



Regional Coordination Group
Mediterranean and Black Sea

Regional Coordination Group for the Mediterranean and Black Sea

RCG MED&BS REPORT 2022

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Acronyms

AR	Annual Report (of activities carried out by MS under the DCF)
CFP	Common Fishery Policy (EU)
CPC	GFCM Contracting Party
CR	Control Regulations (EU)
DCF	Data Collection Framework (follow up of DCR)
DC-MAP	Multi Annual Programme for Data Collection (follow up of DCF)
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (of the European Commission)
DTI	Data Transmission Issue
DTMT	Data Transmission Monitoring Tool
EC	European Commission
ECON	Economic issues
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Funds
EWG	STECF Expert Working Group
FDI	Fisheries Dependent Information (Data-call)
FPA	Fishing Partnership Agreement
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO)
GSA	Geographical subarea
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
JRC	Joint Research Center (of the European Commission)
JSC	Joint Scientific Committees (of the FPA)
LDF	Long Distance Fisheries
LM	Liaison Meeting
LP	Large Pelagics
Med & BS	Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
MS	Member State(s) (of the EU)
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NA	North Atlantic
NC	National Correspondent for Data Collection
NIS	Non-Indigenous species
NP	National Programme (of activities carried out by MS under the DCF)
NS&EA	North Sea and Eastern Arctic
OP	Operational Programme
OST	Open Source Tools
PGCCDBS	Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling
PGECON	Planning Group on Economic Issues
PGMed	Mediterranean Planning Group for Methodological Development
QAF	Quality Assurance Framework
RCG	Regional Coordination Group





RCG MED&BS 2022 REPORT

Acronyms

RGM	Regional Coordination Meeting
RDB	Regional Database (of the RCM)
RDB S.C.	Regional Data Base Steering Committee
RF	Recreational Fisheries
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
RoP	Rules of Procedure
RSP	Regional Sampling Plan
RWP	Regional Work Plan
SCRS	Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (ICCAT)
SDEF	Standard Data Exchange Format
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
TOR	Terms of Reference
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WKPICS	ICES Workshop on the Practical Implementation of Statistical Sound Catch Sampling Programmes
WG SPF-AS	Working group for the coordination of data collection for small pelagic fish in the Adriatic Sea
WP	Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors





Executive summary

The Regional Coordination Group for Mediterranean and Black Sea (RCG Med&BS) took place in a hybrid format from the 6th to the 9th September 2022 in Nicosia, Cyprus and online. The availability of SharePoint offered by ICES proved to be very efficient in organizing the work before, during and after the meeting.

The 6th RCG Med&BS was attended by the National Correspondents and/or their delegates from the countries of the competent area as follows: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, France (partial), Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia (partial) and Spain. The RCG Med&BS meeting was attended also by the representatives of the DG MARE, JRC, GFCM Secretariat, the chairs of MEDITS and MEDIAS steering committees, Regional grants MARE/2020/08 coordinators and MAPAFISH-MED consortium.

In 2022 an official data call was launched by the chair of the RCG Med&BS, requesting data on landings, effort and value data for the period 2017-2020, for addressing the following:

- Review and update the landing template for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea;
- Ranking system for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The relevant data call was announced on 3rd of August to all National Correspondents, with a deadline on the 2nd of September 2022. The data was required to be submitted in two different data files similar to previous data calls.

Data were submitted by all Member States in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. The available data were reviewed by the chair, and clarifications on data values and coding were received whenever requested.

During the meeting **8 recommendations** were made:

Recommendation 1 - Updating of the list of regional métiers and collaboration with ISSG on Métier issues.

Recommendation 2 - Drafting of the RWP on recreational fisheries to be submitted by September-October 2023 (implementation 2025-2027) and RCG Med&BS Workshop on recreational fisheries.

Recommendation 3 - Drafting of the RWP on PETs bycatch monitoring to be submitted by September-October 2023 (implementation 2025-2027) and RCG Med&BS Workshop on PETs bycatch monitoring.

Recommendation 4 - Establishment of Technical group on the regional data base RDBFIS.

Recommendation 5 - Drafting of the RWP on fish stomachs collection and analysis to be submitted by September-October 2023 (implementation 2025-2027) and RCG Med&BS Workshop on fish stomachs collection and analysis.

Recommendation 6 - Inclusion of SECWEB's proposal text to be included in section I: General Information; Text Box IB: Other Data Collection Activities in the respective National Work Plans.

Recommendation 7 - Recommendation on expansion of MEDIAS to GSA 15 on a voluntary basis.

Recommendation 8 - RCG MED&BS 2022 proposed to establish an ISSG for sampling optimisation.

The Agenda, Terms of References and the participants' list are in Annex I, Annex II and Annex III respectively. Recommendations are listed in section 5 and they summarize the work, discussions and decisions of the RCG Med&BS 2022. The official data call for 2022 is in Annex IV.





RCG MED&BS 2022 REPORT

Executive summary

In 2022 the RCG Med&BS was co-chaired by Mr. Jurgen Mifsud and Ms. Beatriz Guijarro and in 2023 it will be co-chaired by Ms. Beatriz Guijarro and a delegate from France. The 2023 RCG Med&BS can be a physical or hybrid meeting, venue to be decided.





I. Terms of Reference

1. End-users input - Data requirements and data transmission issues

- Identification of data needs, data issues and use of data by end-users.
- Collaborate with end-users to identify common and recurrent issues and prioritize actions to improve the quality of transmitted data and avoid data transmission failures.
- Propose ways to improve the communication and feedback on DTI.
- Data requests.

2. Regional database

- Review progress in setting-up the regional database for the Med&BS.
- Discussion on RDB structure and hosting options.

3. Cooperation with regional projects (MARE/2020/08 - Strengthening EU-MAP data collection by developing Regional Work Plans for the Regional Coordination Groups)

STREAMLINE - Streamlining the establishment of regional work plans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

SECWEB - Supporting administrative tasks and online visibility to RCGs

- Collaboration with the RCG's Secretariat to provide relevant information for the development of the website.
- Discussion on the long-term plan to maintain the Secretariat as a permanent support structure to the RCGs.

MED&BS RDBFIS - Development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

- Discussion on the proposal for a governance structure, data policy and accessibility.
- Discussion on the current open issues.

4. Regional data requirements

- RCG MED&BS data call - results; discussion on the purpose of the data call and use of data.

MS were requested in 2022 to submit data on effort and landings by species métier for the period 2018-2021. Data is analysed to provide a regional overview in order to assess if any changes need to be made to national sampling plans and incorporated in the revision of national work plans.

5. Diadromous species

- Review of progress in 2022 at EU (RCG ISSG Diadromous) and GFCM level.

6. Métier issues

- Collaboration of RCG Med&BS and ISSG on Métier Issues was encouraged in Liaison meeting 2020 with the aim of standardizing the métier list and harmonizing codes (especially on mesh-size ranges) which will allow to avoid overlapping as well as apply similar methods and criteria on assigning métiers for fishing activities by Member States.
- A general workflow for assigning métiers was developed by ISSG on Metier Issues which set up a public repository on GitHub for storing reference lists, scripts, métier descriptions and documentation of procedures. R-script for assigning métiers to transversal data was developed and tested by the ISSG.





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Terms of Reference

- The link to the métier work is: <https://github.com/ices-eg/RCGs/tree/master/Metiers>. This include all the reports, reference lists and scripts developed.
- The reports are found under <https://github.com/ices-eg/RCGs/tree/master/Metiers/Reports> where the newest is Report RCG ISSG on Metier Issues 2021_20210428.pdf.

