (Geo indicator, Gear, Fishery, Activity level) should be used only for the purpose they are designed for following the guidelines in data collection website and they should be used consistently in time. New length class should be applied for the Baltic Sea (0-8 m and 8-12 m). The group recommends using these new classes for the whole time series where possible based on the data available.
TOR 7	Feedback from the STECF EWGs
Justification	In the data call for AER 2023 there were new voluntary variables included: Geo indicator, Gear, Fishery, Activity level. Some MS used these voluntary variables when reporting the data for AER, but the variables were not always used appropriately. In addition, there are new length classes for Baltic Sea SCF in the current regulation: VL0008 = Vessel less than 8 meters in length. VL0812 = Vessel between 8 and 12 meters in length. Only a few member states in the Baltic Sea region provided the data using the new vessel length classification. For the next data call for AER, the new length classification should be applied, ideally for the whole time series depending on the data availability in the MS of Baltic Sea region.
Follow-up actions needed	In the next data call for AER the MSs should consider these recommendations.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS to follow the recommendation by RCG ECON.
Time frame (Deadline)	2023 onwards
Comments	Agreed

Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles, and analysis of social data)	
Recommendation 11	RCG Econ recommends that the working groups of STECF and ICES which are concerned with the development of the social variables to take into consideration the practical aspects of data collection and data availability and that the timelines for adjustment of the DCF are adhered to.
TOR 8	Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles, and analysis of social data)
Justification	Both in ICES and STECF work has been carried out to implement the social dimension of the CFP. For the data collection this involves further development of the exploitation of the variables that are currently already included in the DCF and potentially extending the data collection on social aspects with new variables. RCG Econ discussed these developments and adjusted the guidelines for the social variables where needed. With regards to the possible inclusion of new variables RCG Econ concluded that the practical aspects of collection of the data and availability from other sources should be taken into account.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2023-2025
Comments	

Fishn'Co: Roadmap for Quality assurance framework in workplans	
Recommendation 12	To follow the roadmap presented in the RCG ECON 2023 for developing the quality assessment system and developing evaluation criteria or appropriate indicators to the quality assessment system in the coming years. Organising an ISSG on quality assurance framework and reporting the best practices.
TOR 10	Fishn'Co: Roadmap for Quality assurance framework in work plans
Justification	Currently the reporting on quality and methodology for the data collection framework is very limited, incomparable between MS and hardly accessible for end users. The next version of the DCF will start from 2027 onwards. Before it would be good to have a revised and enhanced quality assurance framework and quality reporting system up and running. This system of evaluation can only be incorporated in case the MS have clear guidelines on how to report on methods and quality. These guidelines are also lacking now.

Fishn'Co: Roadmap for Quality assurance framework in workplans	
	The objective of Fishn'Co task was to: 1) Develop a set of clear guidelines on methodology reporting and quality reporting for the MS 2) Develop a set of evaluation criteria for National Work Plans and Annual reports on methodology reporting and quality reporting. Because the current guidelines and reporting is rather fragmented, an iterative process with the MS is needed to come to these objectives. The following roadmap for the RCG ECON work was suggested: • 2022: Setting up timetable and roadmap for the RCG Econ process • 2023 RCG Econ: Deciding on roadmap. • 2023 ISSG (online): WS on current quality assurance framework and reporting and best practices • 2024 RCG Econ: Discuss outcomes of WS and agree on initial quality criteria and reporting guidelines • 2025: Test by MS (through ad hoc contracts or ISSG work) • 2025 RCG Econ: Discuss outcomes of the test and agree on final criteria for methodology reporting and data quality reporting.
Follow-up actions needed	Organising an ISSG on quality assurance framework and reporting and best practices.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ISSG chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	2023
Comments	Agreed

Quality assurance framework and improving the data collection using digital data	
Recommendation 13	The group recommends increasing exchange of information about the implementation of the EUMap in the various MS. The format for the PACIOLI (Pacioli) was mentioned as an example. The ISSG on Statistical Issues and Methodologies (SIM) will be revived in order to facilitate this exchange.
TOR 11	Quality assurance framework and improving the data collection using digital data
Justification	The group discussed the existence of various digital sources of information as input for the DCF data. The group concluded that because of differences in time lags and quality considerations, the general use of these data sources is not an

Quality assurance framework and improving the data collection using digital data	
	option, but it would be useful to gain better insight in the tools that various MS are using to collect data (either in digital form or other). Therefore, more exchange of the implementation details of the NWP in the various MS would be useful to learn from one another.
Follow-up actions needed	ISSG on Statistical Issues and Methodologies (SIM) to take up this task.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ISSG chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	2023
Comments	Agreed

Effect of inflation on the data collection programs - inventory of best practices and possible problems	
Recommendation 14	RCG Econ recommends that in the process of the revision of the new DCF and the possible inclusion of new variables, the increased costs of collection of the information is being taken into account.
TOR 13	Effect of inflation on the data collection programs - inventory of best practices and possible problems
Justification	The groups discussed that many countries' data collection programmes are affected both directly and indirectly by the increased costs of fuel and general price levels. Many MS foresee problems in funding all their data collection activities in the coming years. Indirectly, increasing fuel prices are resulting in changes in both the fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing and also the general price levels, and interest rates have an influence on the economic viability of the sectors. As such the activities on the various data collection programs may also change accordingly, but it is good to realise that a decrease in the size of the sector will not result in a proportional decrease in data collection costs.
Follow-up actions needed	None
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	None
Time frame (Deadline)	
Comments	Agreed

Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls	
Recommendation 15	To organise a workshop on raising transversal data from FDI data call for the AER report purposes. The workshop should also include experts working with the FDI data call. This workshop should take into account the work that has been done in the FDI meeting on 9/2023 on comparing the FDI and AER data. The workshop should also consider responses from the questionnaire regarding harmonization data submission for AER and FDI data calls (landings, effort and capacity) that is analysed in STECF EWG 23-10 FDI.
TOR 12	Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls
Justification	In recent years, there have been efforts to harmonise definitions used in different data calls and to decrease the amount of data calls on transversal variables. The goal is to submit all the transversal data needed for the AER and FDI in one data call (=FDI). Steps towards this goal have been taken during the 2023, and next the FDI meeting in 9/2023 will compare the data from AER and FDI data calls to see if there are discrepancies in the data reporting between these two data calls. A questionnaire regarding harmonization data submission for AER and FDI data calls (landings, effort and capacity) is sent to the data providers to collect data. The questionnaire is to be filled in by data submitters for AER and FDI data for analysis

Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls	
	in the STECF EWG 23-10 FDI. After that, a test run on raising the transversal variables from FDI for the purposes of the Annual Economic Report is needed. This could be done in a workshop including economists and the experts preparing the FDI data.
Follow-up actions needed	To organise a WS on raising transversal data from FDI data call for the AER report purposes.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	WS chair
Time frame (Deadline)	2023
Comments	Agreed

RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries	
Recommendation 16	RCG ECON acknowledges the fact that the combination of the socio-economic data with other data sources (e.g. FDI) will enhance the quality of the data and facilitate a more efficient data reporting the DCF framework although duplication of data submission should be avoided. RCG ECON recommended to be updated on the progress in the project.
TOR 16	RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries
Justification	The outcomes of the RDBFIS project were presented, which ended RDBFIS is a web-based integrated fisheries information system for the MED&BS. The base of the system is the regional database and it also includes data processing facilities, GUI through end user interaction and facilities for data uploading. It also includes a large variety of databases: a.o. FDI, spatial data, biological data, environmental data, Medits data. The new project on the further development of RDBFIS was started 1st of April 2023. One of the activities is to incorporate the data of the fleet register and develop a module for the development of fishing activities. Also, the economic data will be incorporated. The advantage of incorporating this data will be to cross check data with the other included data bases. Another objective is to use the database as a source for integrated analysis. RCG Econ supports the activities of RDBFish in order to incorporate the socio-economic data into the RDBFish database. RCG Econ acknowledges the fact that the combination of the socio-economic data with other data sources (e.g. FDI) will enhance the quality of the data and facilitate a more efficient data reporting the DCF framework although duplication of data submission should be avoided.
Follow-up actions needed	Planning a presentation of the project for the next RCG Econ meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ISSG chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	2024
Comments	Agreed

4 Summary of work plan RCGs 2022-2024

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Alternative Segmentation Application	***RCG ECON ISSG***	***Communication with other RCGs***	***Communication with other RCGs***
	Organizing a workshop on alternative segmentation application to solve the issues identified by the ISSG (May 2023): standardising the use of gears in the pre-segmentation and the dimensionality reduction of heterogeneous, diverse catch profiles.	Further development of the alternative, fisheries-based approach.	Further development of the alternative, fisheries-based approach.
Presentation of Regional WP draft	***Regional Work Plan presentation and approval***	***Regional Work Plan implementation***	***Regional Work Plan implementation***
	Regional Work plan on economic and social data collection was presented and agreed on in RCG ECON 2023. The RWP will be officially approved by the national correspondent decision meeting in September 2023.	Regional Work plan should be applied by MS.	Regional Work plan should be applied by MS.
Social data: National profiles	***Communication with other Expert groups***	***Communication with other Expert groups***	***Communication with other Expert groups***
	The results from FishNCo project, STECF EWG social and ICES WGSOCIAL were presented in the RCG ECON meeting 2023. Communication between the ICES WGECON and WGSOCIAL and STECF.	Communication between the ICES WGECON and WGSOCIAL and STECF.	Communication between the ICES WGECON and WGSOCIAL and STECF.

	RCG ECON ISSG & National Work Plan	RCG ECON ISSG & National Work Plan	National Work Plan
Comparative analysis on capital value and capital cost estimation. Inventory of issues with PIM	In ISSG 2023, MSs shared their approaches and knowhow reached so far in order to ensure homogeneity in the estimation among similar regional fleet segments. The fishing rights were also discussed. Annex 1.2 of NWPs have to include a comprehensive description of methods (PIM or alternative approaches) and assumptions used to estimate the value of physical capital.	Workshop on fishing rights organised in 2023. Annex 1.2 of NWPs have to include a comprehensive description of methods (PIM or alternative approaches) and assumptions used to estimate the value of physical capital.	Annex 1.2 of NWPs have to include a comprehensive description of methods (PIM or alternative approaches) and assumptions used to estimate the value of physical capital.

5 List of Outcomes and Achievements of RCG ECON in this delivery period

During the second year of the RCG ECON implementation, the work under each ToR has been carried out. Four sessional subgroups (ISSGs) were organised before RCG ECON and presented their main outcomes during the RCG ECON meeting. Then recommendations were proposed based on feedback from the RCG group. All results of the discussions, decisions, recommendations, and tasks for the ISSGs were agreed during RCG ECON on a pan-regional level.

The RCG ECON 2023 report is composed of one overview of the work done under each ToR (section 6), related recommendations (section 3) and five Annexes with the attached draft of Regional Work Plan in Annex III.

The RCG ECON and ISSGs reports can be found under the following link: https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/index_en

The reports can also be found in the RCG ECON webpage: https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/rcg-econ/

6 Progress report on ToRs and work plan

6.1 ToR 1: Feedback from ISSG Fish Processing

Objectives

- Presenting the feedback of the ISSG Fish Processing workshop held on April, 18th-19th aimed to improve and harmonise the data collection carried out by MSs on the fish processing sector variables
- Held a discussion on the main findings of the workshop, define the next step, short/ long-term actions and identify recommendations / decisions

Achievements

Starting from issues raised in previous STECF EWGs and or RCG_Econ meetings and workshop, the presenters highlighted the main issues discussed during the IISG meeting. The aim of the meeting of the ISSG on Fish processing issues was to hold a discussion to improve and harmonise the data collection on specific aspects of the fish processing data collection as well as suggesting updates of guidelines for the Regional Work Plan. Indeed, although collecting and reporting data on the fish processing sector is not mandatory under the new EUMAP, 16 MSs have planned data collection in their 2020-21 National Work Plans. The main issues already highlighted in previous contexts are connected to, e.g. difficulty in identifying the frame a population because of the annual changes in the list of companies; it is unclear, for certain firms, if fish processing is a primary activity or not; difficulty to implement the raw materials' data collection; low response rates for the fish processing social data collection. In order to ease the discussion on these points, a consultation was launched ahead of the meeting, by circulating, to National correspondents, a questionnaire, structured into 15 questions, in order to collect details on MSs approaches on 4 specific Term of References (ToRs), namely: 1) Frame population, 2) Raw material, 3) Social data, and 4) Estimation methodologies for certain specific variables.

As a general point, the group discussed what was reported by the STECF EWG on fish processing, e.g. that the optionality characterising the fish processing data collection and emerging from the MSs replies on specific variables has an impact on the completeness of the dataset for the analysis by the end-users.

The ISSG also discussed some pending issues concerning the updates of the guidelines for the Regional Work Plan, by discussing and proposing adjustments of definitions and methodologies for turnover, operating subsidies, and raw material, also providing clarification (missing in the current legislation) as far as the frame population it is concerned.

Below are some details by ToRs.

TOR 1

Different approaches to identifying the population emerged during the meeting: the enterprises' register, based on the NACE classification, and the sanitary list based on EU regulations (EC) No 853/2004 are the most used. The group discussed that starting the identification of the population from one or the other source influences the population dimension. The sanitary list does not seem to cover, in most cases, the small enterprises/one man firm, for different reasons (e.g., the case of contract manufactures). Hence the group suggests that MSs check further if starting from the sanitary list could imply skipping a share of the industry. It is, indeed, important that MSs ensure a good coverage of the overall population. Many MSs highlighted problems in well setting the main and non-main population, considering that many firms actually carry out more than one activity

(usually wholesaling and/or processing of other food products) and/or "jump" from one main activity to another yearly. The group discussed this point and suggested referring to the methodology contained in the Eurostat guidelines "NACE Rev. 2 Introductory Guidelines" providing details on possible approaches to identify the "principal activity[1]". The group also suggests updating the Regional Work Plan template accordingly. Most important, the group also highlighted that in the current regulation there is no clear specification of the frame population, as in the old one, setting at chapter 4, letter B, article 2 that: "The population shall refer to enterprises whose main activity is defined according to the EUROSTAT definition under NACE Code 15.20: 'Processing and preserving of fish and fish products'" (now 10.20). In line with this, the group suggested to include a foot note to the Guidance for the Regional Work Plan accordingly.

TOR 2

The groups discussed that the collection of raw material is not homogeneous among MSs as highlighted by the last data call (2021). Even if acknowledging difficulties related to gathering data from the industry, STECF PLEN 22-01 stressed the relevance of this data collection, recognizing the importance of the data collection of the raw material in volume and by species in order to have a clear picture of the supply chain, especially if considering that expensed for raw materials represent the main cost item for the industry and that many MSs are importer of fish products also as raw material. Hence STECF 22-01 recommended MSs improvements in the collection and provision of data.

Some MSs continue to report some reluctance from the industry to provide the necessary primary data. The discussion highlighted that the data collection seems to be more exhaustive for MSs where the entities in charge of data collection have a close link with National Official Statistics. This seems to influence, indeed, the ability of data collectors to gather all the requested data and overcome the industry's reluctance. The group suggested to MSs to be more active in keeping contact with the industry and to focus better on the training of data collectors.

As far as the data provision it is concerned, the discussion highlighted high heterogeneity in species codification, impacting the possibility for the main end-user (STECF) to analyse data. The group recommends MSs providing data using 3-alpha FAO code (by now only suggested in alternative to free text). Even if collecting or estimating data using the species common names, species should refer to the FAO codes of species, detailed or aggregated. Reference should be made to the FAO ASFIS List of Species for Fishery Statistics Purposes used under the data collection framework. The group recommends that, also in case of data collection of raw material based on "commodities" typologies, MSs should make an effort to convert these "commodities" into species, by referring, if needed, to species code available for species' aggregation (e.g. CRU for "Marine crustaceans nei"). Furthermore, in line with what emerged from the STECF conclusions, the group discussed the need to adjust the data call template for the raw material in order to allow MSs to clearly provide data in line with the 4 categories recommended by RCG ECON. Ideally the template should have a column for each category (and not just one as it is now, which forces MSs to use this column for all the 4 categories, making it difficult for STECF experts to read and analyze the data). Also, in line with the request coming from the ISSG on the Regional Work Plan, the group agreed to propose a new definition for the variable "Weight of raw material per species and origin (optional)", focusing only on "species" and "origin" and skipping the reference to the typology or step of processing, reported, in the Guidance document, only as a suggestion in the Methodological section.

TOR 3

The group acknowledged the importance of the social dimension of the fisheries sector and generally agreed that social data collection should be improved. Indeed, missing data and limited data at MSs level set compromises the possibility of end user to produce a comprehensive analysis on the sector.

The group acknowledged that Member States' lack of data can be a driving factor for them to select out of elements or all of data collection of processing data. This is supported by the current non-legally binding aspects of the data collection process in this area. It was also acknowledged that for some MSs, the main reason for discontinuing the data collection of processing sector was the lack of response rate from the companies which resulted in data failures. It was suggested that alternate approaches to data collection techniques could address the respective problems. In particular, it is suggested to MSs with large processing sectors to consider the possibility of applying a survey as a data collection method in case a census method is not feasible. Also, as for the collection of raw material data in volume, the group acknowledges the vital importance of successful communication and collaboration with industry to ensure high quality data collection for which a flexible approach to engagement is needed.

TOR 4

The groups acknowledged that different approaches exist for the collection/estimation of some specific variables, e.g. operating subsidies. It is almost sure that there are no MSs using SBS as source for this variable (as for the fleet). Hence the group provided a suggestion on a new potential text for the methodological section of the Guidance document.

The group also acknowledges that, as far as the variable turnover, SBS data provide two variables: Turnover or Gross premium written (e.g. total turnover) and Turnover from the principal activity at 3-digit level NACE Rev. 2. This should be taken into account for future changes of the legislation. Some advice to update the Guidance document for RCG ECON was provided, specifying that the part of total turnover not attributable to fish processing activities should be imputed to "other income".

