



Regional Coordination Group
Mediterranean and Black Sea

Regional Coordination Group for the Mediterranean and Black Sea

RCG MED&BS REPORT 2023

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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
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
RGM	Regional Coordination Meeting





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Acronyms

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 from the 29th of August to the 1st of September 2023 in Madrid, Spain. The availability of SharePoint offered by ICES proved to be very efficient in organizing the work before, during and after the meeting.

The 7th 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, Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. The RCG Med&BS meeting was attended also by the representatives of the DG MARE, JRC, STECF, GFCM Secretariat, the chairs of MEDITS and MEDIAS steering committees and consortia of studies under the FWC Med & BS.

In 2023 an official data call was launched by the chair and co-chair of the RCG Med&BS, requesting data on landings, effort and value data for the period 2020 - 2022, 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 14th of July to all National Correspondents, with a deadline on the 15th of August 2023. 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 was reviewed by the chair, and clarifications on data values and coding were received whenever requested.

A ranking system of metiers at level 6 was performed at regional level (Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea - GSA29). 26 metiers were identified for the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2020-2022, listed in Table 2.8.1.1. 13 metiers were identified for the Black Sea for the same period, listed in Table 2.8.1.7.

In overall, 13 metiers were selected through the ranking procedure in the Mediterranean and 5 in the Black Sea (see Table 2.8.1.6 and Table 2.8.1.12 accordingly). The results from the ranking system of metiers at level 6 that was performed at the regional level were reviewed by the RCG Med&BS during plenary. It was agreed that this procedure will be performed again the following year, through data that will be provided under the RCG's data call.

During the meeting **10 recommendations** were made:

Recommendation 1 - Data requirements and data transmission issues.

Recommendation 2 - Information included in RCG Med&BS Data Call.

Recommendation 3 - Marine Action Plan – role of RFMOs.

Recommendation 4 - Marine Action Plan – Inclusion in the WP activities covered by other programmes.

Recommendation 5 - Surveys – Sampling season for scientific surveys.

Recommendation 6 - Surveys – Quality checks.

Recommendation 7 - Surveys – Acoustic data collection during the pelagic trawl surveys in the Black Sea.

Recommendation 8 - Surveys – test study for new sampling during acoustic MEDIAS Survey.

Recommendation 9 - Data Calls – increasing demand on MS.





Recommendation 10 - RDBFIS – Regional Data Base.

The agenda and the participants' list are in Annex I and Annex II respectively. Recommendations are listed in section 5 and they summarize the work, discussions and decisions of the RCG Med&BS 2023. The official data call for 2023 is in Annex III.

In 2023 the RCG Med&BS was co-chaired by Ms. Beatriz Guijarro and Mr. Tessier Emmanuel and in 2024 it will be co-chaired by Mr. Tessier Emmanuel and Ms. Charis Charilaou. The 2024 RCG Med&BS will be a physical meeting in France, 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.
- Review of the collaboration with end-users to identify common and recurrent issues. 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. Follow up from MAPAFISH Med data request; other data request

2. COM input on priorities and relevant initiatives

3. Regional database

- Review progress in setting-up the regional database for the Med&BS
- Establishment of technical group on the Regional DataBase RDBFIS (Rec. 4)
- New chair of the RDBFIS

4. Cooperation with regional grants

Med&BS RDBFIS II - Development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Seas

- Discussion on the current open issues.

SECWEB - Supporting administrative tasks and online visibility to RCGs

- Discussion on the long-term plan to maintain the Secretariat as a permanent support
- Activities of the Secretariat
- Supporting the operation and functioning of the RCG's Secretariat (Rec. 6)

QUALITRAIN

- Objectives and achievements

FISHGENOME

- Objectives and achievements

5. Regional Work Plan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea

- ISSG RWPs Med&BS. Actions carried out and progress of the RWP. Tables and Text Boxes.
- ISSG Recreational Fisheries (Rec. 2). Actions carried out and progress of the RWP
- ISSG PETs bycatch monitoring (Rec. 3). Actions carried out and progress of the RWP
- ISSG Stomach sampling (Rec. 5). Actions carried out and progress of the RWP
- ISSG Scientific network for sampling optimization (Rec. 8). Actions carried out and progress of the RWP

6. Métier issues

Collaboration of RCG Med&BS and ISSG on Métier Issues to update the list of métiers (Rec. 1). Actions carried out and results.