7. Scientific surveys

- MEDIAS, MEDITS, Black Sea surveys - review of 2021-2022 regional coordination, next steps and actions





2. Progress report on ToRs

2.1. ToR I - End-users input – Data Requirements and data transmission issues

ToR I included presentations by main end-users – EC and GFCM regarding data needs and use of data.

2.1.1 STECF outcomes

Ms Zeynep Hekim (JRC) gave an overview of the main outcomes of the FDI EWG and Med stock assessment EWGs. JRC considers that a lot of data are collected and not used, so there is a need to improve the efficiency of data use and/ or prioritize data collection.

Cyprus expressed their satisfaction regarding the uniform application of the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) rules and welcomed the progress in the process of assessment of data transmission issues.

Ms Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) presented the following: (i) main outcomes of relevant STECF EWGs, (ii) recent data requests addressed to Med & BS MS and (iii) proposal on hosting of the Regional Database (RDB) Med & BS.

The STECF EWG 22-07 on the evaluation of the Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission failures (20-24 June 2022) noted an overall improvement in the performance of MS Annual Reports 2021.

This was partly attributed to the reduction of serious covid-19 related issues and to the two-step ping-pong approach that allowed Member States (MS) to resubmit information twice. STECF comments and proposals on further improvement of the Annual Reports were brought to the attention of MS. The EWG 22-03 on data quality checking procedures of Med & BS data (2-6 May 2022) assessed 47 stocks and produced a quality report per MS. Data issues were sent to MS in advance of the DG MARE Med & BS data call, to allow MS resubmit historic data sets. MS are invited to use the data checks that were used and compiled during this EWG, before uploading data in response to data calls.

2.1.2 GFCM – Identification of data needs, data issues and use of data

Mr. Federico De Rossi noted timeliness submission issues and some formatting or units issues, but these were not as important as the timeliness issues.

A tentative workshop on data collection and submission, following a proposal by the CoC, is planned for January 2023 in Bari.

A pilot study will take place in Eastern Med (based in Turkey), to work towards an integrated monitoring platform for Non-Indigenous species (NIS observatory). The objective will be to integrate relevant information from local actors and to integrate management tools and solutions.

A revised list for Recreational Fisheries species was endorsed by the SAC, which is flexible and adaptive, to allow inclusion of additional species. The second phase of the pilot study on Recreational Fisheries is currently ongoing in Algeria, where regular data on effort, catch and economics are collected. A research programme on Recreational Fisheries is currently being developed.





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Progress report on ToRs

A list of small-scale fisheries species was endorsed by the SAC, to serve as a basis for data collection.

On surveys, a beam trawl survey in the Black Sea targeting rapa whelk is taking place and an all-Black Sea survey is currently under discussion.

A working group to coordinate analysis of data and information coming from monitoring programmes (WGANALYSIS) is established.

The Fishforum is planned for the beginning of 2024.

2.1.3 Data calls

RCG Med&BS data call

The RCG Med&BS asked MS for two data sets (2018-2020 and 2019-2021), to assess the effect of Covid-19 on data collection. The results were comparable. These data were used to run the ranking exercise, which compiles the most important metiers for MS to consider for sampling. The analysis showed that there are no major differences in the list of metiers from previous years. The RCG is therefore considering running this exercise every 3 years, unless MS identify the need to incorporate new metiers.

When running the ranking exercise, MS agreed to provide data only on those stocks, for which data collection is mandatory, based on the EU MAP (and resulting WVP). If MS are collecting data for a stock that is not included in EU MAP, they should not provide the landings for this exercise.

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Other data requests

The following data requests were sent by MARE to the Med & BS MS: EU Project FutureMARES with deadline of 13 June 2022, ARGOS project (<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/argos>) with deadline of 12 July 2022, a request on chondrichthyans with deadline of 15 September 2022 and MAPAFISH MED project with deadline of 30 September 2022. Ms Venetia Kostopoulou reminded MS the rules on data sharing and underlined the importance of respecting the legal framework.

MAPAFISH MED data request

Mr. Nicolas Sturaro (MARE) explained how the MAPAFISH MED study on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) aims to address DG MARE and COM priorities. Mr. Dimitris Damalas from the MAPAFISH MED consortium described the data request - sent to the MS during the summer - and presented a simplified version to address MS concerns, who were not in a position to fully respond to the original request. The proposed updated version will ask for observer data, aggregated by quarter or by year, per MPA.

The updated request addressed MS concerns on the associated workload. However, MS argued that the data are scarce and may not be fit for purpose. They proposed that dedicated sampling should be the first step, rather than using existing (DCF) data, that are collected for other purposes. ES and CY stated that they do not collect observer data on small-scale fisheries. ES transmitted the data request to the Ministry of Environment, as it is related to MPAs.





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Progress report on ToRs

Mr. Nicolas Sturaro (MARE) explained that DCF data is the only available source at this stage and that it will be used in conjunction with other data, that will be collected by the consortium. Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) and Mr. Nicolas Sturaro (MARE) proposed to consult MS informally on the preliminary outcomes of data analysis, to avoid any misinterpretation of the data.

It was commonly agreed that MARE will officially send an updated data request to MS in one week, after receiving MS views on a tentative deadline.

To avoid such situations (non-standard data requests involving a high workload) in the future, a new streamlining procedure was agreed. According to this procedure, MARE will consult informally the RCG Med&BS chairs on non-standard data requests, before proceeding with the official launching of the request.





2.2 ToR 2 - Regional database

2.2.1 Progress in the setting-up the regional database for the Med&BS

Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) presented the Note on the hosting of the RDB Med & BS that was sent to MS before the RCG Med&BS meeting. A temporary (2-year) hosting solution with the main actors of the RDBFIS consortium is proposed.





2.3 ToR 3 Cooperation with regional projects (MARE/2020/08)

2.3.1 STREAMLINE – Streamlining the establishment of regional work plans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Mr. Alessandro Ligas presented the following regional sampling plan proposals:

- sampling optimisation of commercial fisheries (4 case studies);
- recreational fisheries: MS are invited to proceed with the estimation of the total population of fishers and agree on a common list of priority species by sub-region;
- surveys: regional coordination already exists;
- incidental catches of sensitive species: MS can choose between two scenarios with proposed numbers of observations. MS to use the list of species agreed at GFCM;
- stomach content analysis, with a minimum number of stomachs to be collected per GSA. The consortium proposes to: (i) include commercial sampling, because surveys take place only once a year and they do not target large individuals; (ii) collect information on top predators, such as *Lophius* spp, to assess natural mortality of hake.

MS already provided (positive) comments to these proposals, with the exception of Italy and Slovenia, which did not provide any comments during the RCG meeting.

MS raised concerns on specific points – mainly on the proposed number of samples for commercial fisheries and PETs sampling - that will be discussed bilaterally with STREAMLINE, before finalising the RWP proposal. GR proposed the inclusion of deep-water shrimps for commercial fisheries.

The RCG Med&BS agreed on the following timeline:

- 14/09: STREAMLINE will submit an amended RWP version to MS, based on the comments already received;
- 23/09: MS will provide feedback to STREAMLINE;
- 30/09: STREAMLINE will provide updated version. In parallel, the consortium will organise bilateral technical meetings with MS to discuss sampling optimisation of commercial fisheries;
- 07/10: final version of RWP.

Regional Work Plan (RWP) timeline

Ms. Monika Sterczewska (MARE) presented the scenario of RWP adoption followed by RCG NANSEA/Baltic. The Med & BS MS have already provided input to the Fishn´Co questionnaire, agreeing to follow the same timeline.