As for previous ToRs, the group observed that the omission of mandating the reporting of all variables by the participating MSs in fish processing data collection can have a detrimental impact on the overall homogeneity and comparability of the data within the sector.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

2024: discuss (during RCG ECON 2024 or ISSG??) any issues arising from the 2023 data call and from end user feedback (STECF EWG 23-14).

Recommendation:

The population of fish processing shall refer to enterprises whose main activity is defined according to the EUROSTAT definition under NACE Code 10.20: 'Processing and preserving of fish and fish products'. Accordingly, a footnote should be added in the Regional Work Plan draft with the definition of the frame population of fish processing enterprises. The group proposed a new definition for the variable raw material: 'Weight of raw material per species and origin (optional)' to be added in the RWP/guidance template. MS should provide raw material data using 3-alpha FAO code for species. Also in case the raw material reporting is based on 'commodities', to convert these 'commodities' into species.

MS that has included the data collection of fish processing into their National Work Plans should collect the income and cost variables or social variables where possible that are part of the Regional Work Plan draft. MS are asked to follow the categories for social variables in the guidance document.

To consider including two turnover variables in the future in the data collection: Turnover or Gross premium written (e.g. total turnover) and Turnover from the principal activity at 3-digit level NACE Rev. 2 as in SBS.

Rapporteur: Loretta Malvarosa and Christos Danatskos

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/1965800/1978839/NACEREV.2INTRODUCTORYGUIDELINESEN.pdf/f48c8a50-feb1-4227-8fe0-935b58a0a332

6.2 ToR 2: Stakeholder feedback by the Commission

Objectives

Update on DCF-related activities:

- Regional work plans timeline and updates to national work plans
- DCF IT platform development
- MARE/2020/08 grant projects
- New scientific advice for fisheries grant
- Aquaculture Advisory Council recommendations to RCG ECON

Achievements

In 2023 RCG will approve and submit 2025-2027 regional work plans for STECF evaluation and Commission approval (without official decision). Possible revisions following comments will be assessed by STECF in June 2024. MS will submit their national work plans linked to approved regional plans in October 2024.

DCF IT platform for drafting, submitting, and assessing work plans and annual reports will produce the first minimal product beginning of July. The IT experts from MS are involved in the consultation and testing of the new platform.

MARE/2020/08 projects are finalised and followed with regional work plans, a specific contract RDBFIS II for the Mediterranean and Black Seas regional database, and bilateral short-term contracts for the RCG secretariat in 2023. The Commission announced its intention to launch a negotiated procedure for low value contract for specific tasks in 2023. Future financing of RCG secretariat is the subject of discussion among NC.

A new grant for scientific advice for fisheries was launched with 11 thematic areas. The deadline for project proposals is 19 September 2023 5 p.m. Brussels time. The evaluation results should be announced by end 2023, project agreements signed in April-May 2024. Information is available in CINEA website: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/emfaf-call-proposals-scientific-advice-fisheries_en.

Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC) issued several recommendations about collecting data and involving producers' organisations. The AAC recommendations were discussed at the technical meeting and RCG ECON replied with own recommendations.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

Member States should decrease the response burden for the data providers and make every effort to combine the questionnaires on different subjects and make them available online where possible. The group would like to remind that the members of the EU producer organisations can apply as observers in the STECF EWG on aquaculture.

Rapporteur: Monika Sterczewska

6.3 ToR 3: Feedback from ISSG Regional workplan (Fishn'Co) and RWP approval

Objectives

The objective of the TOR was to review the draft Regional workplan that was developed in the Fishn'Co project and discussed during the ISSG meeting on the RWP in November 2022 and discuss and agree on some outstanding adaptations. These included:

- The addition of some general text on the appointment of experts by the MS and allocation of time to the ISSGs.
- Addition of definitions of two fleet variables:
  - Investment in tangible assets
  - FTE national
- Addition of definitions of three variables from the processing sector:
  - Turnover
  - Operating subsidies
  - Weight of raw material per species and origin (optional)

Achievements

The Fishn'Co project produced the draft format for the RWP including the definitions agreed by the ISSG on the RWP. The group discussed the additional texts and agreed on the inclusion of the text as proposed by the chairs and the ISSG on the processing industry.

The group was informed that during the preparatory meeting on the RCG NANSEA-Baltic, a text proposal was discussed to oblige the NCs to take part in the RCG Decision meeting as decisions can only be taken by consensus during these meeting and therefore, the decision process is hampered in case not all MS are represented. It was decided to consult the other RCG to check whether the text would be included in all RWP and if so, to also include this text in the RWP of RCG Econ.

The group discussed the definition of investments in tangible assets as it refers to net investments, whereas some MS collect data on gross investments (and the PIM methods also provides gross investments. The group agreed that the definition is ok, but the methodology need to be changed and clarified better.

The general lay out of the tables in the textbox was commented on by the Group. The group acknowledges that the placements of the definitions in the textboxes in the format is not optimal, but the current format is developed by Fishn'Co in order to have consistency over the various RCGs and allows for comparability of RWPs and provides a basis for future work on the RWPs.

When discussing the definition of the variable Turnover from the processing industry, the group agreed with the ISSG that in future, a distinction between the Turnover from main activity and the other turnover would be preferable. This wish should be taken into account in the next revision of the EU MAP.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

The proposal for the RWP will be forwarded to the RCG Decision Meeting in September. After formal agreement, the draft RWP will be submitted to STECF for evaluation, the next step in the formalisation process.

RCG Econ needs to clarify the methodology for the investments in tangible assets for the fishing fleet and adjust the PIM methodology in order to estimate the net investments.

In future turnover on non-main activities should be included as a separate variables included in the data collection.

Recommendation:

RCG Econ agrees on the draft RWP as it was discussed during the meeting and recommends the national correspondents RCG decision meeting to agree with the draft RWP as it is now and propose it to STECF for evaluation.

Rapporteur: Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.4 ToR 4: Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture

Objectives

The recent increased energy prices from fossil fuels are a threat to the profitability and viability of the sector. There is a need to break away from the fossil fuel dependency: (i) Increase the future resilience of the sector and (ii) Reducing carbon footprint of fisheries and aquaculture products. EU commission has a need for more high-quality data on energy consumption in the fleet and aquaculture sectors.

Achievements

The commission has 4 main areas to accelerate the energy transition in fisheries:

- Improve the governance framework and coordination/cooperation between stakeholders
- Close the gaps in both available technology and knowledge through R&I
- Improve the business environment, including in financing opportunities and awareness
- Develop skills and a workforce that is prepared and ready for the energy transition

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Organizing a workshop to discuss the methods used for the data collection and estimation of the energy consumption.

Recommendation:

The RCG ECON recommends organizing a workshop to discuss the methods used for the data collection and estimation of energy consumption. Based on the results from this workshop, pilot studies could be included in the national work plans on providing more data on energy consumption in the fleet and aquaculture sectors. This can be done after end users have provided more guidance on the data needs.

Rapporteur: Angel Calvo-Santos & Heidi Pokki

6.5 ToR 5: Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values

6.5.1 ToR 1. Methods of collection and estimations details on the price of capacity unit

Objectives

Present and discuss MS experiences in approaches and results from estimating the capital value of the fleet through PIM and alternative methods, in order to harmonise the estimates on capital value and to improve the implementation of the PIM.

Achievements

Eleven countries declared to apply the PIM. MSs not implementing PIM consider the method too complex and not realistic as it overestimates the values compared to data collected from accounts data, or other administrative sources. Therefore, the group recalled the need that regardless the estimation methods used the value of physical capital should be in line with its definition. The group also recognized that still many differences exist among MS in the estimation of the Price per capacity unit and for this reason, surveys to estimate the reference prices and other PIM assumptions should be regularly carried out. According to its definition, the Value of physical capital should reflect the current value of the stock of fixed assets in the economy and as such provides an important indication of overall wealth of the fishing sector because it is coherent with the long term economic value of a fleet and thus is essential to measure the Resource rent and long-term sustainability of a fleet.

In implementing the PIM the starting point is an average reference price of one unit of capital (PCU) that should be a proxy of the price of new constructed vessels and representative of the most part of vessels belonging to fleet segments. If needed (e.g. a PCU non referring to the current year), the Reference PCU has to be update to current year, taking into account inflation, on the basis of index prices available in national or EU official statistics (producers price index available on the Eurostat database). The choice of the most appropriate index price depends on the MS. If available, the index of price of "Building of ships and boats (C301)" would be preferable; an alternative is the heavy machinery index. Taking into account that for some MSs fleets the number of vessels built in foreign shipyards is relevant (e.g. Finland, France) a careful reflection should be done on the most appropriate producer price index to be used.

The group observed that:

- Survey to estimate the reference prices and other PIM assumptions should be regularly carried out by MSs in order to adapt the assumptions and to evaluate the impact of changes in technologies and investments. A timeline of 4-5 years is considered appropriate by the group taking into account that technological advancements are very quick.
- in case of questionnaires asking for estimated market value according to the vessels' owners, it is necessary to ask separately for the value of licenses and for the value of tangibles, taking into account that the market value of a vessel is heavily affected by the value of licenses. If asking for the market value of a vessels, the group consider useful also to ask separately the value of each component/ asset of the tangible value.
- Evidence from MSs highlighted that it is difficult to separate the value of the license from the value of the fixed capital assets in case of use of the initial purchasing price (e.g the book value or the vessel purchasing price entered into accounting at the time the vessel was purchased) as financial statement do not report details. As far as the use of scrapping values to estimate the PCU, test done in some

MSs highlight that this is a not proper criterion as figures do not properly reflect the real economic value of vessels.

- The group found interesting the comparison between VCU (estimated Value of Capacity Unit, derived from the depreciated replacement value) and the PCU (the initial gross reference price). In a standard situation, it is expected that the depreciated value of a CU should be lower than its gross replacement value (considering the average age of fleets, sometime around 25-30 years old). It is also important to make comparison among MSs VCU and/or PCU.
- PIM application if some MSs highlighted the importance to differentiate assets' shares not only by fishing techniques but also by dimensional classes.
- Over the last years technical innovations (mainly in fuel efficiency and alternative fuels) are being implemented or will be implemented in near future. This might have important implications in the PCU of newly built vessels and in the cost structure of these vessels. The group suggests to look into this development and the consequences for the use of the replacement value based on newly built vessels and envisages that a diversification of the PCU per vintage vessel class could be an option to mitigate this issue

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

MS should report assumptions used when applying PIM for valuing the fleet or the alternative methods of PIM in the NWP and AR according to the following proposed scheme:

- Data sources for vessel value
- Price per capacity unit
- Service life by assets
- Depreciation rates by assets and depreciation scheme
- Assets share on total fixed value
- Price indexes

In the case the alternative valuation method to PIM is used, MS should provide justification for this. MS should also describe the method used to estimate investments and intangible assets in the methodological Annex of the NWP.

Price per capacity unit and PIM assumptions should be regularly updated so that changes in technologies and investments can be better considered.

6.5.2 ToR 2. Methods of collection and estimations of investments

Objectives

Present and discuss MS experiences in approaches and results from estimating investments through PIM and alternative methods.

Achievements

From the survey, it emerged that only one MS currently estimates investments through PIM. The group concluded that although investments derived from PIM are timely and easy to calculate, they actually don't reflect net investment as currently defined (gross investments minus sales of vessel or other equipment). The group recognised that further analyses are needed by cross-checking time series of investments, capital value and repair & maintenance costs. The group also recommended more analyses and surveys on the services lives of assets as well to collect more details on the composition of the "other equipment" group of assets (which is deemed to include very different type of assets) in order to better tailor PIM assumptions to the real cycles of capital of a vessel and MS accounting

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

A detailed description of the methods used to estimate investments (PIM or other methods) by segments would be reported in the methodological **Annex of the NWP**.

In the NWP to specify which variables are collected according to methodologies adopted (e.g PIM – sales of onboard equipment , SURVEY – sales and purchases of onboard equipment).

6.5.3 ToR 3. Valuation of intangible assets and main issues encountered in the use of the related guidelines

Objectives

Achievements

Results from survey highlighted that most of the MS did not apply the guidelines. Six MS applied the guidelines and experienced various issues. For this reason, MS involvement in the application of the methods needs to be increased in the coming years. As the value of the fishing rights is a politically sensitive issue, this might prevent certain MS to get involved in this type of estimation. Therefore, it might be useful to allow MS to combine both values into the total value of assets or use other indicators valuing the assets (both tangible and intangible) in the coming years to gain more experience with the methods and enable the discussion on potential indicators

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

An exchange of experiences with the valuation of intangibles is very useful and leads to further development of this method. Therefore, a series of follow up meetings for exchange of experiences will be needed in the coming years to increase the application of the methods and the quality of the resulting estimates

For the hedonic valuation of the fishing rights, the current implementation by MS is low, and the data collection context might not result in increased involvement of MS. Development of this method in various MS would need another study in which potential other means of separation of the values of tangible and intangible assets could also be assessed

Recommendation:

The outcomes of the valuations will be reported in data calls, but MSs should add a warning in the comments, i.e. not to use the data as this is work in progress.

MS should include the methods of estimation of intangible assets by segment in the methods section of the NWP and AR.

The RCG ECON recommends a study on the hedonic valuation of intangibles and a workshop on valuation of intangible assets. When applying the discounted cash flow method for valuing the fishing rights, RCG ECON recommends the MSs to take into account the ISSG recommendations (eg. using gross vs. net profit for valuation).

Rapporteur: Monica Gambino, Loretta Malvarosa

6.6 ToR 6: ISSG Effects of alternative segmentation

Objectives

A new approach to the segmentation of fishing fleets was developed in a DCF pilot project. In two preceding workshops the approach has been applied to several fleets, and feedback for further improvement has been compiled. The 3rd workshop was to follow up on these recommendations, which primarily focused on steps for the pre-segmentation of the fleet. These measures were to be tested and evaluated. Moreover, it was found that criteria for comparing the suitability of segmentation techniques should be derived and applied.

Achievements

Using the segmentation procedure, participants could derive fleet segments which appeared homogeneous and suitable for representing groups of vessels which perform similar fisheries. On the other hand, groups of polyvalent vessels with diverse and heterogeneous catch profiles hampered the application of the approach and thus the formation of segments. This is, however, not a limitation of the novel approach, but only the reflection of the diversity of the fishing fleet and can be solved by technically adjusting the clustering algorithm which is the central element of the segmentation approach.

The same applies to the fact that catch-based clusters are sometimes very small – containing one or very few vessels. This is as well the reflection of reality and not a drawback of the approach as such: Any realistic segmentation approach would highlight the same small groups with unique catch profiles. However, conceptional drafts on decision-making aid with regard to joining small clusters to larger segments are in place and will be further developed.

Two major questions concerning further fine-tuning of the approach were highlighted:

- Address the use of various gears by vessel (polyvalency) throughout the year
- Grouping of catches in order to describe typical catch profiles.

Four principles for the quality assessment of a segmentation approach as laid down in the 2nd workshop have been addressed:

- Connection to specific fisheries (high priority)
- Cost structure (high priority)
- Feasibility (high priority)
- Compatibility (lower priority)

These principles should be taken into account when stipulating criteria for comparing different segmentation approaches.

Following this list, an exemplary analysis of the link between alternative segments and stock exploitation was presented for the German fleet. It could be clearly shown that the number of segments being involved in the exploitation of important stocks is, in most cases, lower for alternative segments than for DCF segments. Following up on the 2nd workshop, the results of coupling the novel segmentation approach with an Artificial Intelligence procedure were shown for the German fleet. After introducing a learning dataset, the system was able to classify segments with an accuracy of over 99%. This procedure appears worth being tested on further MS fleets.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

RCG ECON recommends continuing the development of the alternative segmentation approach in the next year to further analyse the issue of pre-segmenting by gear as well as the question of how to address the use of various gears by vessel (polyvalency) throughout the year. Moreover, the grouping of catches to describe typical catch profiles should be assessed.

Moreover, RCG econ recommends to the group to extend the analyses on the consistency of the segmentation result over longer time periods and the regional comparison of the resulting segments in order to assess if the novel approach also leads to results that may facilitate better quality regional analyses.

Rapporteur: Jörg Berkenhagen

6.7 ToR 7: Feedback from the STECF EWGs

Objectives

In order to streamline the data collection and data delivery to JRC for the various data calls, JRC (Jarno Virtanen) presented the feedback from the last data call for fisheries economic and transversal data and the STECF meetings on the Annual economic report and the aquaculture economics.

Achievements

In March the data call for economic data for the fishing fleets was launched. In this data call for AER 2023 some voluntary variables were included (also some new): Geo indicator, Gear, Fishery, Activity level. The activity level indicator can now be used to distinguish between low activity and normal/high activity levels. Its use is voluntary, but it is useful for analysing separately the economic performance of subsegments with low activity from those with normal-high activity. (Low activity does not mean inactive). Some MS used these voluntary variables when reporting the data for AER, but the variables were not always used appropriately. E.g. the geographical indicator can be used for fleets operating in outermost regions or areas beyond the EU, but the application still needs to be more consistently from year to year in order to keep consistent time series.

In addition, there are new length classes for Baltic Sea SCF in the current regulation:

VL0008 = Vessel less than 8 meters in length.

VL0812 = Vessel between 8 and 12 meters in length.

Only a few member states in the Baltic Sea region provided the data using the new vessel length classification. For the next data call for AER, the new length classification should be applied, ideally for the whole time series depending on the data availability in the MS of Baltic Sea region.

In additions to changes in the data call, Qlick dashboards was used to communicate standard checks and data issues. A questionnaire will be send around to gather experiences with this new system.

In last years' data call for economic data of the aquaculture sector, missing data from Spain and late and erroneous data provided a serious challenge and limited the meaningfulness of the report. Moreover, the application of thresholds and absence of data for freshwater aquaculture for numerous countries also causes gaps in the completeness of the report.