- Revision of the standardized list of métiers
- New métiers proposed by MSs





7. Scientific surveys

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

- Expansion of MEDIAS to GSA 15 on a voluntary basis (Tarek) (Rec. 7)
- Revision of the surveys period (MEDITS and MEDIAS)

8. 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 2023 to submit data on effort and landings by species métier for the period 2020-2022. 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.

9. Diadromous species

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





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 European Commission – Identification of data needs in 2023 and use of data

STECF related work

The STECF EWG 23-05 on ‘Data methodology and dissemination’ was presented by Zeynep Hekim (JRC).

The STECF EWG 23-08 on the ‘Evaluation of the 2022 Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission issues from 2022’ (19 - 23 June 2023, Brussels) evidenced an overall improvement in the performance of Member States Annual Reports (AR) 2022. However, STECF noted that the overall performance is only for illustrative purposes. DG MARE and Member States should primarily refer to the assessment of each section in the AR evaluation grid and the Member State feedback. Even where a YES, or MOSTLY has been indicated, there may be comments from the EWG that point towards possible improvements to the Member States WP.

In terms of data transmission (DT) issues, 278 DT issues from 5 data calls in 2022 were reported by 3 end users for all sea basins. Of these, 113 DT issues were related to coverage, 155 to quality and 10 to timeliness. Regarding the process, the revised Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT) will allow for an efficient follow-up, as there will be new columns included in the DTMT from autumn 2023 onwards, to document the follow-up process.

2.1.2 Transferring biological data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call into the FDI database

Providing the same data to two data calls (MED&BS and FDI data call) in different formats during the same period of the year was too much work for the Member States. The EWG 19-11 compared the data requested to the FDI data call with the data provided to the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call and concluded that the two datasets are entirely consistent regarding effort and biological data and therefore the Member States (MS) should not be requested to send the same information twice in the same period of the year with different formats (STECF-19-11). Thus, starting from 2020 data call biological data for Mediterranean and Black Sea were not requested anymore in the FDI data call.

However, STECF suggested that a re-introduction of such data would make the FDI database more valuable in the future. Thus, in 2021 the EWG 21-10 (methodology) reviewed both data sets and concluded “that the transfer of the biological data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea data call into the FDI format/database is technical feasible” and suggested to use tools that have been developed by the STREAM project. The EWG also recommended some changes in the data calls and to perform trial on data transfer. STECF plenary and DG MARE agreed with the proposal of previous EWGs to implement trial, therefore ad hoc contract was assigned in 2023 to implement this task.





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The ad hoc contract performed a test transposing historic data from the MED&BS data call to the FDI data call format using the provided scripts developed by the STREAM project, and further adapting this script to the current format of the FDI data call tables. The ad hoc work concluded that the transfer of commercial biological data from the MED&BS format to the FDI format is feasible by reshaping the MED&BS data and making some code changes. However, unnecessary changes in the templates should be avoided to ensure compatibility and ease of use. The link of the transferred biological data from MED&BS to the existing data in the FDI Table A is done using the domain definition and the DOMAIN was difficult to form for the transferred data not knowing the detailed information of the data.

The ad hoc contract was further discussed at the EWG 23-05 FDI methodology meeting and the EWG highlighted the purpose of DOMAIN field in the FDI data call to link biological data tables with less disaggregated Table A: “Domains refer to the group of vessels used to calculate estimates (discards, numbers at age, number at length) by a country”. The EWG concluded that the RCG Med&BS chairs should be involved in this process. Also to present during the RCG Med&BS meeting: the need for the amendment of column ID with column DOMAIN, no additional burden to the MS since the templates for the MED&BS data call will not change and DOMAIN is a flexible field that should capture the sampling program design. The EWG also proposed to MS and to the Commission to have a pilot study with 2023 data during the 2024 MED&BS data call where the data to the MED&BS would be submitted with the information of the DOMAIN under the column ID.

During the discussion, it became clear that the target is to end up with all data in one place and in one format. The regional database for the Med&BS – RDBFIS - that is currently under development, should provide a solution.

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Overview of 2023 DG MARE Med & BS data call

The 2023 DG MARE Med&BS data call was launched on May 17, with a legal deadline on 29 June and an operational deadline on 18 July. Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou informed participants that, from this year onwards, all timeliness issues related to submission of data by MS to the Med&BS data call will be recorded in the DTMT. This will be done to keep track of the whole process and to avoid a partial view obtained only for the data used in stock assessment.

MS complained because the deadlines of the Med & BS and FDI data calls are one day¹ apart and proposed a gap of at least 3-5 days. The workload at national level is high, but the capacity in terms of human resources stays the same, so a lot of mistakes happen. MS need more capacity to address data calls and ad hoc data requests.