The RCG agreed on the following timeline:

- The RCG Med&BS will submit a non-binding test RWP, prepared by the regional grant Streamline, on 15 October 2022;
- STECF EWG 22-18 on ‘Evaluation of Work Plans for data collection and data transmission issues’ (24 - 28 October 2022) will assess the test RWP;
- The RCG Med&BS will set up an Intersessional Subgroup (ISSG) to modify the RWP according to STECF comments;
- The RCG Med&BS will discuss the updated RWP during the September 2023 meeting;
- The RCG Med&BS will submit an updated RWP to STECF in October 2023;
- STECF assessment will be used to finalise the RWP for Med & BS;
- The MS will incorporate the agreed RWP in their respective National WPs and submit in October 2024.

2.3.2 SECWEB – Supporting administrative tasks and online visibility to RCGs

The different funding scenarios for the future RCG secretariat were presented by the consortium. MS are in favour of funding through annual contribution (as is the case for GFCM funding), instead of launching a tender. MS would like to find a permanent solution for the RCG Secretariat, preferably with the existing consortium, so as to keep the know-how and to ensure business continuity.

2.3.3 RDBFIS – Development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Mr. Stefanos Kavadas presented the progress on the development of the regional database for the Med & BS, which will be finalised by the end of this year. The RCG chairs agreed to provide the consortium with biological data before the end of September, so that the testing of the application with ‘real’ data can take place.

In terms of compatibility with other databases, discussions revealed that both in ICES (RDBES) and in GFCM (database on bycatch), databases are currently being developed and there is no final product yet. This means that, time wise, it will not be possible for RDBFIS to be 100% aligned to other systems by the end of 2022. Ms.





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Progress report on ToRs

Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) underlined the usefulness of continuing with the temporary hosting solution by the main actors of the consortium, which will allow for further streamlining between the different databases.

Ms. Martina Zilioli presented the RDBFIS data policy document and Ms. Paola Carrara presented the Guidelines for Steering Committee of RDBFIS. Both documents have been discussed with MS at length and the RCG decided to proceed with their adoption, after a final consultation round.

Hosting of Med & BS Regional Database

Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) presented the Note, sent to MS in advance of the RCG Med&BS meeting, according to which COM proposes a 2-year temporary solution for the hosting of the RDB Med & BS by the main actors of the RDBFIS consortium. The physical hosting will take place at HCMR. For the long-term, COM is exploring internally alternative solutions for permanent hosting and will inform MS once all the elements are clarified.

All MS responded positively to the COM proposal on the temporary hosting in HCMR. Italy was absent and did not provide any input.





2.4 ToR 4 - Regional data requirements

Ranking system for the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

A ranking system of métiers at level 6 was performed at regional level (Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea - GSA29). As in previous years, the ranking system applied was the one described in the old DCF Decision 2010/93/EU, according to which a ranking of the métiers is performed three times: firstly, according to their share in the total landings, secondly according to their share in the total value of the commercial landings and thirdly according to their share in the total effort (days at sea). For each ranking, the shares were cumulated starting with the largest, until a cut-off level of 90% was reached. At the end of the procedure, all métiers selected through each ranking were added.

Data used: Average data on landings, value and effort over the period 2017-2020 were used, which were received under the 2022 RCG Med&BS data call. For Greece, 2017 data were not available since the DCF was executed for a small period and only in a limited area; thus, 2018, 2019 and 2020 data were used in the analysis because for these years there was a full coverage of time and areas.





2.5. ToR 5 - Diadromous species

2.5.1 Review of progress in 2022 at EU (RCG ISSG Diadromous) and GFCM level

Mr. Manos Koutrakis presented the GFCM European eel research project, which finished on February 2022. During the project, additional data were collected and a database was developed, allowing for a management strategy evaluation. According to the main findings, the lagoons are the prevailing habitats of eel. Eel recruitment is presently at the lowest levels. Glass eel ascent has extended to June and escapement has extended from October to March. In terms of fisheries, a total ban is in place, with the exception of ES and IT. The role of Recreational Fisheries is undetermined.

The second phase of project includes evaluation of data, identification and selection of key habitats, development of a common monitoring system and conducting a socio-economic study.

The SAC agreed to create a permanent WG and to revise the relevant DCRF task.

Following a question on the links to the DCF, it was clarified that there is no need for EU MS to update their WP. Discussions will take place at the EU ISSG on diadromous species.





2.6 ToR 6 - Metier issues

This year, MS provided information under ‘miscellaneous’ metiers that ranked high on the list. The RCG agreed that MS should identify what is included under this category and accordingly update the list of metiers.

ICES presented relevant work on metiers and asked for an update on the most important metiers for the Med & BS.





2.7 ToR 7 - Scientific surveys

Review of 2021 regional coordination (MEDITS, MEDIAS and Black Sea surveys). Next steps and actions.

2.7.1 MEDIAS – Review of 2021-2022 regional coordination, next steps and actions

Mr. Andrea De Felice presented the rate of 2021 implementation: MEDIAS was carried out in GSAs 7, 9, 10, 16-18 and the newly added GSA 11 (Sardinia). MEDIAS was not carried out in GSAs 1 and 6, due to technical issues and in Greece, due to the construction of research vessel.

The MEDIAS Coordination Group asked the RCG Med &BS to:

- agree to add MEDIAS in GSA 15 (Malta). The NC of Malta confirmed that discussions are currently ongoing with Italy and MEDIAS will probably start running in GSA 15 from next year onwards;
- discuss the problem of relying on few research vessels: a proposal is to construct a new generation of research vessels using EU funds;
- agree on the establishment of two subgroups on the harmonization of criteria for aging and maturity. The NC of Croatia applauded the initiation of the working groups for harmonisation of the otolith reading among MEDIAS and other working groups, and further commented on a current and pressing issue of utmost importance on the subregional level of Adriatic Sea. Namely, harmonisation should firstly be done on the regional level enabling stock assessment trials. Although large expert pool can help to improve scientific work, harmonisation between commercial and survey data ageing is of crucial importance in the models. In 2022, the GFCM SAC identified the importance of this process on a sub-regional level for the purpose of WGSASP before November 2022. Additionally, harmonisation in the echogram reading between MEDIAS survey data are of the great importance for the stock assessment modelling;
- incorporate MEDIAS data in RDBFIS. Stefanos Kavadas (RDBFIS) confirmed that the structure of MEDIAS data (aggregated by transect) is already included in RDBFIS;
- incorporate plankton sampling in National WP;
- agree on the need to intercalibrate existing research vessels.

The next MEDIAS Coordination Group meeting is planned for 18-20 April 2023.

2.7.2 MEDITS – Review of 2021-2022 regional coordination, next steps and actions

Mr. George Tserpes presented the rate of 2021 implementation: in GSA 5, survey was expanded to cover the Western Balearic. Overall, several surveys were delayed or partially completed, due to Covid-19. Delays are also expected this year.

The next MEDITS Coordination Group meeting is planned for 24 - 25 October in Ljubljana (SI).

Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) asked the MEDITS Coordination Group to discuss the possibility of making MEDITS data publically available, in order to be in line with the North Sea basins. She proposed for the Group to produce a technical document outlining all issues with MEDITS data, to be communicated to end users when requesting MEDITS data.





2.7.3 Black Sea surveys – Review of 2021-2022 regional coordination, next steps and actions

Bottom trawl surveys (Black Sea)

The results of the surveys gave a positive signal for turbot biomass in RO and BG.