An analysis of the social data showed inconsistencies between the MSs' data. A better definition of the social variables (as proposed in TOR 3 of the technical meeting) would help to solve these issues.

The group discussed the reference years for the upcoming data call on the processing sector. This data call will cover the years 2020 and 2021. This means that data that was collected in 2021 should be sent, because collection was still mandatory in 2020. MSs asked whether the data call could be sent before the summer period in order for them to prepare the data. It was stated that the call will be similar to the one last year, so preparations should be possible in advance of the call. Also, the TOR of the meeting can be sent before September.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

Voluntary variables (Geo indicator, Gear, Fishery, Activity level) should be used only for the purpose they are designed for following the guidelines in data collection website and they should be used consistently in time. New length class should be applied for the Baltic Sea (0-8 m and 8-12 m). The group recommends using these new classes for the whole time series where possible based on the data available.

Rapporteur: Jarno Virtanen and Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.8 ToR 8: Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles, and analysis of social data)

Objectives

In fisheries management there is increasing awareness on the importance of social aspects in fisheries and its management. As such both in ICES and in STECF more and more attention is given to the development of social data on fisheries and the inclusion of social aspects in management evaluation and advice. Moreover, STECF provided advice on the implementation (definition and guidelines) of the social variables in the DCF. Marloes Kraan (Chair of ICES WG SOCIAL) presented the progress on this topic in both ICES and STECF to inform the members of RCG Econ and to discuss the potential impacts of this extended focus on the data collection under the EUMap.

Achievements

Two different groups in the context of fisheries advisory in the EU are working on this topic: WGSOCIAL in ICES and EWG 22-14 social data in fisheries in STECF.

WGSOCIAL (ICES) has been working on two tasks in the past years:

1. Fishing communities

The working group has started from theory (Definition of Clay and Olson 2008, JRC social community maps) to define fishing communities. It is a multidimensional concept and the WG developed a conceptual model with three main components: a place-based community, the present vs the historical significance and a

community of practice (WGSOCIAL 2020). To make this applicable it was decided to work with the place-based definition and to use landing ports as a proxy for fishing communities. This was first developed for the ICES ecosystem overviews. These communities can be used further as basic entities for social analysis. An example of such further analyses was discussed in EWG social where so called community profiles will be developed to describe the social context and the social importance of the fisheries to the local communities.

II. Social Indicators

In order to progress towards social and economic sustainability, social impact assessments will be needed in future fisheries management evaluations. WGSOCIAL did a literature review to build an inventory of potential social indicators to be collected as a basis for such analyses. A literature review revealed 358 documents on the subject and +2000 indicators. These indicators were categorised and compared with standard information already collected in Canada, Norway, EU, UK and USA to see how these were used in management. A list of theoretical frameworks used to categorise the indicators was presented. Also, a list of categories is proposed and now they are working into that. It is not the aim of WGSOCIAL to come up with a list of 10 social indicators to be added to the EU data collection. That is up to the managers and stakeholders, as these indicators should align to the management objectives of the fisheries policies. However, choosing these becomes increasingly important in the coming years, as more and more focus is put on the social dimension of the CFP (e.g. by requesting ecosystem overviews by the Commission).

STECF EWG 22-14 Social data in fisheries reconvened last autumn and discussed among others the following topics which are of relevance to RCG Econ:

Improvements on the social variables in the EU data collection.

STECF concluded that some general features on the social variables could be enhanced to become consistent with the economic data collection:

- The target population should be the same
- The definition of total employment should be consistent
- Data should refer to that same time frame
- The segmentation should be the same

STECF recommended that the guidelines for data collection should include a list of onshore activities to be included in the employment, consisting of the following core activities: maintenance of means of production (nets, vessel, etc.); landing and stowage of the catch; processing; distribution and/or marketization of the product. EWG considered that this exercise has to be finalized and RCG Econ should amend the guidance documents accordingly.

Referring to the time frame, STECF noticed that for the social variables no specific time frame was provided, whereas in the economic data collection "the total number of persons should be estimated as an annual average". Related to the segmentation, STECF noticed that the comparability of the social and economic data could be enhanced in case social data are provided at lower aggregation levels (e.g. fleet segments or aquaculture segments).

Moreover, the EWG advised on improvements to be made to specific social variables (table 11).

Current variable	Proposal for change STECF	RCG Econ reaction
Employment by gender	This variable should be changed into: Paid labour by gender (EUMAP revision)	Take up in EUmap revision. For now employment includes both paid and unpaid labour.
	Additional variables to be included for paid and unpaid labour by gender broken down by work done at sea or onshore and the legal status of unpaid labour of women	Take up in EUmap revision.
FTEs by gender	To be specified that this variable should include paid and unpaid labour (revision of guidance document)	Included in definitions (RWP) and guidelines
Employment by age	To be specified that this variable should include paid and unpaid labour Split the age class 40-64 into 2 categories 40-54 and 55-64 (revision of guidance document)	Included in definitions (RWP) and guidelines
Employment by level of education	To be specified that this variable should include paid and unpaid labour (revision of guidance document)	Included in definitions (RWP) and guidelines
	Introduce another category in the classification for the vocational training	RCG ECON agrees that as a first step concise information on how the national vocational system works and deviations of the national education systems from the standard classification should be added to the **national profiles.**
Employment by nationality	To be specified that this variable should include paid and unpaid labour (revision of guidance document)	Included in definitions (RWP) and guidelines
Employment by employment status	EWG agrees with RCG_ECON WS Social 2021 that the present guidance should be improved. EWG suggests to consider the following points: - Employment status has to be reported only for paid labour	To be further discussed during future RCG Econ

Current variable	Proposal for change STECF	RCG Econ reaction
	- It is essential to disaggregate the number for employment into number of employees full time and number of employees part time. This is crucial information from a social point of view and it can only be retrieved from this variable. - In order to identify the more appropriate categories, the ESA account system should be used as a reference. In particular, the definition of "self-employed persons" has to be taken into account. - The categorization of "share fishers" is crucial. Different national legislations should be scrutinized in order to check for possible harmonization	

Analyses of social data

STECF EWG also discussed whether there should be a separate call for a stand-alone social report for the three sectors (fleet, processing and aqua). The final choice on this depends on the needs of end-users and does not affect the data collection and reporting.

Operationalise the social dimension of the CFP

In order to further operationalise the social dimension of the CFP and develop the social indicators the STECF EWG recommended two parallel processes:

- To launch a stepwise process that ensures relevance and credibility of the indicators to be developed.
- To implement short-term actions that take advantage of ongoing developments. These actions could address the following domains: working conditions, participation, fisheries behaviour. Reliance dependence, resilience, vulnerability.

The EWG noticed that the work in STECF is not enough. Because of this the EWG recommended:

- A scoping exercise with policymakers and advisory bodies (including ACs): what questions need to be answered? Which data on the social dimension of fisheries are required on short notice?
- Further development of the Conceptual framework of social data. The framework sets social indicators in the suite of fisheries indicators (ecological, environmental, economic), providing the linkage for integrative analysis and advice.
- Conceptual validation, methodological and data considerations. For example, develop operational indicators for concepts such as social justice, dependence, and vulnerability.

- To include specific variables and indicators (such as on vulnerability and dependence) as part of the development of the country and community profiles as soon as relevant indicators for the concepts have been operationalised.
- Streamlining the efforts of STECF, RCG ECON and ICES working groups on the social dimension does not require additional structures or networks but requires bringing the current expertise and processes together. This will require sufficient expertise on the social dimension to be available to STECF.

RCG ECON discussed that:

It is very useful to be updated on the developments on the topic of the social data in ICES and STECF and there is a clear need for further exchange of expertise on the field of data collection and data availability between the different fora. It seems that the available data collected under the DCF (economic and demographic) already provides an enormous amount of information, but that there is little knowledge on the data availability in other groups and the academic world. There are also concerns within the group that the current social data collected has been barely used. During the inclusion of the current social variables PGECON has emphasized that they should be introduced for a clear purpose and use. An attempt to compile end users' needs is contained in the 2017 report. RCG Econ observes that the use and usefulness of the new variables appears to be very limited, according to feedback from WGSOCIAL and EWG22-14. It is not even clear what is needed and on which time interval. This should be defined unambiguously prior to recommending or even including additional variables which would cause extra effort for data collection. In addition, the expertise in RCG Econ needs to be broadened in case more social data will be gathered in future. The experience gained from forwarding social issues to economists' groups has proven inefficient as there is a lack of knowledge. Alternatively, considering initiating a separate RCG on social issues.

The specific comments from STECF on the data collection definitions and guidelines have been taken into account in the working group on the RWP (see also TOR 3). The outstanding issues on the inclusion of additional variables in the new EUmap and the additional categories for employment by education level and employment by employment status need additional discussions and analyses and will be taken up in the future work programme of RCG Econ.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about the contents of the social indicators to be included in the EU data collection and whether these are relevant and need additional data to be collected. It might be that there are regional differences in the relevance of various social indicators.

Besides, data for many (demographic) indicators might be available from other sources. The availability should be taken into account in the process of the development of the additional indicators to be included in the data collection.

The group agrees with the analyses of STECF that both the comparison of the social data with the economic data of the same sector (fisheries, aquaculture and processing) and the integrated analyses of the social data from the three sectors provide valuable insights. The decisions on which analyses is preferred depends on the needs of the end users.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

The comments from the STECF EWG on the definitions of the social variables have been taken into account in the discussion and revision of the definitions in the RWP (see TOR 3). Outstanding issues on the social variables (additional categories for employment by education level and employment by employment status) need to be discussed further in next year's RCG Econ.

An increase of the exchange of information between RCG Econ and the various groups concerned with the development of social variables would enhance the knowledge on the information that is currently available and the data collectors' perspectives on this issue. As such the topic will be put on the agenda for next year's RCG Econ technical meeting again.

Recommendation:

RCG ECON recommends that the working groups of STECF and ICES which are concerned with the development of the social variables to take into consideration the practical aspects of data collection and data availability and that the timelines for adjustment of the DCF are adhered to.

Rapporteur: Marloes Kraan and Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.9 ToR 9: Fishn'Co National and community profiles

Objectives

As part of the operationalisation of the social aspects of EU fisheries management more information on the National and local context for social, institutional, and legal elements of the EU fisheries is needed. Because of this, over the last years formats for national fisheries profiles and community profiles have been developed and in the frame of the Fishn'Co project a first draft of a national fisheries profile has been made. The STECF EWG on social data has discussed the outcomes of this process (STECF EWG 22-14) and has suggested ways forward, which encompass pilots for member states and additional data collection. Because of this there is a need to update RCG Econ on the process and the current status and discuss consequences for the data collection.

Achievements

The background of the national and community profiles and the development process was presented together with the outline of the Dutch national fisheries profile and the recommendations by STECF for the further development of the national and community profiles. These recommendations include:

- National fisheries profiles would preferably be web-based compilations of the data and analyses with links to external data sources and include a 5 page summary
- Two contrasting national fisheries profiles should be made to further test the system
- Suggestions for developing NFPs across the MSs:
    - Ad hoc contracts for two contrasting cases in coming years
    - Extra funding from National Programme for the implementation of the national profiles (DCF 2025)
    - National fisheries profiles contract in the scientific fields of fisheries and aquaculture
- STECF EWG set up to update National Fisheries Profiles and review Community Profiles
- Expertise needed to perform analyses: both social scientist (qual & quant) & national fisheries expertise & access to data
- The development of the fisheries profiles might call for extra social data to be collected
- Roadmap is needed for changes in DCF with the objective of extension of social variables for meaningful and achievable data collection
- In order to facilitate extended social data collection, more involvement of social scientists in RCG Econ could be beneficial

RCG ECON reconfirms that it would be good that various MS could develop national fisheries profiles based on the current examples of the Dutch national fisheries profile and the recommendations from STECF. At least two MS (Malta and Greece) have shown interest in these.

Regarding the extra social data that would need to be collected RCG Econ refers to the recommendations made on TOR 8 about the feasibility of the data collection and the existence of other data collection programmes.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Various MS to develop their own national fisheries profiles and community profiles.

Recommendation:

Rapporteur: Marloes Kraan and Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.10 ToR 10: Fishn'Co: Roadmap for Quality assurance framework in workplans

Objectives

The main objectives for this ToR were to present an overview on the Quality Assurance and quality Control Framework as implemented so far and to discuss next steps for a fully implementation of the QACF in the DCF Work Plans.

Achievements

The increasing importance of the information produced by the DCF regulation has necessarily to be accompanied by an increased focus on the quality of that same information. The DCF reflected that awareness by introducing the Quality Assurance and quality Control Framework. The QACF started to be implemented in 2016 with the introduction in the WP of a specific table (namely table 5B) to report some key information on the QACF as implemented by MS.

Since then, the 2 main criteria to be fulfilled are that: I) it is responsibility of the MS to implement a QACF and to described it in the work plan; II) the QACF should be implemented in coherence with the European Statistical System (ESS) definitions and with the Quality Assurance Framework and Code of Practice.

The ESS Code of Practice includes 16 principles that are divided into three main categories:

- Institutional environment: ensuring that the MS are committed to quality, are objectives and effective and have adequate resources available;
- Statistical processes, focuses on international standards, guidelines and good practices in the processes used to organise, collect, process and disseminate data;
- Statistical outputs, concerns the extent to which the data are relevant, accurate and reliable, timely, coherent, comparable across regions and countries and meet the necessities of the end users.

The first principle (institutional environment) is adequately covered by the Data Collection Framework Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017) through the provisions of several articles (article14 - Data quality control and validation, article 10 - Evaluation of work plans by STECF, article 11 - Evaluation and approval of the outcomes of the national work plans). Also, the requirement of adequate resources is ensured through the EMFF/EMFAF financial support.

The second principle (statistical processes) is covered by the EU MAP (Commission Delegated Decision 2021/1167, Commission Implementing Decision 2021/1168) where in the general principles it is clearly stated that "the methods applied shall follow relevant scientific advice and best practices". Following this provision, the templates for the submission of work plans and annual reports (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/39) require MS to draft "quality reports" to describe the methodologies. The quality reports should also refer to the following documents:

- Handbook on sampling design and estimation methods for economic data collection in fisheries statistics, May 2019 (EU funded project SECFISH)
- Guidelines on socio-economic variables (definitions and methodology) regularly updated by RCG_ECON https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guidelines/socio-economic-variables

As far as the third principle (statistical outputs), the DCF machinery include:

- The level of achievements that MS should report in the ARs
- The quality indicators (sampling_strategy, achieved_sample_rate, coefficient_of_variation, response_rate, data_source) to be reported for each data transmitted through the official "economic" data calls.
- The Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) that is used to efficiently monitor and communicate data issues and to improve in the long-term the flow and quality of data.

In this context, the RCG ECON 2022 recommended (Rec.11) an expert evaluation of the content of NWPs Quality Reports (QR). According to RCG_ECON 2022 the best practice about how to fill in the NWP 1.2 QR should be shared between social and economic experts and the possible evaluation criteria for WP 1.2 QR should be discussed.

Following this recommendation, the Fishn'Co project implemented a specific task to help in developing a Quality Assessment System and appropriate indicators for the Assessment System (evaluation criteria). As a result, Fishn'Co provided a list of relevant documentation that could be useful for setting up the quality assessment system for the economic data collection. This list is structured into different groups:

1. Templates or structure for the Quality Report (Annex 1.2) - Structural business statistics (SBS), Reference Metadata ihttps://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sbs_esms.htm
2. Concrete sections for the Quality Report (Annex 1.2) - Quality Report of the European Union Labour Force Survey (file name: KS-FT-22-003-EN-N) - Memobust Handbook on Methodology of Modern Business Statistics (file name: Overall Design-01-T-Overall Design v1.0_0)
3. Examples of the detailed information to be provided in the Quality Report (Annex 1.2) - DCF Handbook on sampling design and estimation methods for economic data collection in fisheries statistics - European Statistical System (ESS) handbook for quality and metadata reports - ESS guidelines for the implementation of the ESS Quality and Performance Indicators (QPI)
4. Criteria for the evaluation of Quality Report (Annex 1.2) - Quality Assessment for Final Evaluation Report - internal EC (it provides criteria for the quality evaluation could be adapted to the EU MAP context).

Fishn'Co also drafted a Roadmap for quality assurance framework and reporting for RCG ECON (Annex IV). The rationale of this roadmap (figure 1) is that currently the reporting on quality and methodology for the data collection framework is sometimes limited, incomparable between MS and hardly accessible for end users, therefore it would be good to have a revised and enhances quality assurance framework and quality reporting system up and running.

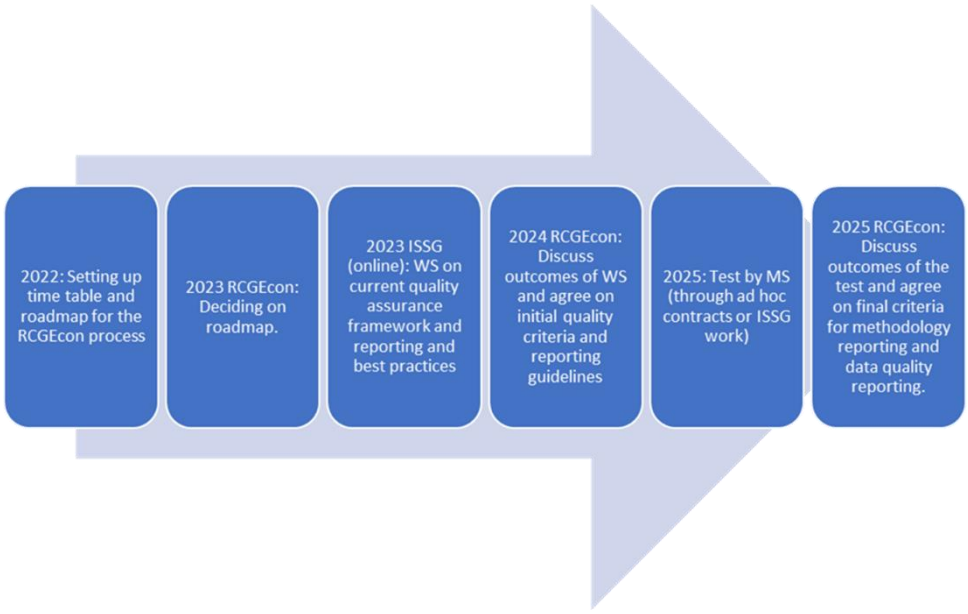

Figure 1. Fishn'Co Roadmap for quality assurance framework and reporting for RCG Econ.