Participants agreed that a process is needed to ensure that the most updated data is provided to the STECF EWGs. The data used in the EWGs needs to be synchronised with the data in the JRC databases².

¹ Med & BS data call legal deadline: 29 June 2023; FDI data call legal deadline: 30 June 2023.

² Any changes/ updates in data sets that take place during an EWG are not included in the JRC databases, unless the MS asks for resubmission of historic data in the following year's data call.





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Slovenia informed of a new code (*Spicara flexuosum*)³ that is not included in the species list of the Med & BS data call. JRC clarified that it is not requested but proposed to update the MEDITS list.

Data collection

Mr. Sven Kupschus (JRC) made a presentation on the DCF data collection process. The objective of the presentation was to highlight the need to review data quality at a higher specificity than the current coverage – error quality metrics.

The take home messages are:

- There is a need to stop looking at the data collection – assessment – management process as a linear process. There is a wide variety of necessary feedback loops in the process that are currently not formally implemented in the management process of the region;
- Data cannot be formally evaluated for quality / value based only on the data. It's the confrontation with models / processes that provides information, so it is subject or objective dependent. Data in itself is not 'bad' or 'good';
- Identifying 'valuable data' is not straight forward in complex models. But we can use three approaches to identify their impact: (1). comparison: what does the data say in relation to what we already know? (2) resampling: when we already have some data, we can remove parts of it to see how this changes the outcomes in the metrics of interest. (3) simulations: we can apply different sampling protocols to simulated 'populations' using statistical sampling procedures, to evaluate how informative different sampling approaches in recovering the 'known' population trends are;
- These methods all have their benefits and drawbacks, but developing standardised methodologies can provide a quick and effective method for evaluating at least the relative merits of different sampling plans.

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Data requests and overview on data sharing

The MAPAFISH MED data request was presented by Mr. Nico Sturaro (DG MARE, Unit C3) and the MAPAFISH Med consortium.

Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou presented thirteen (13) data requests, that were sent to the Med & BS Member States, between 2020 and 2023. Venetia Kostopoulou reminded MS the rules on data sharing and underlined the importance of public availability of data, particularly on what concerns survey data⁴.

³ *Spicara flexuosum* is now recognised as a separate species, whereas in previous years these specimens were considered to belong to the species *Spicara maena*.

⁴ This point is linked to the STECF PLEN 21-02 report, point 7.7 'Question on the use of data following data checks carried out in EWG 21-02'. STECF concluded that because fisheries data (both commercial and survey data) in the Med&BS area are currently less accessible than the corresponding ones in the ICES area, this increasing interest adds a significant workload to all interested parties, and makes data sharing for the Med&BS data a longer and more cumbersome process which negatively affects all interested parties (data requesters, MS, DG MARE, JRC). STECF stressed that the data collected under DCF calls are funded through public money; survey data, in particular, represent highly valuable information of generic scientific interest and without restrictions linked to commercial confidentiality. STECF fully supports that these scientific resources be made publicly available in the interests of all end-users and be freely used for further analyses provided the source is acknowledged and the obligations are met.





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

The GFCM Secretariat presented an overview of the relevant and increasing GFCM data submissions obligations, including a general outline of the GFCM instrument for the collection and transmission of fisheries-related data: the Data call reference framework (DCRF) and its components (DCRF manual and DCRF online platform).

The RCG was provided with a summary of the application of quality indicators (timeliness, completeness, conformity, stability and consistency) to the fisheries information transmitted by the EU Member States through the DCRF online platform. Such summary of quality assessment results arises from the analysis of 23 regional DCRF subtasks (data reference year 2021, as transmitted in 2022), and new subregional DCRF subtask (data reference year 2021 and 2022, as transmitted in 2022).

The GFCM Secretariat presented the schedule of relevant Working Groups and stock assessment meetings in 2023-2024 and a summary of the outputs of the SAC 2023 session related to data collection, mainly on regional priorities for data collection, recreational fisheries and scientific monitoring of fishing activities.

2.1.4 GFCM – Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - RPOA-SSF (Res. CGPM/45/2022/3)

The GFCM Secretariat presented an overview of the implementation of the RPOA-SSF, focusing on the SSF data collection, the outputs and the 4 workshops identified by the participants of the SSF Forum, as well as the timeline of the mid-term review of the plan GFCM Regional Plan of Action on Small-scale Fisheries.