Pelagic trawl surveys (Black Sea)

BG and RO presented the pelagic trawl surveys in the Black Sea. The survey data were used in GFCM stock assessments.

Regarding the Black Sea, Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou (MARE) underlined the need to further harmonize surveys, as this will significantly improve scientific advice in the GFCM, as is the case for piked dogfish. Data quality needs to be improved, as data issues have been identified during the GFCM stock assessment WGs. More efforts are needed to cover data needs, including discards and bycatch of sensitive species. This has become important as the GFCM is currently running two pilot projects, to which MS will participate.

BG informed of a project on bycatch and discards, covering bottom trawlers, pelagic trawlers, rapana and GNS for turbot. Spiny dogfish is also sampled as bycatch from turbot fisheries, although the numbers of spiny dogfish have decreased significantly (in 2021, there was no bycatch of dogfish from pelagic trawlers).





3. Next venue and chairs

New chairs for next year: Ms. Beatriz Guijarro and a delegate from France.

2023 RCG Med&BS meeting: tbd.





4. AOB

Regarding improvement on selectivity in the context of West Med MAP and GFCM, Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou informed participants on linkages to the Technical Measures Regulation (Regulation 2019/1241) and on relevant initiatives at MS level. She invited MS to share information on the issue.

Recreational fisheries pilot study in Bulgaria during 2022

Mr. Kolyo Zhelev (BG) presented the outcomes of the screening (telephone) survey with 1000 participants. On the next steps, Bulgaria is planning a new screening survey to compare results, before proceeding with data collection activities.



5. Recommendations from the RCG Med&BS 2022

Métier issues	
RCG Med&BS 2022 Recommendation 1	Updating of the list of regional métiers and collaboration with ISSG on Métier issues.
Justification	<p>Following LM 2020 recommendations and recommendation n. 2 of the RCG Med&BS 2021, RCG Med&BS agreed to continue with its collaboration with ISSG on Métier Issues to update the métier list for Med&BS to be used in DG MARE and RCG Med&BS data calls, and to harmonise codes, which will allow to avoid overlapping and to apply similar methods and criteria on assigning métiers for fishing activities by MS.</p> <p>Furthermore, procedures for the identification of métiers at MS level, particularly miscellaneous métiers, should be explored with the aim of harmonising the approach.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the results of RCG Med&BS 2022 data call to check if the regional métier list needs to be updated. MS to provide detailed data on the landing, effort and landing value for miscellaneous métiers, if needed. RCG chairs to organise a meeting with ISSG on Métier Issues. MS should ensure participation of national experts in the meeting and collaborate with the ISSG on Métier Issues.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG Chairs, MS
Time frame (Deadline)	End of 2023
Comments	

Recreational fisheries	
RCG MED & BS 2022 Recommendation 2	Drafting of the RWP on recreational fisheries to be submitted by September-October 2023 (implementation 2025-2027) and RCG Med&BS Workshop on recreational fisheries
Justification	Taking into consideration Recommendations n. 3 and n. 7 of RCG Med&BS 2021, and the timeframe for the submission of RWPs (without adoption by COM), RCG Med&BS 2022 recommends organizing a workshop on recreational fisheries to

	<p>discuss methodologies and review the list of priority species for biological data collection on a regional level.</p> <p>In line with Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 MS should carry out statistically robust multispecies sampling schemes, allowing for catch quantities estimation for stocks in recreational fisheries, as a minimum for species listed in Table 4 of the Annex to the Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167, i.e. eel (including in fresh water), elasmobranchs and highly migratory ICCAT species.</p> <p>During the Workshops on recreational fisheries in 2021 and 2022 (Joint Workshop), MS presented results of pilot studies and updated on the implementation of recreational fisheries monitoring under their current Work Plans. Based on contributions from all MS, a list of priority species was identified at marine region level for which biological sampling is needed as recreational catches affect the development of fish stocks.</p> <p>With the aim to create a common list of species agreed at regional (or sub-regional) level, MS were asked to further work on a list of priority species for data collection according to results of pilot studies, expert knowledge, current WPs, GFCM support, STECF EWG 22-18 comments, preliminary results of the implementation of the non-binding RWP drafted with the support of the STREAMLINE grant.</p> <p>In addition, methodological approach should be consistent for all MS, independently of the waters in which the fishing activity takes place in order to avoid discrepancies between MS (establish minimum requirements), in line with the GFCM “Handbook for data collection on recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea” (http://www.fao.org/gfcm/publications/series/technical-paper/669/en/), and the work performed under the STREAM and STREAMLINE grants (STREAM Final Report with embedded deliverables can be downloaded from the following website:</p> <p>https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/mare-2016-22-strengthening-regional-cooperation).</p> <p>The activities shall be performed in cooperation with the ISSG on RWPs which will be in charge of the decision-making process for developing RWPs, as described in STREAMLINE WP3 Deliverable D3.1 “Definition of the decision making structure”. A timeline for the establishing of the ISSG RWPs and its future activities is described in D3.1, and reported in the RCG Med&BS 2022 Report.</p>
<p>Follow-up actions needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSs to provide responses and propose correction actions in response to the comments of STECF EWG 22-18 on the non-binding RWPs; • MSs to provide updated information to the WS chairs on priority species in recreational fisheries by GFCM sub-region; • MSs to provide updated information to the WS chairs on the estimation of the population of fishers by GFCM sub-region;



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSs to nominate experts to participate in the ISSG RWPs; MSs to agree on the chairing of the ISSG RWPs; MSs and RCG to agree on a timeline for meetings and activities of the ISSG RWP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WS RF 2023 ToRs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the list of priority species by sub-region. Update on the results of the estimation of fisher's populations. Discuss on the harmonization of methodologies for data collection in recreational fisheries. Propose list of species, methodology and variables for biological data collection. Agree on data collection for vulnerable species incidentally caught in recreational fisheries. Coordinate with RDBFIS on the uploading and storing of RFs data. Draft RWP on recreational fisheries to be submitted by Sept-Oct 2023. Collaborate with RCG LP on sampling plan for large pelagic species. Include all relevant stakeholders (DG MARE, DG ENV, STECF, JRC, GFCM, RCG LP, ICES and RDBFIS).
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>MSs, RCG Chairs, WS chairs, ISSG RWPs, STREAMLINE and RDBFIS coordinators, RDB SC</p> <p>WS chairs: Paraskevi (Voula) Karachle, Manos Koutrakis, Fabio Grati</p>
Time frame (Deadline)	<p>WS Dates: June-July 2023, one-day meeting (virtual or hybrid)</p> <p>Submission of draft RWP on recreational fisheries by Sept-Oct 2023 (for implementation in the period 2025-2027)</p>
Comments	

Marine ecosystem data	
RCG MED & BS 2022 Recommendation 3	Drafting of the RWP on PETs bycatch monitoring to be submitted by September-October 2023 (implementation 2025-2027) and RCG Med&BS Workshop on PETs bycatch monitoring
Justification	Taking into consideration Recommendations n. 4 and n. 8 of RCG Med&BS 2021, and the timeframe for the submission of RWPs (without adoption by COM), RCG Med&BS 2022 recommends organizing a workshop on PETs bycatch monitoring to discuss methodologies and review the list of PET species on a regional level.