RCG_ECON 2023 discussed the proposed roadmap and agreed to implement it. Two main points raised from the discussion and were endorsed: 1. EUROSTAT principles and guidelines should be considered as the basis to implement the QACF in the DCF and no overlapping with provisions already in place should be requested to MS; 2) the proposed ISSG on QACF to be held in 2023 should be pragmatic and not rediscuss principles. However, RCG ECON also emphasizes that substantial effort has been spent on the development of the WP Quality annex 1.2 to have QA measures documented. Due to the lack of both time and evaluation criteria, these annexes have not yet been evaluated comprehensively (see STECF EWG 21-17, EWG 23-08). The suggested ISSG addresses an EWG 21-17 recommendation ("The EWG suggests having an intersessional working group under RCG ECON governance to further elaborate the details of Annex 1.2 and develop examples for quality reports, thus addressing different sampling and evaluation strategies which are applied in different MS. This should provide some clarifications and improve harmonisation in terms of reporting structure, content and detail.").

On the basis of the Fishn'Co results and the discussions, RCG_ECON drafted the TORs for the ISSG on QACF (reported in section 7) and drafted the following recommendation.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

To follow the roadmap presented in the RCG ECON 2023 for developing the quality assessment system and developing evaluation criteria or appropriate indicators to the quality assessment system in the coming years. Organising an ISSG on quality assurance framework and reporting the best practices.

Rapporteur: Evelina Carmen Sabatella

6.11 ToR 11: Quality assurance framework and improving the data collection using digital data

Objectives

In a world in which more and more data is becoming available (e.g. Eurostat, Eumofa, Producers' organisations), there is an increasing call to use these data in our data collection programmes and work together with other bodies that collect these data Using these data might help the DCF but sometimes there are quality aspects which hinder the potential.

The objective is to:

- Inventory of experiences using data from other sources?
- Decide whether RCG ECON should discuss other best practices of data collection and data use?
- All have experiences of what works and what does not work and sharing the experiences could be helpful

Achievements

There is general agreement that the use of other sources of information might be useful but it also provides challenges because of differences in time lags, population definitions and other differences. An overall exercise to map potential data sources at an EU level is not seen as a useful exercise. However, there is an interest in exchange of information about the implementation of the data collection programmes in the various countries and the technical tools for data collection which are used. In agriculture they have a specific conference to exchange information about the national programmes. This could be very useful. It does not need to be 27 countries presenting, but a few would be useful. The format for the PACIOLI (Pacioli) was mentioned as an example.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

The During the coming year there will be a workshop on the collection of data about fuel consumption. This workshop will be combined with the workshop to exchange information about the implementation of the EU MAP in various MS.

Recommendation:

The group recommends increasing exchange of information about the implementation of the EU MAP in the various MS. The format for the PACIOLI (Pacioli) was mentioned as an example. The ISSG on Statistical Issues and Methodologies (SIM) will be revived in order to facilitate this exchange.

Rapporteur: Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.12 ToR 12: Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls

Objectives

The objective is to harmonise the two data calls with the aim to only ask for transversal variables in the FDI data in the future. If this is achieved, then the AER would only call for socioeconomic data. The recommendation from the RCG ECON at the Liaison meeting 2022 was that the submission of the final annual Fishing Activity data (landing; effort) from EUMAP Table 6 should be implemented in the frame of a Fishery Dependent Information (FDI) data call. The provisional Fishing Activity data can be submitted in the frame of the Fleet Economic Data Call. The landings and effort data from the EUMAP table 6 are requested annually twice a year in the frame of Fleet Economic data call and FDI data call. In order to improve the MS performance

and minimise the discrepancies for the submitted data and decrease the number of the DT issues, the possibility of combining these two calls should be considered. The efforts to harmonise the transversal data in both data calls were done in collaboration with the RCG ISSG on *Métier and transversal variables* issues, JRC and the FDI group.

Achievements

The RCG ISSG on Metier and transversal variable issues in collaboration with JRC and RCG Econ participants followed up on issues raised in STECF EWG 21-12 regarding the inconsistencies between AER and FDI data and made an overview of issues raised in the FDI 2021 report. Discussed methodologies and prepared a questionnaire that included an inventory of methods used by MS to define the common variables used in the AER and FDI data call. The questionnaire was also sent to ECG ECON chairs, FDI EWG chairs and JRC for feedback. Further the questionnaire was sent out to the DCF National Correspondent by the ISSG on Metier and transversal variable issues to be responded by September 4th 2023 so that the EWG FDI in September can analyse the results from the questionnaire.

Furthermore, the ISSG discussed the definitions, clustering procedures and allocation of vessels to the fleet segment for FDI and Economic data calls to see if there are differences in how the fleet segments are clustered/allocated to vessels between FDI and AER. This was also include in the questionnaire. The ISSG checked and compared the codes and content in the data call templates for both data calls, in case of deviations made suggestions for changes and unification in data calls structure. Any suggestions for changes to data calls should also be communicated to JRC and STECF EWG-FDI. The results of this work can be found in the ISSG Metier and transversal variable issues report 2023.

The FDI Methodology meeting in 29 May to 2 June (EWG 23 05, virtual meeting) was requested to test that the coding of fleet segments are consistent on national levels between AER and FDI data submissions, compare the capacity, landings and effort data sets between AER and FDI data calls by repeating the analysis from FDI 2021 on newly submitted data, evaluate any suggestions for changes in data calls provided by the RCG ISSG If there are any input from the ISSG, these should be considered and follow up on DTMT issues reported in STECF EWG-21-12 report in relation to AER and FDI comparison. However, since the data form the AER and FDI from the latest data calls would not be available when the expert working group took place the tasks were moved to the EWG FDI meeting 11-15 September to be completed.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

After analysing the questionnaire results and completing the tasks requested at the FDI meeting in 11-15 September an RCG ECON workshop on raising transversal data will be organised in late autumn. In this workshop, experts that submit data to both of the data calls (biologists and economists) will be invited. Furthermore, the group will test if the transversal data from FDI can be used as input for the AER.

Recommendation:

To organise a WS on raising transversal data from FDI data call for the AER report purposes. The workshop should also include experts working with the FDI data call. This workshop should take into account the work that has been done in the FDI meeting on 9/2023 on comparing the FDI and AER data. The workshop should

also consider responses from the questionnaire regarding harmonization data submission for AER and FDI data calls (landings, effort and capacity) that is analysed in STECF EWG 23-10 FDI.

Rapporteur: Zeynep Hekim

6.13 ToR 13: Effect of inflation on the data collection programs - inventory of best practices and possible problems

Objectives

During the last meeting with the directors of fisheries institutes it became clear that many biological institutes foresee financial problems for the implementation of the data collection programme in the coming years as a result of increasing costs. The objective of this TOR was to mate an inventory of potential problems that may arise in future years in economic data collection and share best practices to overcome these issues.

Achievements

The group discussed that many countries' data collection programmes are affected both directly and indirectly by the increased costs of fuel and general price levels. Many MS foresee problems in funding all their data collection activities in the coming years and no solutions to these problems were mentioned. Indirectly, increasing fuel prices are also resulting in changes in both the fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing and also the general price levels, and interest rates have an influence on the economic viability of the sectors. As such the activities on the various data collection programs may also change accordingly, but it is good to realise that a decrease in the size of the sector will not result in a proportional decrease in data collection costs. As in a number of other TOR the extension of data collection was discussed the group noticed that there might be an imbalance between the data collection needs and the funds available to carry out the work in the coming years.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

None

Recommendation:

RCG ECON recommends that in the process of the revision of the new DCF and the possible inclusion of new variables, the increased costs of collection of the information is being taken into account.

Rapporteur: Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.14 ToR 14: Updating and approving the guidance documents for economic data collection

Objectives

The data collection webpage contains the guidance documents for the economic data collection. With the recent changes in the definitions of the economic variables, these guidelines are outdated. Moreover, the RCG Econ advice as stated in the guidelines should also be updated and during the discussions on the definitions of the variables and in the ISSG on the processing sector also some changes in methods were recommended.

Therefore, the objective of this TOR is to revise the guidelines in accordance with the changes in the definitions and current views on the methodologies.

Achievements

The group agreed that the definitions in the guidance documents should be aligned to the agreed definitions in the Regional Work Plan (TOR 3). In addition, the texts in the methods column and RCG ECON advice column of the guidelines were discussed, redundant text were deleted, and others were updated where needed. An overview of the changes made can be found in Annex V. The group discussed that the recent decommissioning schemes in various countries propose a methodological question to the data collection programmes as it is not clear how to report the decommissioning values in the data calls. This topic should be taken up in the ISSG discussions in the coming year.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

The updated guidelines will be published on the DCF website.

Discuss on how to report on the costs/earnings from decommissioning in ISSG SIM.

Recommendation: -

Rapporteur: Hans van Oostenbrugge

6.15 ToR 15: Future of the RCG Secretariat – combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA

Objectives

The Secretariat service of the RCGs has its most recent background in the progress made and results of the SecWeb project. Through it, the operating bases of this service were established from a practical perspective and as an outcome of the direct work with all the RCGs. Yet, it has not been possible to serve every network at the same level up to now because SecWeb could only embrace a pilot experience.

Despite this, with Secweb's activity it has been possible to understand the dynamics and context of the different RCGs and thereby, determine the effort required to attend to the essential processes of the service, and also to explore financing scenarios which could allow maintaining this service in the future.

The objective of establishing a long-term stable structure revealed more complex than expected, from a legal and administrative perspective and it was determined that more time would be needed to find the mechanisms that make it viable for all the Member States. This atter was decided to be dealt within ISSG NCs.

Achievements

In the Decision Meeting of September 2022, the Member States through the National Correspondents, agreed to incorporate into the National Work Plans a common text that commits them to support the maintenance of the service with a long-term perspective. This text also allows the states to take on their contribution to pay for the service with the DCF assigned EMFAF funds.

In addition, the short-term / low value subcontracting of the service by each state was launched, adapting the procedure to the legal requirements for service procurement that each state raised (financing limit, need for a contract or not, need to open the procedure to offers from other providers...)

At present, 19 states have committed their acceptance of the service offer received and the process remains open to try to confirm all of them and explore possibilities through some of the financing and contracting mechanisms with EMFAF funds announced by DG MARE and CINEA.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

The activity of the RCGs Secretariat during the year 2023 has not yet reached the full scale for which it was foreseen due to the situation with the financing, and it is necessary to prioritize some activities:

It has been given priority to supporting the 6 RCGs in their Annual Technical Meetings and the celebration of the Liaison Meeting in September.

Progress is expected with the development of some new services through the RCG website. Its maintenance is the second priority for the Secretariat:

- Repository of bilateral and multilateral agreements
- Space with content about each of the ISSGs
- A new section with information about the Secretariat
- Newsletter
- RCGs stakeholders database

The RCGs Stakeholders database deserves special mention. It has been launched by ILVO also as a result of SecWeb. It is expected to be a tool that greatly facilitates internal communication processes throughout the RCGs networks, as well as the visibility of the experts that make it up. All participants are strongly encouraged to enter their details into the system which ideally should be totally fed and operational by the end of 2023.

Recommendation: -

Rapporteurs: Rosa M. Fernández Otero and Susana Rivero Rodríguez (RCG Secretariat, CETMAR Foundation)

6.16 ToR 16: RDBFIS II Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries

Objectives

The objective of this ToR is to get informed about and discuss the developments in the RDBFIS II project.

Achievements

Stefanos Kavadas (project coordinator) presented the RDBFIS II project. RDBFIS is a regional fisheries data database which was developed with Regional Grant (Jan. 2021 to end of Feb. 2023). The final report of this project is currently under evaluation. The purpose of the database was addressing the legal requirements of

the DCF regulation on setting a regional database and reducing the burden from several data calls for the MSs. The database consists of a relational database of 17 tables and 13 hierarchies that contain both biological data (e.g. length data stomach sampling, eggs and larvae data), transversal data (catch effort) technical data (fleet register) and economic data (DCF costs and earnings). There is a large range of quality checks and possibilities to access the data. From April 2023 the RDBFIS II project started with one of the main activities being the population of the system with data. Besides, there is also work done on the creation of routines for entering data (e.g. PETS, alien species, eggs & larvae).

As far as the socio-economic data concerned, the database is consistent with the formats and codification of the DCF and aggregated socio-economic data can be entered and also workplan and annual report tables are available. The R library of data validation and quality checks can assess the consistency of the socio-economic data. Metadata will be also integrated with a twofold objective: to present WP and AR tables and to facilitate a proper interpretation of the statistical properties of the data collected. These facilities will become available in the next two years.

The group questioned the added value of the database as the current JRC database also enables quality checks (including cross checking with other data) to be performed. The added value of the RDBFIS database would be that the checks can be performed before the JRC data call is launched and also other data calls (e.g. FDI) can be consistently answered with the same (high quality) dataset. As a results the segmentation in the various data calls would be consistent. In case of interest, the project is still open for new partners. The secretariate will be informed about the new website.

RCG ECON Workplan for 2023 – 2024:

Recommendation:

RCG Econ acknowledges the fact that combination of the socio-economic data with other data sources (e.g. FDI) will enhance the quality of the data and facilitate a more efficient data reporting the the DCF framework although duplication of data submission should be avoided. RCG Econ recommended to be updated on the progress in the project.

Rapporteur: Stefanos Kavadas and Hans van Oostenbrugge

7 Next meetings

RCG ECON 2024

Preliminary ToRs:

- Feedback from ISSGs
- Feedback from the commission, the STECF EWGs and other end users
- Status of the Regional Work Plan

Chairs: Hans van Oostenbrugge & Irene Tzouramani

Dates: May 2024

Venue: Athens, Greece

Number of days: 4-5 days (hybrid)

RCG ECON ISSG: Developing Quality assessment system - current quality assurance framework, reporting and best practices

Ref. recommendation 12

Preliminary ToRs:

- Review the quality reports from selected MS WPs in order to compare them and identify best practices
- Discuss the elements in current DCF quality reporting and compare them in relation to the ESS handbook for quality reports and the ESS Reference Metadata Reporting Standards
- Set up of a Quality Assessment System and suggest assessment criteria to properly evaluate the QRs.

Chairs: Evelina Sabatella &?

Dates: Autumn 2023

Venue: Italy?

Number of days: 3 days

RCG ECON ISSG: WS on raising transversal data from FDI data call for the AER report purposes

Ref. recommendation 13

Preliminary ToRs:

- Testing if the transversal data from FDI can be used as input for the AER
- Discussion on the timing of the data calls. Is the preliminary transversal data submitted in February necessary? Only capacity is mandatory to submit as preliminary data.

Chair: Zeynep Hekim & Jordi Guillen/Jarno Virtanen?

Dates: November 2023?

Venue: Ispra?

Number of days: 2-3 days (hybrid)

RCG ECON ISSG: Exchanging experiences on data collection and estimation of the energy consumption

Ref. recommendation 6

Preliminary ToRs:

- Sharing the experiences and best practices on the data collection and estimation of the energy consumption for the fleet.
- The workshop should also consult end users to understand if more detailed data is needed in order to respond to the broadening data needs of the end users.

Chair: TBD

Dates: TBD

Venue: TBD

Number of days: TBD

RCG ECON ISSG: Alternative fleet segmentation

Ref. recommendation 10

Preliminary ToRs:

- Solving the issues identified by the ISSG alternative fleet segmentation in 5/2023
- Standardising the use of gears in the pre-segmentation and the clustering of species

Chair: Jörg Berkenhagen and Erik Sulanke

Dates: Spring 2024 after fleet data call

Venue: Online meeting

Number of days: 1-2 days (online)

RCG ECON ISSG: Valuation of intangible assets

Ref. recommendation 8

Preliminary ToRs:

- An exchange of experiences with the valuation of intangibles for the further development of these methods (eg. application of discounted cash flow method or hedonic regression).
- Assessing the quality of the fishing right estimates and formulating guidelines on how to improve the quality

Chair: Monica Gambino &?