2.2 ToR 2 - European Commission input on priorities and relevant initiatives

2.2.1 Policy updates on main initiatives and priorities

Revised Control Regulation

The provisional agreement on the revision of the fisheries control system under the Control Regulation was presented by Ms. Marta Moren Abat (DG MARE, Unit D4).

Ms. Marta Moren Abat presented a general view of the main features of the revision of the EU Regulation establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

She reported that the revision includes amendments to 6 Regulations. The main changes concern the Control Regulation and some targeted amendments are introduced to the EFCA Founding Regulation and the IUU Regulation.

She explained the main changes that the revision is proposing to the Control Regulation. The main changes involve the margin of tolerance of weighing of catches, the control of the landing obligation (LO), obligations to monitor and report recreational fisheries and fisheries without a vessel, the continuous control of engine



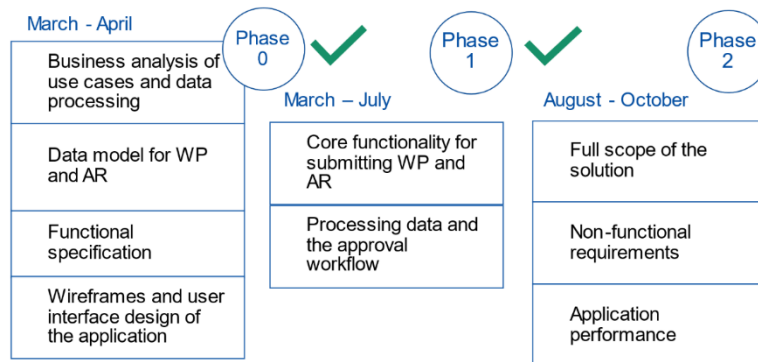


power of vessels, and the traceability of all fisheries and aquaculture products, including products imported in the Union. The revision is also strengthening the enforcement, system of sanctions and harmonises the criteria for serious infringements of the CFP rules. Moreover, it contains new provisions concerning the control of the external fleet and obligations aiming to continue supporting more sustainable fisheries practices.

Data Reporting & DCF Platform

The DCF platform is currently under development and progressing according to schedule. The online platform is dedicated to a user interface for WP and AR, coupled with a dedicated database, where Member States can upload their National WP/AR and other DCF-related documents. The platform comprises modules and functionalities to enable online submission, STECF evaluation and follow up, user control, as well as quality analyses and retrieval of DCF related information and metadata. Phase 0 - which includes the business analysis of use cases and data processing, the data model for WP and AR, the functional specification and the user interface design of the application - was completed at the end of April. In May, COM consulted on main deliverables with the IT and data expert subgroup, which is composed of National Correspondents and DCF experts, who volunteered for this task. Phase 1 was completed in July and included the development of the core functionality for submitting WP and AR, as well as the processing data and the approval workflow. The concluding phase from August to October (Phase 2) entails the full scope of the solution, the non-functional requirements and the application performance.

DCF IT platform - Timeline



2.2.2 EU Action Plan: Protected and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries (COM/2023/102 EU Action Plan)

Action Plan role of DCF and RCGs

The [EU Action Plan for protecting and restoring marine ecosystems](#) for sustainable and resilient fisheries was adopted on 21 February 2023 in the 'Fisheries and [Ocean package](#), together with the CFP functioning report, (relevant for DCF e.g. recreational fisheries), the [Energy transition](#) in EU fisheries and aquaculture





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(relevant for possible socioeconomic data collection) and the implementation report of the [Common market organisation](#). The EU Action Plan aims to connect the environmental and fisheries policies as a means to provide a strong contribution to the delivery on the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy, as well as current obligations under both fisheries and environmental legislation. Its objectives are to contribute to getting and keeping fish stocks to sustainable levels, reduce the impact of fishing on the seabed and minimise fisheries impacts on sensitive species. It contains actions for Member States and the Commission to: (i) improve gear selectivity and address bycatch of sensitive species, (ii) protect the seabed, (iii) support the fisheries sector in the transition by maximising the use of available funds and (iv) provide the required knowledge base and governance for implementation, while ensuring stakeholder involvement and outreach.

While giving a high-level overview of the main actions, the presentation focussed on the DCF relevant aspects covered in the knowledge chapter. A sound knowledge base through systematic data collection and scientific monitoring is required to assess the impact of fishing on marine habitats and species, as well as to design and develop initiatives to manage fisheries and protect the marine environment. The action plan stipulates that *“this work should include designing targeted monitoring programmes to improve observations and reporting of incidentally by-caught species. The programmes should cover high-risk fisheries and the potential impacts of all relevant fleet segments, including smaller vessels. They should also look at data on recreational fisheries, including recreational fishing boats, and their impact on the stocks and the marine environment. The updated and modernised Control Regulation, once adopted by the co-legislators, will play an important role in making these improvements“*.