	<p>Regional project STREAM (MARE/2016/22) proposed to the RCG Med&BS to address the regional needs for the collection of stomach contents, benthos and marine litter; identification of data needs; share knowledge and experience in the data collection. RCG Med&BS organized in 2021 the <i>Meeting on data needed to assess the impact of fisheries on the marine ecosystem</i> involving relevant end-users (DG MARE, DG ENV, and GFCM), JRC, national experts as well as regional projects STREAMLINE and RDBFIS.</p> <p>In addition, a STREAMLINE – RCG Med&BS Joint Workshop, in collaboration with the GFCM, took place in April 2022. It was concluded that further effort is needed to establish robust data collection for data needed to assess the impact of fisheries on the marine ecosystem, including data on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – By-catch of non-target species including PET species, – Impacts of fisheries on marine habitats including vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). <p>The activities shall be performed in cooperation with the ISSG on RWPs which will be in charge of the decision-making process for developing RWPs, as described in STREAMLINE WP3 Deliverable D3.1 “Definition of the decision making structure”. A timeline for the establishing of the ISSG RWPs and its future activities is described in D3.1, and reported in the RCG Med&BS 2022 Report.</p>
<p>Follow-up actions needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSs to provide responses and propose correction actions in response to the comments of STECF EWG 22-18 on the non-binding RWPs; • MSs to provide updated information to the WS chairs on the implementation of PETs bycatch monitoring under their WPs; • MSs to nominate experts to participate in the ISSG RWPs; • MSs to agree on the chairing of the ISSG RWPs; • MSs and RCG to agree on a timeline for meetings and activities of the ISSG RWP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS 2023 ToR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further work on the identification of high-risk metiers by group of species for by-catch monitoring, taking into account the results of pilot studies, current implementation and STREAMLINE review (Task 2.2). - Further work on the list of PET species according to regulations specified in Table 2 of the Annex to the Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167, taking into account GFCM DCRF list and JRCs MSFD list. - Application of FAO estimation of by-catch rates and number of individuals incidentally caught implemented by MS (presentation of results for 2022 referent year). - Database structure on ecosystem data including bycatch of PET species, and estimation procedures according to FAO methodology. - Discuss on the data and methods needed for the assessment of impact on seabed habitats, considering data sources from VMS, MEDITS and commercial fisheries. - Include all relevant stakeholders (DG MARE, DG ENV, STECF, JRC, GFCM, RCG LP, ICES, STREAMLINE and RDBFIS).



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Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MSs, RCG Chairs, WS chairs, ISSG RWPs, STREAMLINE and RDBFIS coordinators, RDB SC WS chairs: TBD
Time frame (Deadline)	WS Dates: April-May 2023, one/two-day meeting (virtual or hybrid) Submission of draft RWP on PETs bycatch monitoring by Sept-Oct 2023 (for implementation in the period 2025-2027)
Comments	

Technical group on the regional data base RDBFIS	
RCG Med&BS 2022 Recommendation 4	Establishment of Technical group on the regional data base RDBFIS.
Justification	Steering committee for the regional database during its 4 th meeting in July 2021 agreed to establish a technical group to communicate with the regional project Med&BS RDBFIS (MARE/2020/08) regarding technical aspects of RDB development and to further support development of the regional database.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of national experts in testing of RDBFIS. • Completing the revision of the respective data policy and SC guidelines documents for RDBFIS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS to nominate experts on a voluntary basis.
Time frame (Deadline)	Revision of the two RDBFIS documents by the end of September 2022 (by NCs); approval of the revised documents (by RCG before the end of Med&BS RDB Grant, i.e. Dec 2022) . Testing of RDBFIS by the RCG Med&BS Annual Meeting 2023.
Comments	This recommendation is partially recalled from previous RCG recommendations.





Stomach sampling	
RCG MED & BS 2022 Recommendation 5	Drafting of the RWP on fish stomachs collection and analysis to be submitted by September-October 2023 (implementation 2025-2027) and RCG Med&BS Workshop on fish stomachs collection and analysis.
Justification	<p>In line with Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167, MS should carry out data collection on the impact of fishing activities on food webs, including stomach sampling and analysis.</p> <p>RCG Med&BS recommended (recommendation n. 13 of the RCG Med&BS 2021) to introduce stomach sampling for the main stock identified by regional project MARE/2014/19 Med&BS D3.3, e.g. European hake in Mediterranean GSAs and turbot in the Black Sea.</p> <p>MS aligned the sampling methodology according to MARE/2016/22 STREAM D4.1 (<i>Updated protocols and guidelines for collection, processing and analysis of stomach contents</i>) and implement stomach sampling for identified species during bottom trawl surveys (MEDITS and Black Sea demersal surveys).</p> <p><u>Minimum sample size for European hake in the Med (STREAM D4.1. Table 3.4.1.):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bottom trawl surveys: 20 full stomachs by per size class/life stage should be analysed by GSA if applicable. <p><u>Minimum sample size for Turbot in the Black Sea:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bottom trawl surveys: A total of 30 individuals per year should be analysed (15 from the spring survey and 15 from the autumn survey). <p>Consultations were carried out with MS for the identification of species for stomach sampling. STREAM designed a sampling program for the collection of data on stomach content of fish. Considering results of regional projects MARE/2014/19 and MARE/2016/22 STREAM D4.1., MS agreed in 2021 to carry out stomach sampling for the main species identified, starting from 2022.</p> <p>STREAMLINE further refined the protocols prepared by STREAM, and the STREAMLINE – RCG Med&BS Joint Workshop in 2022 proposed a non-binding RWP on fish stomachs sampling in cooperation with the RCG Med&BS.</p> <p>Sampling plan has to be revised according to the results of the analysis of the stomachs content under current implementation. Therefore, the sampling strategy and the sampling effort could be refined in order to minimize the variability of the estimates of the food spectra and to properly consider all the factors influencing the variations in diet composition.</p> <p>The activities shall be performed in cooperation with the ISSG on RWPs which will be in charge of the decision-making process for developing RWPs, as described in STREAMLINE WP3 Deliverable D3.1 “Definition of the decision</p>



	making structure”. A timeline for the establishing of the ISSG RWPs and its future activities is described in D3.1, and reported in the RCG Med&BS 2022 Report.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSs to provide responses and propose correction actions in response to the comments of STECF EWG 22-18 on the non-binding RWPs; MSs to provide updated information to the WS chairs on the results of the implementation of fish stomachs sampling under the current WPs; MSs to nominate experts to participate in the ISSG RWPs; MSs to agree on the chairing of the ISSG RWPs; MSs and RCG to agree on a timeline for meetings and activities of the ISSG RWP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WS 2023 ToRs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the list of target species for stomach sampling by sub-region. Discuss on the harmonization of methodologies for data collection and processing. Coordinate with RDBFIS on the uploading and storing of stomach data. Draft RWP on fish stomachs sampling to be submitted by Sept-Oct 2023. Include all relevant stakeholders (DG MARE, DG ENV, STECF, JRC, GFCM, RCG LP, ICES, RDBFIS).
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MSs, RCG Chairs, WS chairs, ISSG RWPs, STREAMLINE and RDBFIS coordinators, RDB SC WS chairs: TBD
Time frame (Deadline)	WS Dates: April-May 2023, one-day meeting (virtual or hybrid) Submission of draft RWP on stomach sampling by Sept-Oct 2023 (for implementation in the period 2025-2027)
Comments	

Supporting the operation and functioning of the RCG’s Secretariat (SecWeb)	
RCG Med&BS 2022 Recommendation 6	Inclusion of SECWEB’s proposal text to be included in section I: General Information; Text Box 1B: Other Data Collection Activities in the respective National Work Plans
Justification	RCG chairs and the RCG’s network in general have acknowledged the added value of having an RCG’s Secretariat to the overall aim to support the planning and execution of administrative tasks and the branding and online visibility of the RCG. Based on SecWeb project outputs, the proposed data collection activities will connect the whole RCG network and stakeholders to work together on common goals. The Secretariat provides fluent administrative and coordination support for more efficient regional coordination liberating national experts involved in data collection activities from heavy burden administrative tasks.