Dates: Autumn 2024

Venue: Online meeting

Number of days: 2-3 days (online)

8 Annex I: RCG ECON List of Participants

Full name	Institution	Country	Attending	Email address
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9 Annex II: Agenda for RCG ECON 2023

Time (CET)	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
Monday 5th June					
12:30	30 min	testing			
13:00	30 min	**Welcome and introduction** Welcome, house rules, adoption of the agenda, format of the report, notification of AOB		RCG chairs	Heidi Pokki
13:30	60 min	**Feedback from ISSG Fish Processing** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 1**	Loretta Malvarosa/Christos Danatskos	Loretta Malvarosa/Christos Danatskos
14:30	30 min	**Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 2**	Monika Sterczewska	Monika Sterczewska
15:00	30 min	*Coffee break*			
15:30	60 min	**Feedback from ISSG Regional workplan (Fishn'Co) and draft RWP approval** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 3**	Hans van Oostenbrugge	Hans Van Oostenbrugge/ Monica Gambino
16:30	30 min	Summary of the 1st day		RCG chairs	Heidi Pokki
17:00		END OF A DAY			

Time	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
Tuesday 6th June					
09:00	15 min	testing/chat			
09:15	30 min	**Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 4**	Angel Calvo-Santos	Angel Calvo-Santos
09:45	60 min	**Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of tangible and intangible capital values**	**ToR 5**	Monica Gambino/Loretta Malvarosa	Monica Gambino/Loretta Malvarosa

Time (CET)	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
		Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions			
10:45	30 min	*Coffee break*			
11:15	60 min	**Feedback from ISSG Effects of alternative segmentation** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 6**	Jörg Berkenhagen	Jörg Berkenhagen
12:15	45 min	**Feedback from the STECF EWGs** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 7**	Jarno Virtanen	Jarno Virtanen
13:00	90 min	*LUNCH*			
14:30	60 min	**Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles, and analysis of social data)** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 8**	Marloes Kraan	Marloes Kraan
15:30	30 min	*Coffee break*			
16:00	30 min	**Fishn'Co National and community profiles** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 9**	Marloes Kraan	Marloes Kraan
16:30	30 min	Summary of the 2nd day		RCG chairs	Heidi Pokki
17:00		*END OF A DAY*			

Time	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
Wednesday 7th June					
09:00	30 min	testing/chat			
09:30	60 min	**Fishn'Co: Roadmap for Quality assurance framework in workplans** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 10**	Evelina Sabatella	Evelina Sabatella
10:30	30 min	**Quality assurance framework and improving the data collection using digital data**	**ToR 11**	Hans van Oostenbrugge	Hans van Oostenbrugge

Time (CET)	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
		Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions			
11:00	30 min	*Coffee break*			
11:30	30 min	**Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 12**	Zeynep Hekim	Zeynep Hekim
12:00	30 min	**Effect of inflation on the data collection programs - inventory of best practices and possible problems** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 13**	Hans van Oostenbrugge	Hans van Oostenbrugge
12:30	90 min	*LUNCH*			
14:00	75 min	**Updating and approving the guidance documents for economic data collection** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 14**	Hans van Oostenbrugge/Heidi Pokki	Hans van Oostenbrugge/Heidi Pokki
15:15	30 min	*Coffee break*			
15:45	30 min	**Future of the RCG secretariat - combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 15**	RCG secretariat/Rosa Fernández	RCG secretariat/Rosa Fernández
16:15		*END OF A DAY*			

Time	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
Thursday 8th June					
09:00	30 min	testing/chat			
10:30	60 min	**RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	**ToR 16**	Stefanos Cavadas	Hans van Oostenbrugge

Time (CET)	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
09:30	60 min	**Drafting the recommendations and the report**		RCG chairs	RCG chairs
11:30	30 min	*Coffee break*			
12:00	60 min	**Summary, overview of Intersessional work 2023-2024, tasks** Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		RCG chairs	RCG chairs
13:00	60 min	*LUNCH*			
14:00	60 min	Summary of the last day		RCG chairs	RCG chairs
15:00		*END OF THE MEETING*			

10 Annex III: Regional Work Plan draft

Economic Issues Regional Coordination Group

Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017

on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast).

Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 16 July 2021

establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168 of 16 July 2021

establishing the list of mandatory research surveys at sea and thresholds as part of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022

Economic Issues Regional Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors 2025-2027

Version 2 (discussed at RCG Econ 2023)

2023MMDD

Co-funded by
the European Maritime
and Fisheries Fund

CONTENTS

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Data collection framework at regional level

General comment: Use this text box to describe how data collection is organised in your Region (countries involved, contact information)
[As agreed during RCG 2023 decision meeting, this Regional Workplan for the Economic issues RCG is the first official regional programme for the period 2025-2027.] Role of RCGs The Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) are the main hub for regional coordination and cooperation between member states within the different regions. The RCGs should in accordance with Council regulation (EU) 2017/1004 aim at developing and implementing procedures, methods, quality assurance and quality control for collecting and processing data with a view to enabling the reliability of scientific advice to be further improved. The RCGs are also responsible for preparing draft regional workplans RWPs, complementing or replacing the national workplan MS submit to the Commission on a regular basis. The textboxes and tables presented in a RWP are all emanating from RCG Inter Sessional Sub-Groups (ISSG), agreed at the RCG Technical Meeting and approved at the RCG Decision Meeting where all National Correspondents are involved. Objectives of RWPs The Regional Work Plan (RWP) is a possibility offered in the Regulation EU 2017/1004[1], where it is stipulated that 'Regional coordination groups may prepare draft regional work plans […]. Those draft regional work plans may include procedures, methods, quality assurance and quality control for collecting and processing data […], regionally coordinated sampling strategies and conditions for delivery of data in regional databases. They may also contain cost-sharing arrangements for participation in research surveys at sea'. It is also specified that 'a regional work plan shall be considered to replace or supplement the relevant parts of the national work plans of each of the Member States concerned.' After years of development in the RCGs leading to the several test run RWPs (RCG NANSEA and Baltic in 2021 and 2022, RCG Med&BS 2023), comments and suggestions by STECF and developments in DG MARE grant projects such as fishPi[2], Fishn'Co and Streamline, this RWP 2025-2027 for Baltic region is the first official RWP. It is noted that this first RWP will not receive a formal validation by the European Commission. Linkage between NWP and RWPs The setting of this RWP one year in advance of NWP for the same period is meant to prepare all MS to integrate the agreed elements from the RWP in their NWP with some basic principles as follows: Principle 1: RWP should only contain elements agreed at RCGs and conversely any type of agreement reached in a RCG should find a place in a RWP. Principle 2: RWP will contain information on a more general level so that there will not be a need to update it every year when some numbers in one MS NWP table will change. RWP may be amended during interim years, only if the amendments do not lead to modification and resubmission of all MS NWP in the region. Principle 3: MS full program is reflected in their NWP tables and textboxes. Each element of an RWP is an RCG agreement which needs to be reflected in all NWPs in a region. Reporting these agreements in NWPs formalizes these as commitment by each MS. MS should thus copy all relevant information from RWP tables directly into the corresponding table in the NWP to ensure consistency between NWPs and RWPs. For RWP textboxes, MS should make sure that a link is provided to the details of the relevant RWP textbox and add national specificities, If any.

[1] REGULATION (EU) 2017/1004 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 17 May 2017 on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast)

The realization of the RWP will not be reported directly through added table columns and text sections. It is the approved NWPs, containing combined information from national and regional initiatives, which will be evaluated within the Annual report evaluation process.

Contents and MS involved

This document without related set of tables form the Regional Work Plan for the period 2025-2027 prepared by RCG Econ. This document contain only elements of data collection which are regionally coordinated and were agreed at RCG ECON. All coordination initiatives that are under development can be found on the RCG internet webpage (https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/level-of-ambitions/).

The countries contributing to the data collection activities for the economic issues are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The RWP Econ 2025-2027 contains the following textboxes and tables:

- Section 1: General information
  - Textbox 1B: Other data collection activities
- Section 5: Economic and Social data in fisheries
  - Text Box 5.2: Economic and social variables for fisheries data collection
- Section 6: Economic and Social data in aquaculture
  - Text Box 6.1: Economic and social variables for aquaculture data collection
- Section 7: Economic and Social data in fish processing
  - Text Box 7.1: Economic and social variables for fish processing data collection
- Annex 1.2: Quality report for socioeconomic data sampling scheme
  - List of statistical methods

Text Box 1a: Test studies description

General comment: This text box fulfils Chapter II, section 1.2 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. This text box applies to the work plan and the annual report.
Not applicable

Text Box 1b: Other data collection activities

General comment: This text box applies to the work plan and the annual report. Use this text box to provide information on other data collection activities that relate to your EMFAF operational programme and need to be included in the work plan and the annual report. Describe activities that are funded by the DCF but fulfil objectives under other EMFAF priorities, like marine knowledge, or activities funded by the DCF, but without a direct link to the EU MAP specific requirements or WP template tables, like freshwater fisheries. You can also include one-off specific studies for a particular end-user need that do not enter the regular data collection.
Regional Coordination taking place in ISSGs and pan regional cooperation between RCGs 1. Aim of the activities To develop and propose coordinated actions in dedicated thematic areas during the Intersessional year for the RCG ECON 2. Duration of the activity 2025 – 2027

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of the activity

Regional cooperation is meant to improve the efficiency of data collection through sharing of expertise, data, best practices, knowledge and collaborative tasks. The RCGs bring together several Member States to coordinate planning and implementation of data collection. Their workplan across the year, from one round of the annual technical meetings to the next, is supported with the setup of the Intersessional Subgroups.

In these subgroups the experts concentrate on specific Thematic Focus Areas, and sometimes they are pan-regional. During the relevant RCG's technical meetings, the different ISSGs present progress and hurdles encountered across the period and propose the update of their Terms of Reference with the tasks and targets for the new intersessional period for approval. The work performed by ISSG is the basis for regional coordination and essential for RCG technical meeting preparation and meeting discussions and Member States should make experts available in the different ISSG relevant to them and these experts should allocate a significant amount of time (on average 40 hours) for carrying the work during the intersessional year.

The ISSG may change over the years as task are completed and new needs are coming up. An updated list of the ISSG operating every year under the umbrella of the RCG ECON can be found here: https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/rcg-econ/

The intersessional work for social and economic data collection will be decided during the RCG ECON TM.

Pan-regional ISSGs:

- ✓ISSG End-user and RCG interaction
- ✓ISSG RDB catch, effort and sampling overviews
- ✓ISSG Metier and transversal variable issues
- ✓ISSG Evaluation of the data collected for the Small-Scale Fisheries at EU level
- ✓ISSG Development of Draft Regional Work Plan
- ✓ISSG National Correspondents

SECTION 3: FISHING ACTIVITY DATA

Text Box 3.1: Fishing activity variables data collection strategy

General comment: This text box fulfils Article 5 (2)(c), Article 6 (3)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 and Chapter II point 3.1 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. It is intended to describe the method used to derive estimates on representative samples where data are not to be recorded under the Control Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 or where data collected under Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 are not at the right aggregation level for the intended scientific use. Text Box 3.1 should be filled only in case complementary data collection is planned
Not applicable

Text Box 3.2: Fishing activity variables data collection strategy (for inland eel commercial fisheries)

General comment: This text box fulfils Article 5(2)(c), Article 6(3)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 and Chapter II point 3.2 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. It is intended to describe the methods and data sources used to estimate fishing capacity, effort and landings data.
Not applicable

SECTION 5: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA IN FISHERIES

Text Box 5.2: Economic and social variables for fisheries data collection

General comment: This Text box fulfils Article 5(2)(d), Article 6(3)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, and Chapter II point 5 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Tables 7, 8 and 9 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.

Definitions for the economic variables to be collected under Table 7 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition
INCOME	Gross value of landings	Value of landings sold during the year
INCOME	Income from leasing out quota or other fishing rights	Totals invoiced during the reference period for leasing out quota or other fishing rights assigned to the related vessel and supplied to third parties
INCOME	Operating subsidies	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers. (ESA D.3). Refers to direct payments/transfers related to the vessel activity, except for: - Fuel tax refunds - Subsidies for permanent cessation of fishing activities - Investment subsidies (fleet modernization) - COVID subsidies, directly paid to persons
INCOME	Subsidies on investments	Direct payments which general governments or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets related to the vessel.
INCOME	Other income	Totals invoiced during the reference period, corresponding to vessel activities other than fishing supplied to third parties. Insurance payment for damage/loss of gear/vessel should be included

OPERATING COSTS	Personnel costs	Total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home- workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions. People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly related to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.
OPERATING COSTS	Value of unpaid labour	Imputed value of unpaid labour. Unpaid labour = Work that produces goods or services but is unremunerated (OECD Glossary of statistical terms). People working only on shore should be included only if their work is directly related to fishing activity.
OPERATING COSTS	Energy costs	Purchases of all energy products during the reference period should be included in this variable only if they are purchased to be used as fuel. Energy products purchased as a raw material or for resale without transformation should be excluded. Energy costs should be supplied as net costs, i.e. reduced by tax refunds
OPERATING COSTS	Repair and maintenance costs	The regular maintenance and repair of fixed assets used in production (items not treated as gross capital formation). Should refer only to vessel including equipment
OPERATING COSTS	Other variable costs	All purchased inputs (goods and services) related to fishing effort and/or catch/landings excluding energy costs, personnel costs, repair and maintenance costs.
OPERATING COSTS	Other non-variable costs	Includes purchased inputs not related to the level of effort and/or catch/landings (including leased equipment).

OPERATING COSTS	Lease/rental payments for quotas or other fishing rights	Total purchases of "Lease/rental payments for quota or other fishing rights"
CAPITAL COSTS	Consumption of fixed capital	Decline in value of vessel and equipment, as result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence.
INVESTMENTS	Investments in tangible assets	Gross investment in vessel and onboard equipment minus sales of (vessel and) onboard equipment.
FINANCIAL POSITION	Total assets	"Balance sheet total", fixed assets and financial assets. It is essential that the two item of the ratio (debts and total asset) should be consistent. For example, if debts refer only to physical capital, the denominator (total asset) should refer to the physical capital (i.e. Value of physical capital) as well. If debts comes from balance sheets and refer to the overall fishing activity, the total assets should be derived from balance sheets as well..
FINANCIAL POSITION	Value of physical capital	Depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year.
FINANCIAL POSITION	Value of quotas and other fishing rights	The current value of the right to exploit fishing grounds over more than one year. To be collected only when fishing rights are tradable and thus data on the value of fishing rights are available.
FINANCIAL POSITION	Gross debt	Amount of money borrowed to be used to finance ongoing vessel activities including value of quota and other fishing rights. Excludes finance obtained for land-based business activities.
EMPLOYMENT	Paid labour	Total number of persons who have received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind: - people working onboard the vessel, irrespective of the total number of hours. - people working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly relate to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not

		entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.
EMPLOYMENT	Unpaid labour	Number of engaged crew that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind. People working only onshore, not receiving any kind of compensation, should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations.
EMPLOYMENT	FTE National	The number of crew converted into full time equivalent jobs (FTE). People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly related to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.
EMPLOYMENT	Total hours worked per year (optional)	The aggregate number of hours worked by the engaged crew during the reference period. People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly relate to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.
FLEET	Number of vessels	Number of vessels in the EU Fishing Fleet Register on December 31st plus the number of vessels, which have been involved in any fishing activity during the year and have left the Fleet Register prior to year-end.
FLEET	Mean LOA of vessels	Average vessel length overall
FLEET	Total vessel tonnage	Sum of the tonnage of the vessels

FLEET	Total vessel power	Sum of the power of the main engines of the vessels
FLEET	Mean age of vessels	Average vessel age
EFFORT	Days at sea	Any continuous period of 24 hours (or part thereof) during which a vessel is present within a defined fishing area and absent from port. (as in the Commission Del. Dec.)
EFFORT	Energy consumption	Volume of vessel fuel consumed in litres
NUMBER OF FISHING ENTERPRISES /UNITS	Number of fishing enterprises/units	Number of fishing enterprises/units in ownership of the respective number of vessels. This refers to the fleet as a whole, not to fleet segments. By size category: - 1 owned vessel - 2-5 owned vessels - > 5 owned vessels Number of enterprises shall be collected on the level of the total fleet not by fleet segment.

Definitions for the social variables to be collected under Table 9 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.

Variable	Definition
Employment by gender	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables by gender
Unpaid labour by gender	Unpaid labour, as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables by gender
Employment by age	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables in the various age classes: <=14; 15-24; 25-39; 40-54; 55-64; >=65; Unknown
Employment by level of education	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables in the various education levels: - Low for education levels 0-2 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997);

	- Medium for education levels 3-4 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997); - High for education levels 5-8 (ISCED2011), levels 5-6 (ISCED1997); - "Unknown"
Employment by nationality	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet and aquaculture and processing sector economic variables in the various nationality categories: National; EU; EEA; Non-EU/EEA; "Unknown".
Employment by employment status	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet and aquaculture sector economic variables in the various employment status categories: - Owner (vessel owner involved in vessel activity/operation); - Employee (all engaged workers on- board, excluding owners). - Unknown.

The definition of the variable "Full-time equivalent (FTE) by gender" is left out of the table awaiting further discussion and agreement in RCG Econ.

Complete version of Guidance, including methodology, are available on the Data collection web page https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guidelines/socio-economic-variables.

SECTION 6: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA IN AQUACULTURE

Text Box 6.1: Economic and social variables for aquaculture data collection

General comment: This text box fulfils Article 5(2)(e), Article 6(3)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, and Chapter II point 6 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. It is intended to specify data to be collected under Tables 10 and 11 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex..