The main actions relevant to the DCF are:

- By the end of 2023, under EU environmental and fisheries law, define objectives and specific data needs for each sea basin to monitor the impact of fishing on ecosystems and carbon sequestration, involving authorities at regional level as appropriate, and then allocating sufficient funds for these activities;
- By the end of 2024, submit updated national DCF WP to improve data collection planning and efforts, including in relation to by-catch of sensitive species and impact of fishing on the seabed.

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The definition of objectives and specific data needs are led by DG ENV, who will support Member States with the advice request to ICES on appropriate bycatch monitoring systems, to fulfil the requirements of Nature directives and the MSFD; assist Member States for setting up threshold values for bycatch mortality under the MSFD (with the help of JRC); assist Member States for setting up threshold values on the adverse effects from fishing on seabed habitats, notably through published ICES advice on adverse effects and follow-up ICES technical service. It is expected that the resubmissions of National WP in 2024 for 2025-2027 will include the updates on the Regional WP and improved monitoring on bycatch and impacts on the seafloor.

Participants noted that ICCAT and GFCM are not included in the Action Plan. However, for the Med & BS, the GFCM Action Plan on vulnerable species should be considered. There is concern among Member States whether DG ENV will accept GFCM standards. In terms of procedures, it would make sense for the RCG chairs to be invited to the Special Group.

An EU survey was circulated among Member States to map data sources on the environmental impact of fisheries other than the DCF. The deadline for reply was set for end September. The aim is to include this information in the Work Plans, but it is not clear how to report it, since it should not be linked to EMFAF funding. A question will be addressed to STECF.





2.3 ToR 3 - Regional database

2.3.1 Steering Committee for the Med&BS regional database (Med&BS RDB SC)

A meeting was held on 27 July 2023 and was chaired by Mr. Alessandro Ligas. It was agreed that this Group should be composed of candidates with technical skill and capacity in database management and data policy, since the Group will be in charge of the management of the Med & BS RDB (once RDBFIS II project is finalized). The 2022 RCG recommendation on the establishment of a technical group was discussed and it was agreed that there is no need, at present, to activate this group, as RDBFIS II will ensure proper follow up and training of national experts.





2.4 ToR 4 - Cooperation with regional projects

2.4.1 FWC Med&BS ongoing studies

Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou briefly presented two ongoing studies under the Framework Contract Med & BS:

- Hosting, maintenance and further development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea ('Med&BS RDBFIS-II'). The aim of the current study is: (i) to provide a temporary solution for hosting and maintenance of the RDBFIS, (ii) to work on fine-tuning and further development and (iii) to provide support and training to the users. The coordinator is Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR). The study started on 01/04/2023 and has a 24-month duration. A more detailed presentation was given by the coordinator.
- Quality checking of Mediterranean & Black Sea data and training for Member State experts ('Qualitrain'). The objectives of this study are: (i) to carry out technical work on quality checks and data checking in Med & BS and (ii) to prepare, coordinate and organise technical trainings and information sessions. The coordinator is Isabella Bitetto (COISPA). The study started on 14/12/2022 and has a 24-month duration. A more detailed presentation was given by the coordinator.

2.4.2 Med&BS RDBFIS II – Development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and Black Sea

Mr. Stefanos Kavadas presented the follow up study to the RDBFIS (completed on February 2023), RDBFIS II, which started on 01/04/2023 and has a 24-month duration.

The aim of the study is to:

- provide a temporary solution for hosting and maintenance of RDBFIS;
- work on fine-tuning and further development;
- provide support and training to the users.

RDBFIS will support, among others, MS in the preparation of data to the main recurrent data calls (DG MARE Med&BS, DG MARE FDI, RCG Med&BS, GFCM/DCRF). Apart from fisheries-dependent data, it will include fisheries-independent data (MEDITS, MEDIAS, Black Sea suveys), and information from EU fleet register, EU CIRCABC (port location by Master Data Register), WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species), ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System), EMODNET (bathymetry), as well as spatial data from several sources. Further development is envisaged for the integration of fleet economic data.