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Follow-up actions needed	MS should ensure that SECWEB's proposal text is included in their National Work Plans.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	15 th October 2022
Comments	

Expansion of MEDIAS to GSA 15	
RCG Med&BS 2022 Recommendation 7	Recommendation on expansion of MEDIAS to GSA 15 on a voluntary basis.
Justification	According to the conclusions of MEDIAS steering committee in 2022 (Report of 15th meeting for MEDiterranean International Acoustic Surveys), MS shall clarify future involvement in MEDIAS activities in GSA 15. MS is encouraged to conduct MEDIAS within GSA 15 on a non-mandatory basis, given that the MS could make use of the cost-sharing agreement with another MS which carries out MEDIAS, since the MS does not have access to such a research vessel.
Follow-up actions needed	If possible, MS to include changes when compiling the WP.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS (Malta)
Time frame (Deadline)	15 th of October 2022
Comments	





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Establishment of a scientific network for sampling optimisation	
RCG MED & BS 2022 Recommendation 8	RCG MED&BS 2022 proposed to establish an ISSG for sampling optimisation.
Justification	The 2018 RCG Med&BS agreed on the need to set up a network of experts to be trained and use the tool developed under STREAM and STREAMLINE projects on sampling stratification and optimisation of biological commercial data. It was further agreed that MS should nominate experts to be part of the network, as outlined in recommendation n. 10 of the RCG Med&BS 2021. A preliminary list of experts nominated by the MS exists and should be confirmed/updated. However, the scientific network for sampling optimisation has not been established so far.
Follow-up actions needed	Med&BS NCs should update or complement the list of national experts for participating in the network on sampling optimisation; the nominations should be communicated to the nominated coordinator of the ISSG for sampling optimisation (Ms Isabella Bitetto) and RCG Med&BS chairs.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG Med&BS NCs, RCG Med&BS chairs, moderators of the scientific network for sampling optimisation.
Time frame (Deadline)	Confirmation of nominations by 23 rd September 2022. Submission of a progress report by the RCG Med&BS 2023 Annual Meeting.
Comments	This recommendation is recalled from 2019.





Annexes

Annex I: Meeting agenda

Tuesday, 6 Sept DAY 1 - End-users Meeting

Time (Cyprus)	Duration	Topic	Presenter
09:30-10:00	30 min	Testing	
10:00	15 min	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House rules, adoption of the agenda and ToR 	Chairs
10:15	45 min	European Commission - Identification of data needs in 2022 and use of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Dependent Information FDI (EWG 22-10) Evaluation of the Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission failures (EWG 22-07) Data quality checking procedures of Med&BS data (EWG 22-03) Data requests (MAPAFISH-MED Project) Discussion in plenary	DG MARE, NCs
11:00-11:30	30 min	Coffee break	
11:30	30 min	European Commission - Discussion paper on RDB Med&BS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting of the Regional Database Med&BS AOB Discussion in plenary	DG MARE, NCs
12:00	60 min	GFCM - Identification of data needs, data issues and use of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant GFCM data submission obligations and related data quality indicators Data transmission issues and procedures to revise/update data Schedule of relevant working groups and stock assessments Outcomes of GFCM SAC 2022 and new GFCM requirements in relation to data collection Discussion in plenary	Federico De Rossi (GFCM)
13:00-14:15	75 min	Lunch break	
14:15	15 min	GFCM - Training courses Training courses on the identification and handling of vulnerable species bycaught in the Med & BS Discussion in plenary	
14:30	45 min	RCG's Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SECWEB 	RCG's Secretariat





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		• AOB	NCs
		Discussion in plenary	
15:15-15:45	30 min	Coffee break	
		RCG Med&BS 2022 data call	
15:45	25 min	Regional analysis of landing, effort and landing value by species and metier	Chairs
		Discussion in plenary	
16:10	10 min	RCG Med&BS 2021 Report and main outcomes	Ivana Vukov
16:20	10 min	Conclusions - Identification of main issues and possible steps forward	All
16:30		END OF DAY 1	

Wednesday, 7 Sept DAY 2 - Update on activities carried out in 2022

Time (Cyprus)	Duration	Topic	Presenter
09:30-09:45	15 min	Testing/Chat	
		Diadromous species	
9:45	30 min	Review of progress in 2022 at EU (RCG ISSG Diadromous) and GFCM level	Manos Koutrakis
		Discussion in plenary	
		Métier Issues	
10:15	45 min	Intersessional Sub Group on Métier Issues	Josefine Egekvist, ICES
		Discussion in plenary	
11:00-11:30	30 min	Coffee break	
		Scientific surveys - Review of 2021-2022 regional coordination, next steps and actions	
		MEDIAS	
		MEDITS	
11:30	60 min	Black Sea surveys	George Tserpes Elitsa Petrova, Violin Raykov
		Discussion in plenary	
		STREAMLINE	
12:30	30 min	STREAMLINE proposals on draft RWPs	Alessandro Ligas
		Discussion in plenary	
13:00-14:15	75 min	Lunch break	

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14:15	60 min	STREAMLINE	All
		Feedback from each MS Discussion in plenary	
15:15-15:45	30 min	Coffee break	
15:45	25 min	STREAMLINE	Isabella Bitetto
		Results of Task 2.1 and proposals on sampling optimisation Discussion in plenary	
16:10	20 min	Summary	All
16:30		END OF DAY 2	

Thursday, 8 Sept DAY 3 - Update on activities carried out in 2022

Time (Cyprus)	Duration	Topic	Presenter
09:30-09:45	15 min	Testing/Chat	
9:45	75 min	STREAMLINE - continued	Alessandro Ligas Isabella Bitetto
		Creation of an ISSG on decision-making on RWPs (STREAMLINE WP3) Discussion in plenary	
11:00-11:30	30 min	Coffee break	
11:30	45 min	STREAMLINE - continued	Alessandro Ligas Isabella Bitetto
		Creation of an ISSG on sampling optimisation (scientific network) Discussion in plenary	
12:15	45 min	RDBFIS	Stefanos Kavadas
		• Timeline of the project RDBFIS and milestones • Open issues Discussion in plenary	
13:00-14:15	75 min	Lunch break	
14:15	60 min	Regional database	Paola Carrara, Martina Zilioli
		• Med&BS RDB governance, data policy and access	





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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes of the last meeting of the RDB SC 	Alessandro Ligas Isabella Bitetto
		Discussion in plenary	
15:15-15:45	30 min	Coffee break	
15:45		End of Day 3	
17:00		Excursion to Nicosia & Dinner	

Friday, 9 Sept DAY 4 - Update on activities carried out in 2022, Agreements & Recommendations

Time (Cyprus)	Duration	Topic	Presenter
09:45-10:00	15 min	Testing/Chat	
		Regional database	
10:00	30 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up discussion on the hosting of the Regional Database Med&BS AOB 	DG MARE, NCs
		Discussion in plenary	
		RCG Med&BS Agreements and Recommendations	
10:30	30 min	Follow-up on RCG Med&BS 2021 recommendations	Chairs, NCs, All
11:00-11:30	30 min	Coffee break	
		RCG Med&BS Agreements and Recommendations	
11:30	90 min	Agreement on RCG Med&BS 2022 recommendations	Chairs, NCs, All
13:00-14:15	75 min	Lunch break	
14:15	45 min	RCG chairing in the next 5-year period (2023-2027) - agreement on MS rotation RCG meeting calendar in 2023 (chairs, dates, venues, ToRs, ISSG) Participation in RCG Decision meeting	Chairs NCs
15:00-15:30	30 min	Coffee break	
15:30		END OF THE MEETING	