Definitions for the economic variables to be collected under Table 10 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex

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VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition
INCOME	Gross sales per species	Value of output from aquaculture (both juveniles and fish for consumption) sold during the year = DCF Turnover
INCOME	Operating subsidies	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers. Excluding investment subsidies and (e.g. COVID) subsidies, directly paid to persons = DCF Subsidies.
INCOME	Subsidies on investments	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets.
INCOME	Other income	Other operating income included in company accounts which are excluded from turnover; income coming from other activities than aquaculture, e.g. the licensing of pond for recreational fishery purposes. Other income, not shown under other headings. Exclude extraordinary and financial incomes. = DCF Other income

OPERATING COSTS	Personnel costs	Personnel costs are defined as the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home-workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions. = DCF Wages and Salaries
OPERATING COSTS	Value of unpaid labour	Unpaid labour = Work that produces goods or services but is unremunerated. = DCF Imputed value of unpaid labour
OPERATING COSTS	Energy costs	Purchases of all energy products during the reference period should be included in this variable only if they are purchased to be used as fuel. Energy products purchased as a raw material or for resale without transformation should be excluded
OPERATING COSTS	Livestock costs	Costs of livestock during the year.
OPERATING COSTS	Feed costs	Costs of feed used for aquaculture production during the year.
OPERATING COSTS	Repair and maintenance	The regular maintenance and repair of fixed assets used in production (items not treated as gross capital formation)
OPERATING COSTS	Other operating costs	Other operating costs should comprise outsourcing costs, property or equipment rental charges, the cost of raw materials and supplies that cannot be held in the inventory and have not been already specified (i.e. water, small items of equipment, administrative supplies,

		etc.), insurance premiums, studies and research costs, external personnel charges, fees payable to intermediaries and professional expenses, advertising costs, transportation charges, travel expenses, the costs of meetings and receptions, postal charges, bank charges (but not interest on bank loans) and other items of expenditure. On the Structural Business Statistics is included inside 13 11 0 "Total purchases of goods and services".
CAPITAL COSTS	Consumption of fixed capital	Decline in value of fixed assets, as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence. The estimate of decline in value includes a provision for losses of fixed assets as a result of accidental damage which can be insured against. = DCF Depreciation of capital
INVESTMENTS	Investments in tangible assets	Net Investments "Purchase and sale of assets during the year" Gross investment in tangible and intangible goods minus sales of tangible and intangible investment goods.
FINANCIAL RESULTS	Financial income	Income from investments and loans forming part of the fixed assets, and other interest receivable. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income
FINANCIAL RESULTS	Financial expenditures	Interest payable and similar charges. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income
FINANCIAL POSITION	Total assets	An economic asset is a store of value representing the benefits accruing to the economic owner by holding or using the entity over a period of time. It is a means of carrying forward value from one accounting period

		to another. = DCF Total value of assets
FINANCIAL POSITION	Gross Debt	Amount of money borrowed to be used to finance activities of the aquaculture enterprise.
RAW MATERIAL WEIGHT	Livestock used	Weight of purchased livestock that is meant for production, includes purchase of breeding stocks. Livestock refers to all fish and aquatic species kept or reared in captivity mainly for aqua cultural purposes. = DCF Raw material volume: Livestock
RAW MATERIAL WEIGHT	Fish Feed used	Quantities of feed used for fish and other aquatic species for aquaculture production. = DCF Raw material volume: Feed
WEIGHT OF SALES	Weight of sales per species	Volume of output from aquaculture sold during the year, including production from hatcheries and nurseries offered for sale = DCF Total sales volume
EMPLOYMENT	Paid labour	Total number of persons who have worked in the enterprise, irrespective of the total number of hours. Total employees = Persons employed + unpaid labour
EMPLOYMENT	Unpaid labour	Number of persons who have worked for the enterprise that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind. Total employees = Persons employed + unpaid labour
EMPLOYMENT	Full-time equivalent (FTE)	Unit expressing the number of employees into full-time workers (usually defined in the national law) (definti Fleet) Total FTE = Persons employed (FTE) + unpaid labour (FTE)

EMPLOYMENT	Unpaid labour (FTE)	Number of persons who have worked for the enterprise that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.
EMPLOYMENT	Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid workers (optional)	The aggregate number of hours worked (by total employees) during the reference period.
NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES	Number of enterprises (by size category)	Number of aquaculture enterprises in each size category (≤5; 6-10 and >10 in terms of number of persons employed).

Definitions for the social variables to be collected under Table 9 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.

Variable	Definition
Employment by gender	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables by gender
Unpaid labour by gender	Unpaid labour, as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables by gender
Employment by age	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables in the various age classes: <=14; 15-24; 25-39; 40-54; 55-64; >=65; Unknown
Employment by level of education	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sector economic variables in the various education levels: - Low for education levels 0-2 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997); - Medium for education levels 3-4 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997);

	- High for education levels 5-8 (ISCED2011), levels 5-6 (ISCED1997); - "Unknown"
Employment by nationality	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet and aquaculture and processing sector economic variables in the various nationality categories: National; EU; EEA; Non-EU/EEA; "Unknown".
Employment by employment status	Total employment (paid labour and unpaid labour) as defined for the fleet and aquaculture sector economic variables in the various employment status categories: - Owner (vessel owner involved in vessel activity/operation); - Employee (all engaged workers on- board, excluding owners). - Unknown.

Complete version of Guidance, including methodology, are available on the Data collection web page https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guidelines/socio-economic-variables

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA IN FISH PROCESSING

Text Box 7.1: Economic and social variables for fish processing data collection

General comment: This text box fulfils Article 5(2)(f), Article 6(3)(a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, and Chapter II point 7 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.. MS should provide justification for complementary data collection for fish processing.

Definitions for the economic variables are available in Table 7.1 of the Annex Guidelines tables.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition
INCOME	Turnover	Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. Turnover includes all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit with the exception of the VAT invoiced by the unit vis-à-vis its customer and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover. It also includes all other charges (transport, packaging, etc.) passed on to the customer, even if these charges are listed separately in the invoice. Reduction in prices, rebates and discounts as well as the value of returned packing must be deducted. For the segments with "main" fish processing activities, "Turnover" variable, should include only Turnover related to the principal fish processing activity. = DCF Turnover
INCOME	Other income	Other operating income included in company accounts, which are excluded from turnover; income coming from other activities than fish processing. Other income, not shown under other headings. Exclude extraordinary and financial incomes. Under "Other income" all the other revenues from other activities apart from fish processing should be provided. = DCF Other income

LABOUR COSTS	Personnel costs	Total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home-workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions. = DCF Wages and salaries
LABOUR COSTS	Value of unpaid labour	= DCF Imputed value of unpaid labour
LABOUR COSTS	Payment for external agency workers (optional)	Included are payments to temporary employment agencies and similar organisations supplying workers to clients' businesses for limited periods of time to supplement or temporarily replace the working force of the client, where the individuals provided are employees of the temporary help service unit. However, these agencies and organisations do not provide direct supervision of their employees at the clients' work sites. Only the payments for the provision of personnel which is not linked to the provision of a particular industrial or other non- industrial service is included.
Energy costs	Energy costs	Purchases of all energy products during the reference period should be included in this variable only if they are purchased to be used as fuel. Energy products purchased as a raw material or for resale without transformation should be excluded. This figure should be given in value only.
Raw material costs	Purchase of fish and other raw material for production	Total purchases of fish and other raw material for production. Purchases of fish and other raw material for production include the value of fish and other raw material for production purchased during the accounting period for resale or consumption in the production process, excluding capital goods the consumption of which is registered as consumption of fixed capital. The fish and other raw material concerned may be either resold with or without further transformation, completely used up in the production process or, finally, be stocked.

Other operating costs	Other operational costs	Total purchases of goods and services minus Purchase of fish and other raw material for production. Purchases of goods and services include the value of all goods and services purchased during the accounting period for resale or consumption in the production process, excluding capital goods the consumption of which is registered as consumption of fixed capital. The goods and services concerned may be either resold with or without further transformation, completely used up in the production process or, finally, be stocked.
Subsidies	Operating subsidies	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers. Excluding investment subsidies.
Subsidies	Subsidies on investments	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets.
Capital costs	Consumption of fixed capital	Decline in value of fixed assets, as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence. The estimate of decline in value includes a provision for losses of fixed assets as a result of accidental damage which can be insured against. =DCF Depreciation of capital
FINANCIAL POSITIO N	Total assets	An economic asset is a store of value representing the benefits accruing to the economic owner by holding or using the entity over a period of time. It is a means of carrying forward value from one accounting period to another.
FINANCIAL POSITIO N	Debt	Amount of money borrowed to be used to finance activities of the processing enterprise.
Financial results	Financial income	Income from investments and loans forming part of the fixed assets, and other interest receivable. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income
Financial results	Financial expenditures	Interest payable and similar charges.Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income
Investments	Gross Investments	Gross investment in tangible and intangible goods minus sales of tangible and intangible investment goods.

Employment	Number of persons employed	Total number of persons who have worked in the enterprise, irrespective of the total number of hours.
Employment	Unpaid labour	Number of persons who have worked for the enterprise that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.
Employment	FTE National	The number of employees converted into full time equivalent jobs (FTE).
Employment	Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid workers	The aggregate number of hours worked during the reference period.
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises	Number of fish processing enterprises in each size category (<=10, 11-49, 50-249, >=250 in terms of number of persons employed).
Raw material (OPTIONAL)	Weight of raw material per species and origin (optional)	Weight and value of raw material by: • Species (3-letter FAO code) • Production environment Origin (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector) • Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU, non-EU)

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Frame population for the fish processing: all enterprises whose primary activity is defined according to European Classification of Economic Activities (NACE) codes 10.20, 'fish processing'.

Complete version of Guidance, including PGECON advice and Methodology, are stored in Data collection web page https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/guidelines/socio-economic-variables

ANNEX 1.2 - QUALITY REPORT FOR SOCIOECONOMIC DATA SAMPLING SCHEME

The quality report fulfils Article 6 (3) (d) of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1004. This document is intended to specify data to be collected under chapter II, points 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the Delegated Decision annex: Socioeconomic data on fisheries, aquaculture and any complementary data collection of fishing activity and fish processing. Use this document to describe quality aspects of the data collection process (design, sampling implementation, data capture, data storage and data processing etc.). The annex should be filled for each sampling scheme. Where applicable, use the handbook on sampling design (Deliverable 2.1 from MARE/2016/22 SECFISH study), available on the DCF website.

List of statistical methods

Sector name refers to socio economic data on fisheries, aquaculture and any complementary data collection of fishing activity and processing as given in the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.

Sampling scheme refers to survey technique: by census, by sampling, random or non-random, other (with explanation). sampling then outline sampling design.

Variables refer to Tables 7, 9 and 10 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. Supra region refers to Table 2 of the EU MAP Implementing Decision annex. If the sampling scheme is the same in all supra regions put 'All Supra regions'.

Sampling	Auxiliary data available	Sampling sceme	Sampling methods	Estimation methods
No	Yes	Census	No sampling	No estimation needed if census sample. If response rate lower than 70%, regression estimation, ratio estimation
No	No	Census	No sampling	No estimation needed if census sample. If response rate lower than 70%, Horvitz-Thompson estimator (HT)
Yes	Yes	Probability sample survey (PSS)	Stratified sampling (STR), systematic sampling (SYS), probability proportional to size (PPS), balanced sampling (BAL), Simple random sampling (SRS)	Regression estimation, ratio estimation, Horvitz-Thompson estimator (HT)
Yes	No	Probability sample survey (PSS)	Simple random sampling (SRS)	Horvitz-Thompson estimator (HT)
Yes	Yes	Non-probability sample survey (NPS)	Eg. using incomplete registry data, other non-probability samples	Only model based inference possible
Yes	No	Non-probability sample survey (NPS)	Eg. using incomplete registry data, other non-probability samples	Only model based inference possible

11 Annex IV: Roadmap for quality assurance framework and reporting for RCG ECON

October 2022

Rationale
Currently the reporting on quality and methodology for the data collection framework is very limited, incomparable between MS and hardly accessible for end users. The next version of the DCF will start from 2027 onwards. Before it would be good to have a revised and enhances quality assurance framework and quality reporting system up and running. This system of evaluation can only be incorporated in case the ms have clear guidelines on how to report on methods and quality. These guidelines are also lacking now.

Objective
The objective of this task is to:

- Develop a set of clear guidelines on methodology reporting and quality reporting for the MS
- Develop a set of evaluation criteria for National programmes and Annual reports on methodology reporting and quality reporting.

Because the current guidelines and reporting is rather fragmented, an iterative process with the MS is needed to come to these objectives.

Timetable
The timing is foreseen as follows:

2022: Setting up time table and roadmap for the RCG ECON process

2023 RCG ECON: Deciding on roadmap.

2023 ISSG (online): WS on current quality assurance framework and reporting and best practices:

Items that will be discussed (among others):

- Source of information and type of data quality reporting needed (e.g. eurostat data already have data quality reports.
- Evaluation of elements in current data quality reporting and identification of best practices. Comparing the QRs and summarising how MS organises the data collection process.
- Set up of initial quality criteria

2024 RCG ECON: Discuss outcomes of WS and agree on initial quality criteria and reporting guidelines

2025: Test by MS (through ad hoc contracts or ISSG work)

2025 RCG Econ: Discuss outcomes of the test and agree on final criteria for methodology reporting and data quality reporting.

Organisation
ISSG on quality reporting: potential involvement from Evelina, Jorg and Edvardas. Setup from Eurostat.

12 Annex V: Proposed changes in guidance documents

Grey: deleted
Red and green: added/adjusted

Fleet table

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
INCOME	Gross value of landings	Value of landings sold during the year	Control data (logbooks and sales notes) should be used where available and reliable; otherwise, sample surveys can be used.	1. Derived from administrative sources or other surveyed variables. The data source is the official national statistics on landings 2. Obtained directly from survey Control data (logbooks and sales notes) should be used where available and reliable; otherwise, sample surveys can be used.
INCOME	Income from leasing out quota or other fishing rights	Totals invoiced during the reference period for leasing out quota or other fishing rights assigned to the related vessel and supplied to third parties	Two methods can be used	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables In case the trade (lease) information in terms of fishing rights is available from official sources, this information together with the average lease price can be used to calculate the variable. The average lease price would be collected through the survey.
INCOME	Other income	Totals invoiced during the reference period, corresponding to vessel activities other than fishing supplied to third parties. Insurance payment for damage/loss of gear/vessel should be included	Extraordinary and financial income should be excluded.	1. Obtained directly from survey Extraordinary and financial income should be excluded.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
LABOUR COSTS	Personnel costs	Total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home-workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions. People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly related to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.	MS should take into account how crew share is defined in the fishery, in case crew share based calculations are used.	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables In several fisheries, crewmembers are remunerated through share systems rather than having a fixed salary. In this case, personnel costs can be calculated as a % of revenue, or as a % of revenues minus costs. To correctly apply this method, it is necessary to define, for each fleet segment: • what is the approach used to calculate the share: as percentage on total revenues or as percentage of revenues – costs • what are the costs actually included to calculate the share • what is the percentage that goes to the crew MS should take into account how crew share is defined in the fishery, in case crew share based calculations are used.
LABOUR COSTS	Value of unpaid labour	Number of engaged crew that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind. People working only onshore, not receiving any kind of compensation, should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations.	The estimation of the imputed value of unpaid labour was discussed during the WS on calculating capital value using PIM and definition of DCF variables (Napoli, 13 -17 June 2011). Taking into account difficulties encountered by MS in estimating this variable (recognized by SGECA 10-03	1. Derived from other surveyed variables 2. FTE method (based on WS Naples, 2011), that includes the following steps: • estimation of paid and unpaid FTE; • definition of an average remuneration per paid FTE (e.g. average wage by fleet segment/company, national average wage, minimum national wage, etc…); • calculation of imputed value of unpaid labour = unpaid FTE * (average remuneration per paid FTE).

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
			and STECF EWG 11-03), a specific ToR was added to clarify definitions and best practices for MS. The group agreed that the variable "imputed value of unpaid labour" should include the labour costs of all persons delivering unpaid labour. On the basis of the results of this workshop and comparing different experiences by MS (as reported in NPs and ARs), it was suggested that the Value of unpaid labour can be estimated using the FTE method (method no.2)	
ENERGY COSTS	Energy costs	Purchases of all energy products during the reference period should be included in this variable only if they are purchased to be used as fuel. Energy products purchased as a raw material or for resale without transformation should be excluded. Energy costs should be supplied as net costs, i.e. reduced by tax refunds	Note: as in the DCF, excluding lubrication oil.	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Fuel cost could be calculated by multiplying the fuel consumption by the average fuel price, if fuel consumption is available Energy costs should exclude lubrication oil.
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE COSTS	Repair and maintenance costs	The regular maintenance and repair of fixed assets used in production (items not treated as gross capital formation).		1. Obtained directly from survey

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
		Should refer only to vessel incl. equipment		
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	Other variable costs	All purchased inputs (goods and services) related to fishing effort and/or catch/landings excluding energy costs, personnel costs, repair and maintenance costs.	Change variable name to "Other variable costs" to distinguish from other discriminated variable costs, such as energy, repair and maintenance, personnel costs, etc.	1. Obtained directly from survey
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	Other non- variable costs	Includes purchased inputs not related to the level of effort and/or catch/landings (including leased equipment).	Change variable name to "Other non-variable costs" to distinguish from other discriminated fixed costs	1. Obtained directly from survey
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	Lease/rental payments for quota or other fishing rights	Total purchases of "Lease/rental payments for quota or other fishing rights"		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables In case the trade (lease) information in terms of fishing rights is available from official sources, this information together with the average lease price can be used to calculate the variable. The average lease price would be collected through the survey.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
SUBSIDIES	Operating subsidies	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers. (ESA D.3). Refers to direct payments/transfers related to the vessel activity, except for: - Fuel tax refunds - Subsidies for permanent cessation of fishing activities - Investment subsidies (fleet modernization) - COVID subsidies, directly paid to persons	Administrative sources, if available, tend to be more precise and therefore are preferable. Corresponds to the homologous DCF variable Direct subsidies. It has to include the COVID subsidies as all payments for economic shocks	1. Obtained from administrative sources (e.g. paying Agency, Local authority). 2. Obtained directly from survey The compilation of data on subsidies is based on official lists provided by national and regional administrations. These lists should be further elaborated to consider only payments that can be classified as operating subsidies (see definition). Each payment should be associated to one vessel. This link allows to report operating subsidies in fleet segments.
SUBSIDIES	Subsidies on investments	Direct payments which general governments or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets related to the vessel.	Administrative sources, if available, are more precise and therefore are preferable. Investment subsidies refer to permanent cessation or to fleet modernization. They should not be included in income (PGECON 2013). In case of subsidies for permanent cessation of fishing activities of those vessels which have become inactive during the year, it has to be decided if they can be classified in the segment of inactive vessel.	1. Obtained from administrative sources (e.g. paying Agency, Local authority). 2. Obtained directly from survey The compilation of data on subsidies is based on official lists provided by national and regional administrations. These lists should be further elaborated to consider only payments that can be classified as operating subsidies (see definition). Each payment should be associated to one vessel. Investment subsidies refer to permanent cessation or to fleet modernization. They should not be included in income (PGECON 2013). In case of subsidies for permanent cessation of fishing activities of those vessels which have become inactive during the year, it has to be decided if they can be classified in the segment of inactive vessel.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
CAPITAL COSTS	Consumption of fixed capital	Decline in value of vessel and equipment, as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence. = DCF Annual depreciation	Consumption of fixed capital (=Depreciation) represents the reduction in the value of the fixed assets used in production during the accounting period resulting from physical deterioration, normal obsolescence or normal accidental damage (EC study No. FISH/2005/03). Corresponds to the homologous DCF variable Annual depreciation	The methodological framework for the estimation of consumption of fixed capital should be coherent with the one applied for the estimation on the value of physical capital. 1. Application of the perpetual inventory method (PIM, cross reference: https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055). The key parameters to be considered in order to estimate the consumption of fixed capital within the PIM methodological framework are: the asset service life (that determine the economic depreciation rates), the retirement distribution and the depreciation function. The depreciation functions that can be applied in a PIM are: arithmetic (straight-line method) or geometric (degressive method). 2. Alternative methods based on company surveys. These alternative methods may be used if the derived estimates reflect the actual definition of net capital stock (depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year). In case the PIM is not used, MS should explain and justify the application of alternative methods in the WP and in the AR.
CAPITAL VALUE	Value of physical capital	Depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year.		1 Application of the perpetual inventory method (PIM, cross reference: https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055) 2. Alternative methods based on company surveys. These alternative methods may be used if the derived estimates reflect the actual definition of net capital stock (depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year). In case the PIM is not used, MS should explain and justify the application of alternative methods in the WP and in the AR.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
CAPITAL VALUE	Value of quota and other fishing rights	The current value of the right to exploit fishing grounds over more than one year. To be collected only when fishing rights are tradable and thus data on the value of fishing rights are available.	PGECON 2020 concluded that optimally the value of intangibles should include the value of all fishing rights, but that in the current situation this is not possible as valuation of all rights needs additional data collection and methodological development to be carried out. Therefore, PGECON recommends a transition period in which MS explore the possibilities to apply the guidelines in their situation. During this transition period the obligation to gather information on the value of intangible assets should only include the transferable fishing rights. PGECON also recommends that in the meantime possibilities are sought to facilitate the sharing of experiences with the application of the guidelines in the various MS and the further development of the methodology	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Tradable intangibles should be valued at current market price (or a multi-year average), independently of the question whether they have or have not been acquired or whether they are or are not linked to specific tangible (e.g. vessel).