The next step in this project is the population of the system with data. To this end, a data call will be addressed to the relevant MS and actors of the region, such as RFMOs. The requested datasets to be stored in the RDBFIS will refer to the period:

- 2002-2022 for Med&BS data call;
- 2013-2022 for FDI data call;
- 2017-2022 for GFCM/DCRF data call;
- Med&BS RCG data (DCR & DCF: fishing intensity, landings, detailed biological data);
- MEDIAS data.





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Mr Alessandro Mannini asked on the codes that will be used for the DG MARE Med & BS data call, as there have been some code changes throughout the years. Mr. Stefanos Kavadas replied that the latest templates will be used. This means that MS need to revise their historic data sets for RDBFIS and subsequently update JRC databases.

Ms Ivana Vukov stressed the need to support MS in the impact of fisheries on the environment, since many VME data calls are launched by GFCM. Copernicus data would be very useful in this respect. Mr. Stefanos Kavadas committed to further explore this option (format is more complicated).

It was commonly agreed for Stefanos Kavadas to provide technical specifications to MS before launching the data call and to consult the RCG Med & BS on a reasonable deadline.

2.4.3 SECWEB – Supporting administrative tasks and online visibility to RCGs

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 matter was decided to be dealt within the ISSG NCs.

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...)

For 2023, 20 Member States have committed their acceptance of the service offer received and the process remains open to try to confirm all of them and explore other possibilities. A call for tenders was launched by DG MARE where the consortium submitted an offer and the service has been accepted. Funding for the RCG Secretariat is ensured until February 2024.

In the mid-term, the consortium applied to the EU action grant to partially cover some of the Secretariat services during 2024-2025 (18 months). In the long term, discussions are ongoing on the setting up of a panregional subgroup (all NCs, RCG chairs and DG MARE) under the name 'ISSG National correspondents'.

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 RCGs website](#). Its maintenance is the second priority for the Secretariat:





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- [Repository of Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements](#)
- Space with content about each of the [ISSGs](#)
- A new section with information about the Secretariat
- [Newsletter](#)
- [RCGs stakeholder's database](#)

The [RCGs stakeholder's 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.

2.4.4 QUALITRAIN

Ms. Isabella Bitteto provided an overview on QualiTrain project, an EU funded specific contract, with CINEA and DG MARE as Contracting Authority, aimed at implementing technical work on quality checks, as well as prepare, coordinate and organise technical trainings and information sessions.

The need of this project was raised several years ago when it was observed that there was an unbalanced reporting among MS on data quality by the STECF due to the fact that the EWG focused on Western Med and Adriatic-Ionian Seas. For this reason, the RCG suggested to have EWGs focused only on data quality to work on a list covering all MS. Nevertheless, these lists were not completed during EWGs due to time constrains. STECF observed that almost all MS do not use the available data quality tools neither on commercial nor on survey data. This is the main reason behind the need of QualiTrain project, that is a project, as other grants, at the service of RCG.

QualiTrain project is structured in 6 interconnected tasks, the first dealing with the coordination and the last with the synthesis of the work carried out. From task 1-4 we have the real technical work and training organization.

Under Task 0 one of the milestones is the creation of a training network on data quality checks in collaboration with RCG Med&BS to promote the widest participation of the MS in developing/improving data quality checks, including training workshops, the testing of the new quality check tools and the application of these tools to DCF data. It will be required to each MS to indicate two reference persons to be part of the network; the work of this network is expected to improve and complement the work on sampling optimization network, that will carry out analysis on checked data.

Task 1, is aimed at the finalisation and consolidation of the available data quality checks tools (EWG 22-03 and RDBqc package developed under RDBFIS project; this task has almost completed its work, the new version of RDBqc package is finalized and available on a Github repository: <https://github.com/COISPA/RDBqc>; the tests are almost completed. The work of this task was mainly focused on the cross checks among the data calls, including Annual Economic Report and Annual Report. Task 2 has to start in few weeks and will carry out of data quality checks for the 78 remaining stocks not checked by EWG 22-03, based on the methodology consolidated under Task 1. In this task the technical work will be carried out virtually, but also during a dedicated workshop involving only the consortium experts. On the other hand, the project will also work on additional stocks for which data quality checks can be useful in the near future. Indeed, Task 3 will propose additional stocks driving the fishery for each MS in the Med & BS, carrying out of data quality checks





for these stocks. A questionnaire will be distributed to NC and RCG Chairs to identify these stocks, according to their relevance for advice and for by catch, in line with MSFD; 70-80 additional stocks are expected to be checked. Also, for this task a workshop within the consortium will facilitate the technical work. Under Task 4, two trainings are planned to be organized for Med & BS national experts and the training network will play a key role in testing the quality check packages. A dedicated budget allocation for facilitating the participation of one expert per MSs not involved in the project to the physical training is foreseen by the project. The first training will be virtual and will be held the first week of October. Task 5 will advise on the way forward, in terms of improving data coverage and quality in the Med & BS region. The task will build on the outcomes of the previous tasks, identifying possible improvements to the data quality and data collection, improvements for the data calls template and stocks not sufficiently checked.