Annex II: Terms of Reference

ToR	Title	Description
1	End-users Meeting - Data requirements and data transmission issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of data needs, data issues and use of data by end-users. • Collaborate with end-users to identify common and recurrent issues and prioritize actions to improve the quality of transmitted data and avoid data transmission failures. • Propose ways to improve the communication and feedback on DTI. • Data requests
2	Regional database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review progress in setting-up the regional database for the Med&BS • Discussion on RDB structure and hosting options
3	Cooperation with regional projects (MARE/2020/08 - Strengthening EU-MAP data collection by developing Regional Work Plans for the Regional Coordination Groups)	<p>STREAMLINE - Streamlining the establishment of regional work plans in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.</p> <p>SECWEB - Supporting administrative tasks and online visibility to RCGs.</p> <p>Collaboration with the RCG's Secretariat to provide relevant information for the development of the website.</p> <p>Discussion on the long-term plan to maintain the Secretariat as a permanent support structure to the RCGs.</p> <p>Med&BS RDBFIS - Development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Seas.</p> <p>Discussion on the proposal for a governance structure, data policy and accessibility.</p> <p>Discussion on the current open issues.</p>
4	Regional data requirements	<p>RCG MED&BS data call - results; discussion on the purpose of the data call and use of data.</p> <p>MS were requested in 2022 to submit data on effort and landings by species métier for the period 2018-2021. Data is analysed to provide a regional overview in order to assess if any changes need to be made to national sampling plans and incorporated in the revision of national work plans.</p>
5	Diadromous species	Review of progress in 2022 at EU (RCG ISSG Diadromous) and GFCM level.
6	Métier issues	<p>Collaboration of RCG Med&BS and ISSG on <u>Metier Issues</u> was encouraged in Liaison meeting 2020 with the aim of standardizing the métier list and harmonizing codes (especially on mesh-size ranges) which will allow to avoid overlapping as well as apply similar methods and criteria on assigning métiers for fishing activities by Member States.</p> <p>A general workflow for assigning métiers was developed by ISSG on Metier Issues which set up a public repository on GitHub for storing reference lists, scripts, métier descriptions and documentation of procedures. R-script for assigning métiers to transversal data was developed and tested by the ISSG.</p> <p>The link to the métier work is: https://github.com/ices-eg/RCGs/tree/master/Metiers. This include all the reports, reference lists and scripts developed.</p> <p>The reports are found under https://github.com/ices-eg/RCGs/tree/master/Metiers/Reports where the newest is Report RCG ISSG on Metier Issues 2021_20210428.pdf.</p>
7	Scientific surveys	MEDIAS, MEDITS, Black Sea surveys - review of 2021-2022 regional coordination, next steps and actions.





Annex III: List of Participants

Name	Surname	Institution	Country	Email	Role	Institution Acronym	Attendance (presental/virtual)
Kelly	Camilleri	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture - MAFA	Malta	kelly.camilleri.1@gov.mt	Scientist/Expert involved in the DCF	DFA-MAFA	Presental
Myrto	Ioannou	Department of Fisheries & Marine Research	Cyprus	mioannou@fmr.moa.gov.cy	National Correspondent	DFMR	Presental
Jurgen	Mifsud	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture - MAFA	Malta	jurgen.a.mifsud@gov.mt	RCG Med&BS Chair, National Correspondent	DFA-MAFA	Presental
Charis	Charilaou	Department of Fisheries & Marine Research	Cyprus	ccharilaou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy	Biologist	DFMR	Presental
Jan	Potočnik Erzn	Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia	Slovenia	jan.potocnik.erzn@zrns.si	Biologist	ZZRS	Virtual
Alessandro	Ligas	Centre of Marine Biology	Italy	ligas@cibm.it	STREAMLINE Coordinator	CIBM	Virtual
Simona	Nicheva	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Bulgaria	simona.nicheva@iara.government.bg	National correspondent	EAFSA	Virtual
Kolyo	Zhelev	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Bulgaria	kolyo.zhelev@iara.government.bg	Expert involved in the DCF	EAFSA	Virtual
Ricard	Buxó	Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	Spain	rbuxo@mapa.es	Behalf of the NC	MAPA	Virtual
Manos	Kourakis	Fisheries Research Institute - Greece	Greece	manos@inale.gr	Scientific coordinator DCF Greece	FRI	Presental
Antonio	Cervantes	Instituto Español de Oceanografía	Spain	antonio.cervantes@ieo.csic.es	Biologist	IEO	Virtual
Angeliki	Adamidou	Fisheries Research Institute - Greece	Greece	adamidou@inale.gr	Expert involved in the DCF	FRI	Presental
Konstantinos	Touloumis	Fisheries Research Institute - Greece	Greece	touloumis@inale.gr	Expert involved in the DCF	FRI	Virtual
Venetia	Kostopoulou	DG MARE	EU	venetia.kostopoulou@ec.europa.eu	EU Commission	DG MARE	Presental
Michael	Chatziefstathiou	Directorate General for Fisheries	Greece	mchatziel@minagric.gr	National Correspondent (alternate)	DG FISHERIES	Presental
Konstantinos	Katsafaros	Directorate General for Fisheries	Greece	kkatsafaros@minagric.gr	National Correspondent	DG FISHERIES	Presental
Andrea	De Felice	Institute for Marine Biological Resources and Biotechnologies	Italy	andrea.defelice@cnr.it	Expert involved in the DCF	IRBIM-CNR	Virtual
Irene	Tzouramani	Agricultural Economic Research Institute-Greece	Greece	tzouramani@agri.gr	Expert involved in the DCF	AGRERI	Virtual
Federico	De Rossi	GFCM	FAO	federico.derossi@fao.org	GFCM data compliance officer	GFCM	Virtual
Stefanos	Kavadas	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research	Greece	stefanos@hcmr.gr	Med&BS RDBFIS coordinator	HCMR	Virtual
Alexandru	Gheorghie	National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Romania	alexandru.gheorghie@anpa.ro	National Correspondent	NAFA	Presental
Kety	Balaci	National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture	Romania	kety.balaci@anpa.ro	On behalf of NAFA	NAFA	Presental
Valadia	Maximov	National Institute for Marine Research and Development	Romania	vmaximov@alpha.rmri.ro	Scientific coordinator DCF	NIMRD	Presental
George	Tiganov	National Institute for Marine Research and Development	Romania	gtiganov@alpha.rmri.ro	Expert involved in the DCF	NIMRD	Presental
Paola	Carrara	National Research Council of Italy - IREA Institute	Italy	carrara.p@irea.cnr.it	Med&BS RDBFIS partner	CNR IREA	Virtual
Beatriz	Gujarro	Instituto Español de Oceanografía	Spain	beatriz.gujarro@ieo.csic.es	RCG Med&BS co-chair, Biologist	CNIEO-CSIC	Presental
Antonios	Papoutsis	Fisheries Research Institute - Greece	Greece	a.papoutsis@inale.gr	RDB SC member	FRI	Virtual
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Annex IV: RCG Med&BS – 2022 Data Call



Regional Coordination Group
Mediterranean and Black Sea

RCG MED&BS - Data call 2022

In accordance with the EU DCF (Regulation (EU) 2017/1004), the RCG chairs of the Med&BS herewith ask Member States to provide data at DCF level 6 **by September 2nd 2022 at the latest**. The characteristics of the data required are described below.