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
INVESTMENTS	Investments in tangible assets	Gross investment in vessel and onboard equipment minus sales of (vessel and) onboard equipment.	PGECON suggests to use variables directly from survey. In case PIM method is used investment should be estimated from PIM method in order to ensure consistency with other variables and adjustments should be made to include the sales of the investments (as this is not included in the current PIM). Gross investments in tangible assets = Purchases minus sales Net should be removed from the variable name to avoid confusion with financial accounting net investments, which refers to investments minus depreciation. Investments here should not include depreciation PGECON to revise the guidelines (definition and methodology) based on the outcomes of the 2019_WS_Capital. Changes to be discussed and approved by the 2020 PGECON	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Estimated from PIM method (it is not clear if this is being used by any MS; if used, MS should specify in 'comments') 3. Obtained from administrative sources PGECON suggests to use variables directly from survey. In case PIM method is used adjustments should be made to include the sales of the investments (as this is not included in the current PIM). Investments in tangible assets = Purchases minus sales

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
FINANCIAL POSITION	Gross debt	Amount of money borrowed to be used to finance ongoing vessel activities including value of quota and other fishing rights. Excludes finance obtained for land-based business activities.	Variable name is ambiguous and should be changed to Gross debt.	1. Obtained directly from survey Balance sheets are considered the most reliable source of data for debts (MSs that derived the value of debts from questionnaires experienced a very poor quality of responses). When balance sheets are available, value of long/short debts have to be split by vessel, according to the capital value of each vessel estimated trough the PIM which is used to "weigh" the share on the total value. On the other hand, to estimate this variable when balance sheets are not available, the methodology is: 1. To estimate the financial position as the ratio total debt/total value of assets 2. To use the value of capital (deriving from the PIM) as aproxy for total value of assets (it is important to bear in mind thatthe PIM value refers only to physical capital). 3. To derive the value of long/short term debts (sum) multiplying the financial position ratio (estimated in 1) by the value of assets (estimated in 2).
FINANCIAL POSITION	Total assets	"Balance sheet total", fixed assets and financial assets. It is essential that the two item of the ratio (debts and total asset) should be consistent. For example, if debts refer only to physical capital, the denominator (total asset) should refer to the physical capital as well. If debts comes from balance sheets and refer to the overall fishing activity, the total assets should be derived from balance sheets as well.		1. Obtained directly from survey Balance sheets are considered the most reliable source of data for total assets (MSs that derived the value of debts from questionnaires experienced a very poor quality of responses). To split the total (company) value of assets in case the company owns more than one vessel, the capital value of each vessel estimated trough the PIM could be used to "weight" the share on the total value. In case balance sheets are not available, estimation methodology of value of capital and value of debts have to be in line and derived from the PIM.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
EMPLOYMENT	Paid labour	Total number of persons who have worked onboard the vessel, irrespective of the total number of hours. People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly related to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.	Currently, includes unpaid labour as the term 'Engaged crew' implies. Propose to change variable to Paid Labour (and update definition to exclude unpaid labour) The total number of persons should be estimated as an annual average (consistent with the DCF). To be further discussed during PGECON 2020 meeting	1. Obtained directly from survey The total number of persons should be estimated as an annual average (consistent with the DCF).
EMPLOYMENT	Unpaid labour	Number of engaged crew that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
EMPLOYMENT	FTE National	The number of crew converted into full time equivalent jobs (FTE). People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly related to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.	From 2017 onwards, FTE falls under social variables (EUMAP). PGECON recommends to keep it as an economic variable in the fleet data call to guarantee annual data (as in DCF).	1. Derived from other surveyed variables FTE definition: unit expressing the number of employees into full-time workers (usually defined in the national law). Appendix VI of the current regulation refers, in note 17 and 18 to the study "Calculation of labour including full-time equivalent (FTE) in fisheries" (FISH/2005/14, 'LEI WAGENINGENUR Coordinator, 2006), financed by EU in order to harmonise the definition and the estimation of employment variables under the data collection system. According to that study, the estimation of the FTE should be done by using a threshold representing the total number of hours worked, on a standard and yearly basis, by a full-time worker in the fishery sector. The study was based on the estimation of the engaged crew and of the FTE at métier level in order to trace the reality of labour input in fishing as closely as possible. This approach was mainly because: - at the time of the study, there were discussions at the STECF, about the possibilities to collect, under the revised DCR, economic data at métiers level; - "different fisheries may be characterized by different labour intensities and consequently by different levels of labour productivity. This is an important aspect of economic analysis; using métiers in general improves the analytical understanding of the operation of the various fleets". The concept of metier has been not introduced in the collection of economic data but the general approach on the definition of FTE, in particular on the definition of the yearly threshold (time- based approach), has been largely applied under the DCF. According to the study, a person working more than the threshold (holding one or more jobs) is still counted as one FTE only. A person working less than the threshold represents a certain percentage of a FTE. FTE national should be calculated using a threshold defined according to the features of the fishery sector in each MS. If the annual working hours per crewmember exceed the reference level, the FTE equals 1 per crewmember.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
				- if annual working hours > national threshold, then FTE national =1 If not, the FTE equals the ratio between the hours worked and the reference level. - if annual working hours < national threshold, then FTE national = annual working hours/(national threshold). In segments where this assumption (the annual working hours per crewmember exceed the reference level (the FTE equals 1 per crewmember) is not valid and an additional adjustment of the calculation may be required, if it can be expected that the result will be significantly affected (Study No FISH/2005/14).
EMPLOYMENT	Total hours worked per year	The aggregate number of hours worked by the engaged crew during the reference period. People working only onshore and paid from vessels should be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. Employment on shore should include those activities, which directly related to small-scale fisheries and mostly carried out by fishers and their family members, but not entirely related to other economic sectors and specialties.	Note that for Engaged crew, hours worked includes paid and unpaid labour as well as onshore labour with a direct link with the fishing operations. If engaged crew is changed to paid labour, specification needs to be updated (hours worked by paid and unpaid labour)	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Calculated based on effort, number of vessels and average crew number.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
FLEET	Number of vessels	Number of vessels in the EU Fishing Fleet Register on December 31st plus the number of vessels, which have been involved in any fishing activity during the year and have left the Fleet Register prior to year-end.		1. Obtained from the Fleet register
FLEET	Mean LOA of vessels	Average vessel length overall		1. Obtained from the Fleet register
FLEET	Total vessel tonnage	Sum of the tonnage of the vessels		1. Obtained from the Fleet register
FLEET	Total vessel power	Sum of the power of the main engines of the vessels		1. Obtained from the Fleet register
FLEET	Mean age of vessels	Average vessel age		1. Obtained from the Fleet register
EFFORT	Days at sea	To be aligned with the definition of the respective transversal variable.	For the small-scale fleet vessels less than 10 meters, it could be assumed that 1 Day at Sea is equivalent to 1 Fishing Day as far as no other data contradicts this hypothesis. Nevertheless, this assumption has to be assessed regionally by fishery, as significant differences can occur between them.	1. Obtained from logbooks 2. Obtained directly from survey For the small-scale fleet vessels less than 10 meters, it could be assumed that 1 Day at Sea is equivalent to 1 Fishing Day as far as no other data contradicts this hypothesis. Nevertheless, this assumption has to be assessed regionally by fishery, as significant differences can occur between them.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
EFFORT	Energy consumption	Volume of vessel fuel consumed in litres	PGECON could not define preferred method as it depends on the national context.	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Obtained from administrative sources (e.g. in case tax exemptions are used in the country) 3. Derived from other surveyed variables Regression models could be used by some MS (regression models using 'engine power', 'days at sea' and 'coefficient of fuel consumption by engine power') No prefered method, depends on the national context.
NUMBER OF FISHING ENTERPRISES /UNITS	Number of fishing enterprises/units	Number of fishing enterprises/units in ownership of the respective number of vessels. This refers to the fleet as a whole, not to fleet segments. By size category: - 1 owned vessel - 2-5 owned vessels - > 5 owned vessels Number of enterprises shall be collected on the level of the total fleet not fleet segment.		1. Obtained from the Fleet register
PRODUCTION VALUE PER SPECIES	Value of landings per species	Value of landings per species	To be aligned with the definition of the respective transversal variable.	

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
PRODUCTION VALUE PER SPECIES	Average price per species	Gross value of landings per kilogram live weight	To be aligned with the definition of the respective transversal variables. This variable can be derived from the weight and value of landings (as in the DCF) and therefore, no need to be requested. NOTE: EU-MAP calls for the variable Live weight of landings per species to be provided in tonnes.	

Aquaculture

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
INCOME	Gross sales per species	Value of output from aquaculture sold during the year = DCF Turnover	MS should avoid duplication of data collection. What does this mean exactly? If "juveniles" (i.e., fish from hatcheries) are sold to another company they should be accounted. So, if the buying company then sales them at a later stage, the fish shall be counted twice.	1. Obtained directly from survey (from enterprise, or producer organisation). 2. Derived from other surveyed variables. Production data collected for EUROSTAT should be used. Calculated as weight of sales multiplied by unit price and summed to observation unit.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
INCOME	Other income	Other operating income included in company accounts which are excluded from turnover; income coming from other activities than aquaculture, e.g. the licensing of pond for recreational fishery purposes. Other income, not shown under other headings. Exclude extraordinary and financial incomes. = DCF Other income	More clarification needed on what Commission wants us to collect. Main activity companies/should we exclude other things than aquaculture	1. Obtained directly from survey "Other income" refers to other operating income included in company accounts which are excluded from turnover; income coming from other activities than aquaculture, e.g. the licensing of ponds for recreational fishery purposes Other income, not shown under other headings. Extraordinary and financial income should be excluded.
LABOUR COST	Personnel costs	Personnel costs are defined as the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home-workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions. = DCF Wages and Salaries		1. Obtained directly from survey

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
LABOUR COST	Value of unpaid labour	Unpaid labour = Work that produces goods or services but is unremunerated. = DCF Imputed value of unpaid labour	Still there is a broad range of options to determine the average wage. If the number of unpaid labour is collected, then the imputed wage per FTE would be sufficient to calculate the value of unpaid labour	1. Derived from other surveyed variables FTE method (WS, Naples, 2009), that includes the following steps: · estimation of paid and unpaid FTE; · definition of an average remuneration per paid FTE (e.g. average wage by fleet segment/company, national average wage, minimum national wage, etc…); · calculation of imputed value of unpaid labour = unpaid FTE * (average remuneration per paid FTE). If the number of unpaid labour is collected, then the imputed wage per FTE would be sufficient to calculate the value of unpaid labour
ENERGY COSTS	Energy costs	Purchases of all energy products during the reference period should be included in this variable only if they are purchased to be used as fuel. Energy products purchased as a raw material or for resale without transformation should be excluded	The livestock costs should correspond to the variable livestock volume. In the Structural Business Statistics it is included inside 13 11 0 "Total purchases of goods and services".	1. Obtained directly from survey
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE	Repair and maintenance	The regular maintenance and repair of fixed assets used in production (items not treated as gross capital formation)		1. Obtained directly from survey

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
OTHER OPERATING COSTS	Other operating costs	Other operating costs should comprise outsourcing costs, property or equipment rental charges, the cost of raw materials and supplies that cannot be held in the inventory and have not been already specified (i.e. water, small items of equipment, administrative supplies, etc.), insurance premiums, studies and research costs, external personnel charges, fees payable to intermediaries and professional expenses, advertising costs, transportation charges, travel expenses, the costs of meetings and receptions, postal charges, bank charges (but not interest on bank loans) and other items of expenditure. On the Structural Business Statistics is included inside 13 11 0 "Total purchases of goods and services".		1. Obtained directly from survey
RAW MATERIAL COSTS	Livestock costs	Costs of livestock during the year.		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Could be derived from number of stock and unit price of seed/juveniles, etc.

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VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
RAW MATERIAL COSTS	Feed costs	Costs of feed used for aquaculture production during the year.		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Could be derived from feed consumption per unit of production and feed price.
SUBSIDIES	Operating subsidies	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers. Excluding investment subsidies and (e.g. COVID) subsidies, directly paid to persons = DCF Subsidies.	Administrative sources, if available, are more precise and therefore are preferable. ~~Has to be included the COVID subsidies?~~ It has to include the COVID subsidies as all payments for economic shocks.	1. Obtained from administrative sources (e.g. paying Agency, Local authority, grants, etc.) 2. Obtained directly from survey The compilation of data on subsidies is based on the official lists provided by national and regional administrations. These lists should be further elaborate to consider only payments that can be classified as operating subsidies (see definition). Each payment has to be associated with aquaculture enterprise. This link allows to report operating subsidies aquaculture.
SUBSIDIES	Subsidies on investments New	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets.	Administrative sources, if available, are more precise and therefore are preferable.	1. Obtained from administrative sources (e.g. paying Agency, Local authority, grants, etc.) 2. Obtained directly from survey. Investment subsidies refer to modernization of existing and construction of new facilities (see more in definitions). The compilation of data on subsidies is based on the official lists provided by national and regional administrations. These lists should be further elaborate to consider only payments that can be classified as subsidies on investments (see definition). Each payment has to associated with aquaculture enterprise. This link allows to report operating subsidies by aquaculture segment.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
CAPITAL COSTS	Consumption of fixed capital	Decline in value of fixed assets, as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence. The estimate of decline in value includes a provision for losses of fixed assets as a result of accidental damage which can be insured against. = DCF Depreciation of capital	It is not clear which is the benefit of switching from "depreciation" to "consumption of fixed capital" - the concepts are somewhat different (see 3.141)	1. Obtained directly from survey Represents the reduction in the value of the fixed assets used in production during the accounting period resulting from physical deterioration, normal obsolescence or normal accidental damage (EC study No. FISH/2005/03).
FINANCIAL RESULTS	Financial income	Income from investments and loans forming part of the fixed assets, and other interest receivable. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income		1. Obtained directly from survey Should consider: · Income from participating interests, with a separate indication of that derived from affiliated undertakings. · Income from other investments and loans forming part of the fixed assets, with a separate indication of that derived from affiliated undertakings. Other interest receivable and similar income, with a separate indication of that derived from affiliated undertakings.
FINANCIAL RESULTS	Financial expenditures	Interest payable and similar charges. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income		1. Obtained directly from survey Considers the Interest payable and similar charges, with a separate indication of those concerning affiliated undertakings.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
INVESTMENTS	Investments in tangible assets	Net Investments "Purchase and sale of assets during the year" Gross investment in tangible and intangible goods minus sales of tangible and intangible investment goods.	Gross investments = Purchases minus sales Net should be removed from the variable name to avoid confusion with financial accounting net investments, which refers to investments minus depreciation. Investments here should not include depreciation Tangible goods defined in SBS 15 11 0 and intangible goods defined in SBS 15 42 0 and SBS 15 44 1, tangible investment goods defined in 15 210.	1. Obtained directly from survey "Purchase and sale of assets during the year" Investment during the reference period in all tangible goods. Included are new and existing tangible capital goods, whether bought from third parties, acquired under a financial lease contract (i.e. the right to use a durable good in exchange for rental payments over a predetermined and protracted term) or produced for own use (i.e. Capitalised production of tangible capital goods), having a useful life of more than one year including non- produced tangible goods such as land. The threshold for the useful life of a good that can be capitalised may be increased according to company accounting practices where these practices require a greater expected useful life than the 1 year threshold indicated above. All investments are valued prior to (i.e. gross of) value adjustments, and before the "deduction of income from disposals. Purchased goods are valued at purchase price, i.e. transport and installation charges, fees, taxes and other costs of ownership transfer are included. The value of goods acquired via financial lease corresponds to the market value of the good if it had been purchased in the year of acquisition only. This value is in principle known in the contract or can be estimated by summing-up the part of the instalments that cover the capital reimbursement. The part of instalments corresponding to the interest payments are to be excluded. Own produced tangible goods are valued at production cost. Goods acquired through restructuration (such as mergers, take-overs, break-ups, split-off) are excluded. Purchases of small tools which are not capitalised are included under current expenditure. Sales of tangible goods includes the value of existing tangible capital goods, sold to third parties. Sales of tangible capital goods are valued at the price actually received (excluding VAT), and not at book value, after deducting any costs of ownership transfer incurred by the seller. Value adjustments and disposals other than by sale are excluded"