Ms. Isabella Bitteto stressed the importance to participate to the trainings for all MS and the need to test and get familiar with these data quality tools to dramatically reduce the numbers of data failures in the data calls and to have more robust data to carry out analysis on sampling effort optimization and, consequently, to get effective RWPs.

2.4.5 MAPAFISH-MED study

As a follow up to last year's RCG meeting, DG MARE (Nicolas Sturaro (NS)) reminded the objectives and context of the MAPAFISH-MED study on marine protected areas (MPAs). He explained how the study aims to address DG MARE and COM priorities, and stressed the need to have an overview of the fishing activities within and surrounding MPAs in EU waters, including in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. He acknowledged Member States (MS) for the good cooperation in the process of the data requests sent end of 2022 and early 2023, highlighting the efforts and the work accomplished so far.

The MAPAFISH-MED consortium (Dimitrios Damalas (DD)) presented the methodology and preliminary results. He focused on the analysis of DCF fishery data submitted by MS with a view to address potential concerns on data interpretation. He underlined that numerous designation types of MPAs exist at national level and that these were reduced to major categories. Fishing data were reported in around two thirds of the MPAs investigated. Preliminary outcomes showed that fishing intensity outside MPAs was generally more than three times higher than inside, yet high heterogeneity was observed among MS. Towed gears made significant catches inside MPAs and significant effort was observed in specific MPA designation types.

HR highlighted the need to be cautious with the definition of the area investigated outside the MPAs and the connection of this study with the EU marine action plan. If this study aims to inform COM on the impact of fishing activities within and around MPAs, there is a need to consider the size of the area around the MPAs. In addition, EMODnet is key to identify habitat types and link them to the MPAs and the fishing activities.

DD explained that not all areas in MPAs are areas where fishing is prohibited. He underlined that, besides being banned inside fully protected areas (specific areas inside certain MPAs), fishing is not allowed, only in Natura 2000 sites over certain habitats. However, these habitats are not yet mapped in a comprehensive way as EMODnet is a model of potential substrate. On the area investigated around the MPAs, after careful consideration, the consortium selected a radius of 5 km from MPAs' borders. In addition, DD suggested that a sensitivity analysis could be run using different radius. [The following explanation was also made by the consortium subsequently to the meeting: This radius from MPAs' borders allows to identify appropriate





unprotected control reference areas with environmental conditions similar to the ones inside the MPAs. A smaller radius would have implied selecting areas potentially affected by MPAs' ecological effects (i.e. spillover) and therefore not representing genuine control. On the other hand, selecting a larger radius would have not been feasible due to the large number of MPAs distributed in the study area at relatively short distance from each other, and could have determined a mismatch in environmental conditions between the MPAs and the control reference areas].

NS highlighted that it is important for the scientific consortium and DG MARE to have the views of MS on the outcomes. He informed MS about the recent launch of a new study related to MPAs under the FWC Med & BS (SPILLOVER-MED). The study aims to provide an overview of the role that MPAs may play for local fisheries through spillover effects in the Mediterranean and Black Seas. He noted that to respond to some specific objectives, the scientific consortium might request data in the coming months. The outcomes of this study could be of interest for MS.

2.4.6 FISHGENOME project and roadmap

The FishGenome project “Improving cost-efficiency of fisheries research surveys and fish stocks assessments using next-generation genetic sequencing methods” [Contract – EASME/EMFF/2017/1.3.2.10/ SI2.790889] was completed this year. It aimed to assess the suitability of novel genomic tools to deliver essential parameters for fisheries stock assessment of commercially exploited species, which could underpin scientific advice and fisheries management. The project included the assessment of the feasibility and the value of the implementation of such tools and applied methodologies such as environmental DNA; epigenetic age determination; RAD-seq for connectivity; genotyping for stock substructure; genotyping for sex assignment and Close-Kin Mark-Recapture.

The final report can be accessed via: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4cdb3dc7-f080-11ed-a05c-01aa75ed71a1>

The project included a Roadmap, which contains key information on whether and how the analyzed genomic-based approaches could become part of the regular research surveys and data collection activities with short/mid/long-term actions. The RCGs are included in the roadmap and were asked to consider it and its way forward, with the roadmap made available as an internal document during the meeting.