Content

The 2022 data call requests data for the **period 2018-2021** and is based on tables used in the past by the RCG Med&BS, for addressing Ranking system of métiers for Med&BS and Landing template for Med&BS. At the level of the RCG Med&BS it will be decided which three year average reference values (avg. 2018-2020 or avg. 2019-2021) should be relevant taking into account the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020.

Species requested in the Landings template are in accordance with species list for the RCG Med&BS (Table 1, Annex to the Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167).

The simplified SDEF format organized in three tables dedicated to Landings, Efforts, Sampling for addressing issues related to sampling optimization and quality is not requested in 2021, to avoid duplication of data provided under the regional project STREAMLINE (MARE/2020/08).

More specifically, the data call addresses the following:

RCG Med&BS Data Call Content	Data required	Data file	Species
Ranking system for the Mediterranean and for the Black Sea	Landings, Effort, Value	Ranking_Med&BS Table_2022 RCGMEDBS Data Call	All species landed (combined)
Review and update the landing template for the Mediterranean and for the Black Sea	Landings	Landings template_2022 RCGMEDBS Data Call	Species included in Landings template

Detailed data and table descriptions are provided in the relevant data files.

Feedback and data transmission

Data should be sent by mail to the RCG Med&BS chairs (e-mail addresses below) in xlsx format. Detailed instructions are in the templates. If any technical difficulty is encountered to provide the data, please contact the chairs.

Note that data submitted will only be used for the purpose of the working group and will not be stored in any database. Outputs from the ToRs will be in the form of tables containing aggregated data, as it was the case the previous years.

We look forward to your cooperation.

03/08/2022

Jurgen MIFSUD, chair RCG Med&BS 2022, jurgen.a.mifsud@gov.mt

Beatriz GUIJARRO, co-chair RCG Med&BS 2022, beatriz.guijarro@ieo.csic.es





RCG MED&BS 2022 REPORT

Annexes

Landings template for 2021 RCG MED&BS Data Call (for years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

Member State:						Landing weight (tons)				2018-2020	2019-2021
Region	Species (common name)	Species (scientific name)	Species FAO code	GFCM sub-region	Notes	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average landings (t)	Average landings (t)
Black Sea	Pontic shad	Alosa immaculata	SHC	GSAs 28-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	European Eel	Anguilla anguilla	ELE	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Transparent goby	Aphia minuta	FIM	GSAs 9, 10, 16 and 19						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Giant red shrimp	Aristaeomorpha foliacea	ARS	GSAs 1-16, 19-21 and 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Red shrimp	Aristeus antennatus	ARA	GSAs 1-16, 19-21 and 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Sand smelts nei	Atherina spp.	AVX	GSAs 9, 10, 16 and 19						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Rogue	Boops boops	BOG	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Blue crab	Callinectes sapidus	CRB	GSAs 8-10, 11.2, 12-16, 18-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Striped Venus clam	Chamelea gallina	SVE	GSAs 17-18						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Sardinia coral	Corallium rubrum	COL	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Dolphinfish	Coryphaena hippurus	DOL	GSAs 12-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Sea bass	Dicentrarchus labrax	BSS	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Annular seabream	Diplodus annularis	ANN	GSAs 12-16, 19-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Horned/curled octopus	Eledone cirrhosa	EOI	GSAs 1-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Musky octopus	Eledone moschata	EDT	GSAs 8-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea	Anchovy	Engraulis encrasicolus	ANE	GSAs 1-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Grey gurnard	Eutrigla gurnardus	GUG	GSAs 13-16, 18-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Blackmouth catshark	Galeus melastomus	SHO	GSAs 1-11						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Squids nei	Illex spp., Todarodes spp.		GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Silver-cheeked toadfish	Lagocephalus sceleratus	LFZ	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Common squid	Loligo vulgaris	SQR	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Black-bellied angler	Lophius budegassa	ANK	GSAs 1-16, 19-21; 22-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Anglerfish	Lophius piscatorius	MON	GSAs 1-16, 18-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Black Sea	Whiting	Merlangius merlangus	WHG	GSAs 28-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Hake	Merluccius merluccius	HKE	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Blue whiting	Micromesistius poutassou	WHB	GSAs 1-11, 22-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Grey mullets	Mugilidae	MUL	GSAs 8-10, 11.2, 12-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea	Red mullet	Mullus barbatus	MUT	GSAs 1-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Striped red mullet	Mullus surmuletus	MUR	GSAs 1-16, 19-21 and 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Norway lobster	Nephrops norvegicus	NEP	GSAs 1-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Common octopus	Octopus vulgaris	OCC	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Blackspot seabream	Pagellus bogaraveo	SBR	GSAs 1-11						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Common pandora	Pagellus erythrinus	PAC	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Deepwater rose shrimp	Parapenaeus longirostris	DPS	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Caramote prawn	Penaeus kerathurus	TGS	GSAs 22-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Blue crab	Portunus segnis	QSO	GSAs 8-10, 11.2, 12-16, 18-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Devil firefish	Pterois miles	UHQ	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean starry ray	Raja asterias	JRS	GSAs 1-11						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Thornback ray	Raja clavata	RJC	GSAs 1-16, 19-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Black Sea	Rapa whelk	Rapana venosa	RPW	GSAs 28-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Sardine	Sardina pilchardus	PIL	GSAs 1-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Round sardinella	Sardinella aurita	SAA	GSAs 1-16, 19-21 and 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Lizardfish	Saurida lessepsianus	SZX	GSAs 22-27	The species is not currently present in the Aquatic Sciences					#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Brushtooth lizardfish	Saurida undosquamis	LIB	GSAs 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Atlantic chub mackerel	Scomber colias	VMA	GSAs 1-11, 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Mackerel	Scomber scombrus	MAC	GSAs 1-16, 19-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Black Sea	Turbot	Scophthalmus maximus	TUR	GSAs 28-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Cuttlefish	Sepia officinalis	CTC	GSAs 1-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Dusky spinefoot	Siganus luridus	IGU	GSAs 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Marbled spinefoot	Siganus rivulatus	SRI	GSAs 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Common sole	Solea solea (Solea vulgaris)	SOL	GSAs 17-18, 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Gilthead sea bream	Sparus aurata	SBG	GSAs 7, 22-23						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	European barracuda	Sphyræna sphyraena	YRS	GSAs 12-16, 19-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Black Sea	Picarel	Spicara smaris	SPC	GSAs 17-18, 22-27						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Black Sea	European sprat	Sprattus sprattus	SPR	GSAs 28-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Picked dogfish	Squalus acanthias	DGS	GSAs 28-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea	Mantis shrimp	Squilla mantis	MTS	GSAs 17-18						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean horse mackerel	Trachurus mediterraneus	HMM	GSAs 1-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea	Blue jack mackerel	Trachurus picturatus	JAA	GSAs 1-11						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea	Atlantic horse mackerel	Trachurus trachurus	HOM	GSAs 1-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	Poor cod	Trisopterus minutus	POD	GSAs 1-29						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea	Clams	Veneridae	CLV	GSAs 6, 13-21						#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Mediterranean Sea	All commercial sharks, rays and skates *	Selachii, Rajidae		GSAs 1-29	* To be reported at species level					#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!

Format:

Landings	
Field name	Description
Total landings (t)	landing in tons





Annex V: Presentations

It is a separate file