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
FINANCIAL POSITION	Gross Debt	Amount of money borrowed to be used to finance activities of the aquaculture enterprise.		Obtained directly from survey
FINANCIAL POSITION	Total assets	An economic asset is a store of value representing the benefits accruing to the economic owner by holding or using the entity over a period of time. It is a means of carrying forward value from one accounting period to another. = DCF Total value of assets		Obtained directly from survey
RAW MATERIAL WEIGHT	Livestock used	Weight of purchased livestock that is meant for production, includes purchase of breeding stocks. Livestock refers to all fish and aquatic species kept or reared in captivity mainly for aqua cultural purposes. = DCF Raw material volume: Livestock	Unclear whether this variable should include only the livestock purchased during the year. Suggestion to amend variable name to: Livestock purchased	1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Could be derived from total production weight/numbers and estimates of mortalities.
RAW MATERIAL WEIGHT	Fish Feed used	Quantities of feed used for fish and other aquatic species for aquaculture production. = DCF Raw material volume: Feed		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Could be derived from technical guides and total livestock number.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
RAW MATERIAL WEIGHT	Weight of sales per species	Volume of output from aquaculture sold during the year, including production from hatcheries and nurseries offered for sale = DCF Total sales volume		
EMPLOYMENT	Paid labour	Total number of persons who have worked in the enterprise, irrespective of the total number of hours. Total employees = Persons employed + unpaid labour	Propose to rename to Paid persons employed or Paid labour (as in Fleet)	1. Obtained directly from survey
EMPLOYMENT	Unpaid labour (Number)	Number of persons who have worked for the enterprise that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind. Total employees = Persons employed + unpaid labour		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	Methodology
EMPLOYMENT	Persons employed (FTE)	Unit expressing the number of employees into full-time workers (usually defined in the national law) (definti Fleet) Total FTE = Persons employed (FTE) + unpaid labour (FTE)		1. Derived from other surveyed variables FTE national should be calculated using a threshold defined according to the features of the sector in each MSs (i.e., FTE national) If the annual working hours per employee exceed the reference level, the FTE equals 1 per employee. • if annual working hours>national threshold, then FTE national =1 If not, the FTE equals the ratio between the hours worked and the reference level. • if annual working hours<national threshold, then FTE national = annual working hours / national threshold
EMPLOYMENT	Unpaid labour (FTE)	Number of persons who have worked for the enterprise that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables FTE = Persons employed (FTE) + unpaid labour (FTE)
EMPLOYMENT	Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid workers New	The aggregate number of hours worked (by total employees) during the reference period.		1. Obtained directly from survey 2. Derived from other surveyed variables Could be estimated from days/weeks/months worked, or other variables
NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES	Number of enterprises (by size category)	Number of aquaculture enterprises in each size category (≤5; 6-10 and >10 in terms of number of persons employed).	Variables should be renamed: "Number of enterprises by size category" Suggested categories: ≤5; 6-10 and >10 FTE	1. Obtained directly from Business Register or 2. Derived from other Administrative sources (license list if exists)

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Processing sector

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
INCOME	Turnover	Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by the observation unit during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. Turnover includes all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced by the unit with the exception of the VAT invoiced by the unit vis-à-vis its customer and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover. It also includes all other charges (transport, packaging, etc.) passed on to the customer, even if these charges are listed separately in the invoice. Reduction in prices, rebates and discounts as well as the value of returned packing must be deducted. For the segments with "main" fish processing	Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population Not clear if this is the procedure for all MS (i.e., to use SBS data +complementary survey)	Turnover for main and non-main activity enterprises should be transmitted separately. Turnover from activities other than fish processing should be allocated to "other income"	For the segments with "main" fish processing activities, "Turnover" variable, should include only Turnover related to the principal fish processing activity. For the part of population covered by SBS 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. For the part of population not covered by SBS 2. directly obtained from DCF survey; 3. obtained directly from administrative sources Turnover for main and non-main activity enterprises should be transmitted separately. Turnover from activities other than fish processing should be allocated to "other income" Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
		activities, "Turnover" variable, should include only Turnover related to the principal fish processing activity. = DCF Turnover			
INCOME	Other income	Other operating income included in company accounts, which are excluded from turnover; income coming from other activities than fish processing. Other income, not shown under other headings. Exclude extraordinary and financial incomes. Under "Other income" all the other revenues from other activities apart from fish processing should be provided. = DCF Other income	Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population		Under "Other income" all the other revenues from other activities apart from fish processing should be provided. For the part of population covered by SBS 1. derived from other SBS variables. Turnover in SBS includes turnover from principal activity, other incomes and subsidies. Therefore, other income should be calculated as following: Other income = Turnover – turnover from principal activity – subsidies. Other income also includes financial income, which is a separate variable in DCF. Therefore, a method for disseminating other income from financial income should be defined. 2. Directly obtained from additional DCF survey. For the part of population not covered by SBS 3. directly obtained from DCF survey Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
LABOUR COSTS	Personnel costs	Total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home- workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by the unit as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions. = DCF Wages and salaries	Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population.		For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. For the part of population not covered by SBS: 2. directly obtained from DCF survey Derived from other surveyed variables (e.g. costs structure). Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population.
LABOUR COSTS	Value of unpaid labor	= DCF Imputed value of unpaid labour	Still there is a broad range of options to determine the average wage. If the number of unpaid labour is collected, then the imputed wage per FTE would be sufficient to calculate the value of unpaid labour		For the part of population covered by SBS the unpaid labour costs are equal to 0 as it is legally binding to employ all persons working in the bigger enterprises. For the part of the population not covered by SBS: 1. derived from other surveyed variables. FTE method (WS, Naples, 2009), includes the following steps: · estimation of paid and unpaid FTE; · definition of an average remuneration per paid FTE (e.g. average wage by company, national average wage, minimum national wage, etc…);

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
					· calculation of imputed value of unpaid labour =: unpaid FTE * (average remuneration per paid FTE). · Other methods based on number of enterprises? If the number of unpaid labour is collected, then the imputed wage per FTE would be sufficient to calculate the value of unpaid labour
LABOUR COSTS	Payment for external agency workers (optional)	Included are payments to temporary employment agencies and similar organisations supplying workers to clients' businesses for limited periods of time to supplement or temporarily replace the working force of the client, where the individuals provided are employees of the temporary help service unit. However, these agencies and organisations do not provide direct supervision of their employees at the clients' work sites. Only the payments for the provision of personnel			For the part of population covered by SBS directly obtained from SBS survey (optional). For the part of population not covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from DCF survey, 2. derived from other surveyed variables.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
		which is not linked to the provision of a particular industrial or other non- industrial service is included.			
Energy costs	Energy costs	Purchases of all energy products during the reference period should be included in this variable only if they are purchased to be used as fuel. Energy products purchased as a raw material or for resale without transformation should be excluded. This figure should be given in value only.			For the part of population covered by SBS, directly obtained from SBS survey (optional). For the part of population not covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from DCF survey, 2. derived from other surveyed variables.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Raw material costs	Purchase of fish and other raw material for production	Total purchases of fish and other raw material for production. Purchases of fish and other raw material for production include the value of fish and other raw material for production purchased during the accounting period for resale or consumption in the production process, excluding capital goods the consumption of which is registered as consumption of fixed capital. The fish and other raw material concerned may be either resold with or without further transformation, completely used up in the production process or, finally, be stocked.	SBS data should be preferred, but in case dissemination methods are not possible, data from surveys should be used for all processing enterprises. Should be re-named "other operating costs" • Eurostat data do not cover the raw material used by the fish processing companies, which is a key to understand the linkages with the wild-capture fisheries, aquaculture and external trade.		For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. However, these costs in SBS are combined under "Total purchases of goods and services", including financial and extraordinary costs. Therefore, a dissemination method should be applied for calculating raw material and other operating costs: (Raw material + Other operational costs) = Total purchases of goods and services – Financial costs – extraordinary costs; Because all of these Variables are also included in DCF, dissemination is very problematic. 2. directly obtained from additional DCF survey For the part of population not covered by SBS: 3. directly obtained from DCF survey, 4. derived from other surveyed variables. Total purchases of goods and services minus Purchase of fish and other raw material for production. Purchases of goods and services include the value of all goods and services purchased during the accounting period for resale or consumption in the production process, excluding capital goods the consumption of which is registered as consumption of fixed capital. The goods and services concerned may be either resold with or without further transformation, completely used up in the production process or, finally, be stocked.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Other operating ~~costs~~	Other operational costs	Total purchases of goods and services minus Purchase of fish and other raw material for production. Purchases of goods and services include the value of all goods and services purchased during the accounting period for resale or consumption in the production process, excluding capital goods the consumption of which is registered as consumption of fixed capital. The goods and services concerned may be either resold with or without further transformation, completely used up in the production process or, finally, be stocked.			

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Subsidies	Operating subsidies	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers. Excluding investment subsidies and (e.g. COVID) subsidies, directly paid to persons	Subsidies could be derived from SBS by disseminating Turnover, however because of a complex structure of SBS turnover, data from national and regional administrations for the whole processing sector, should be used, in preference to direct survey. This in turn will help to derive turnover and other income more precisely. ~~Has to be included the COVID subsidies?~~ It has to include the COVID subsidies as all payments for economic shocks.	Consider changes suggested for aquaculture for COVID subsidies Text suggested for the Methodology: Subsidies can be obtainedfrom: 1. national official statistics; 2. directly obtained from DCF survey, 3. obtained directly from administrative sources 4. indirect estimation Data from national and regional administrations for the whole processing sector, should be used, in preference to direct survey. This in turn will help to derive total income more precisely.	For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. However, data is aggregated under Turnover, complete with turnover from principal activities, other income, and financial income. Therefore, it should be disseminated. 2. directly obtained from additional DCF survey ; 3. obtained directly from administrative sources For the part of population not covered by SBS: 4. directly obtained from DCF survey, 5. derived from other surveyed variables. 6. obtained directly from administrative sources Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets. Consider changes suggested for aquaculture for COVID subsidies Subsidies can be obtainedfrom: 1. national official statistics; 2. directly obtained from DCF survey, 3. obtained directly from administrative sources 4. indirect estimation Data from national and regional administrations for the whole processing sector, should be used, in preference to direct

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
					survey. This in turn will help to derive total income more precisely.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Subsidies	Subsidies on investments	Direct payments which general government or the institutions of the European Union make to resident producers to finance all or part of the costs of their acquiring assets.			
Capital costs	Consumption of fixed capital	Decline in value of fixed assets, as a result of normal wear and tear and obsolescence. The estimate of decline in value includes a provision for losses of fixed assets as a result of accidental damage which can be insured against. =DCF Depreciation of capital	NOT COVERED BY EUROSTAT		There is no data on capital costs or capital value in SBS. For all processing enterprises capital cost and capital value could be obtained: 1. directly obtained from DCF survey; 2. derived from other surveyed variables or from PIM calculations. 3. By calculating capital value and capital costs by PIM.
FINANCIAL POSITION	Total assetes	An economic asset is a store of value representing the benefits accruing to the economic owner by holding or using the entity over a period of time. It is a means of carrying forward value from one accounting period to another.	NOT COVERED BY EUROSTAT		

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
FINANCIAL POSITION	Debt	Amount of money borrowed to be used to finance activities of the processing enterprise.	No data coverage in SBS		For all processing sector enterprises Debt could be: 1. directly obtained from additional DCF survey. derived from other surveyed variables.
Financial results	Financial income	Income from investments and loans forming part of the fixed assets, and other interest receivable. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income	Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population.		For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. however financial income is combined under Turnover. Therefore to get data on financial income, a method of dissemination should be used: Turnover – Turnover from main activity – subsidies – other income. However, dividing financial and other income could be a problem. 2. directly obtained from additional DCF survey ; 3. derived from other surveyed variables. For the part of population not covered by SBS: 4. directly obtained from DCF survey, 5. derived from other surveyed variables. Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population.
Financial results	Financial expenditures	Interest payable and similar charges. Financial costs, net = Financial expenditures – Financial income	Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population.		For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. However financial expenditures in SBS is under Total purchases of goods and services, which also includes raw material, other operational costs and extraordinary costs, therefore a method for discriminating financial expenditures should be devised; 2. directly obtained from additional DCF

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
					survey 3. derived from other surveyed variables. For the part of population not covered by SBS: 4. directly obtained from DCF survey, 5. derived from other surveyed variables. Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population.
Investments	Gross Investments	Gross investment in tangible and intangible goods minus sales of tangible and intangible investment goods.	Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population. Tangible goods defined in SBS 15 11 0 and intangible goods defined in SBS 15 42 0 and SBS 15 44 1, tangible investment goods defined in 15 210. Rename to Gross investments = Purchases minus sales "Net should be removed from the variable name to avoid confusion with financial accounting net investments, which refers to" investments minus depreciation.		For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. By subtracting sales of tangible investments goods from Gross investments in tangible goods 2. directly obtained from additional DCF survey. For the part of population not covered by SBS: 3. directly obtained from DCF survey, derived from other surveyed variables. Two surveys have to be used for different parts of population. Tangible goods defined in SBS 15 11 0 and intangible goods defined in SBS 15 42 0 and SBS 15 44 1, tangible investment goods defined in 15 210.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Employment	Number of persons employed	Total number of persons who have worked in the enterprise, irrespective of the total number of hours.	Does it include unpaid labour?		For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. However, SBS are not discriminated according to the gender. 2. directly obtained from DCF survey, 3. obtained directly from administrative sources For the part of population not covered by SBS: 4. directly obtained from DCF survey, 5. derived from other surveyed variables.
Employment	Unpaid labour	Number of persons who have worked for the enterprise that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind.			For all processing sector enterprises unpaid labour could be: 1. directly obtained from DCF survey, 2. derived from other surveyed variables. This does not include unpaid labour
Employment	FTE National	The number of employees converted into full time equivalent jobs (FTE).			For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. FTE far all processing sector: FTE definition: unit expressing the total number of employees into the equivalent number of full-time workers (usually defined in the national law). Appendix VI of the current regulation refers, in note 17 and 18 to the study "Calculation of labour including full-time equivalent (FTE) in fisheries"(FISH/2005/14, 'LEI WAGENINGENUR Coordinator, 2006), financed by EU in order to harmonise the definition and

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
					the estimation of employment variables under the data collection system. General approach on the definition of FTE, in particular on the definition of the yearly threshold (time-based approach), has been largely applied under the DCF. According to the study, a person working more than the threshold (holding one or more jobs) is still counted as one FTE only. A person working less than the threshold represents a certain percentage of a FTE. FTE national should be calculated using a threshold defined according to the features of the processing sector in each MSs. If the annual working hours per person exceed the reference level, the FTE equals 1 per crew member. • if annual working hours>national threshold FTE national =1 If not, the FTE equals the ratio between the hours worked and the reference level. • if annual working hours<national threshold FTE national = annual working hours / national threshold

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Employment	Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid workers	The aggregate number of hours worked during the reference period.			For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. However, SBS houses data of employed work force only, and it does not include unpaid labor. Therefore, additional estimation of number of hours worked by unpaid workers should be calculated. 2. directly obtained from DCF survey, 3. derived from other surveyed variables. For the part of population not covered by SBS: 4. directly obtained from DCF survey, 5. derived from other surveyed variables.
Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises	Number of fish processing enterprises in each size category (<=10, 11-49, 50-249, >=250 in terms of number of persons employed).	PGECON advice What does (1) mean? Number of fish processing enterprises in each size category (in terms of number of persons employed). Rename to "Number of enterprises by size category" Suggested categories: ≤5; 6-10 and >10 FTE	Number of main and non-main activity enterprises should be transmitted separately. Size classes apply only to the main activity enterprises.	Methodology For the part of population covered by SBS: 1. directly obtained from SBS survey. For the part of population not covered by SBS: 2. directly obtained from DCF survey, 3. derived from other surveyed variables. 4. Through other governmental or administrational organizations Number of main and non-main activity enterprises should be transmitted separately. Size classes apply only to the main activity enterprises.

VARIABLE GROUP	Variable	Definition	PGECON advice	ISSG fish processing suggestion	Methodology
Raw material (OPTIONAL)	Weight of raw material per species and origin (optional)	Weight and value of raw material by: • Species (3-letter FAO code) • Production environment Origin (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector) • Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU or non-EU)	PGECON 2020: Weight and value of raw material by: • Species • Production environment (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector) • Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU or non-EU) Type of processed material (fresh, frozen and semi processed materials) – if possible	Text suggested for the Definittion: Weight and value of raw material by: • Species (3-letter FAO code) • Production environment Origin (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector) • Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU or non-EU) Recommendation: If collecting the volume of raw material also by typology of processing it is recommended to provide data according to the following categories: fresh, frozen and semi processed materials.	For all enterprises: 1. directly obtained from DCF survey, 2. derived from other surveyed variables. Recommendation: If collecting the volume of raw material also by typology of processing it is recommended to provide data according to the following categories: fresh, frozen and semi processed materials.