2.5. ToR 5 - Regional Work Plan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea

2.5.1 ISSG 'RWPs Med&BS - An Overview'

Mr. Alessandro Ligas reported on two meetings that were held in 2023 to finalise the tables and text boxes of the RWP.

The draft RWP on the biological aspects of data collection contains the following sections:

- Data availability;
- Regional and international coordination (list of meetings);
- Bi and multilateral agreements;
- List of required stocks (chosen for sampling, based on established thresholds);
- Recreational fisheries data collection;
- Surveys;
- Stomach content analysis;
- Other data collection activities (text on funding of the RCG Secretariat and support to Med&BS Regional data base (RDBFIS));
- Incidental catches of sensitive species (text box).

MS commented and updated this version during the meeting. Work is ongoing in the RCG Med&BS through ISSGs and an updated RWP is expected by June 2024 (to be assessed at the STECF EWG on Annual Reports).

It was commonly agreed that the updated draft RWP – as discussed during the meeting - will be circulated by Friday 8th September and final agreement is expected at the RCG Decision Meeting (on 27th September), after which the RWP will be submitted to COM.

Ms. Venetia Kostopoulou reminded participants the timeline for the adoption of Regional WP, according to which:

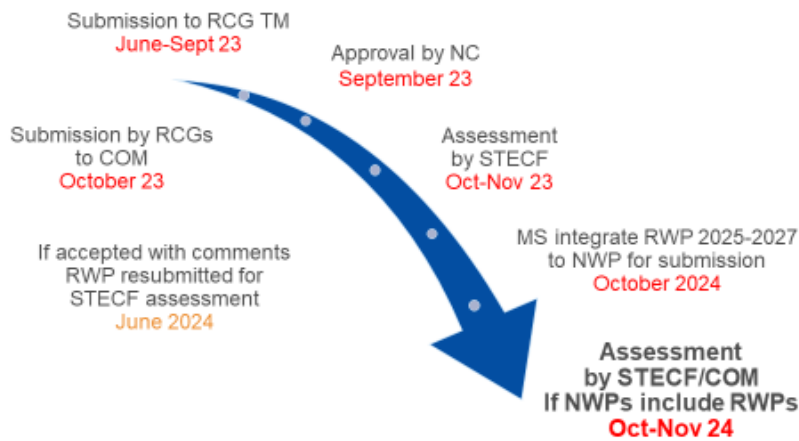
- The RCG approves the Regional WP in September 2023;
- STECF assesses it in October/ November 2023;
- If corrections are needed, resubmission to STECF EWG on AR in June 2024;
- Member States integrate the Regional WP in the National WP for submission in October 2024;
- STECF/COM proceeds with National WP assessment and adoption.

Amendments to the national WP in October 2023 are possible, and any WP submitted in 2023 can be analysed for the Marine Action Plan needs.





Regional Work Plans no adoption timeline



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2.5.2 ISSG 'Recreational fisheries'

Mr. Tasos Papadopoulos presented the results of the mapping on the estimation methods of recreational fisheries (RF) population used in MS:

- licensing system is active in 4 MS (HR, CY, IT, RO);
- system to report catches: non-mandatory in 5 MS, mandatory in 2 MS;
- surveys used by all MS to estimate the population of RF (mainly phone surveys).

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The list and the relevant criteria for the selection of species are still under discussion. Vulnerable species are an issue of concern, although there are difficulties and limitations in collecting such data.

The ISSG proposed that the RWP should, at minimum, include:

- Estimating the population of recreational fishers by segment (fishing gear-technique; e.g., shore, boat, spear fishing, etc.) and sub-region;
- Identification of lists of priority species by sub-region:

A) MS to apply multispecies approach and collect data from off-site surveys in order to propose list of priority species for the estimation of "catches" (a) and "releases" (b), and finalise the list by sub-region. Moreover, to propose a list of vulnerable species (c) incidentally caught in recreational fisheries and finalise the list by sub-region.

B) NON BINDING: MS to apply on-site samplings in order to: a) validate the estimations of the off-site survey (e.g. average kg/fisher), b) validate the species reported in the off-site survey (recreational fishermen use different common names in different areas), c) collect biological data (length and/or weight) in order to propose list of priority species for the estimation of biological data and finalise the





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list by sub-region, d) validate the vulnerable species reported in the off-site survey and propose a final list.

2.5.3 ISSG 'PETs bycatch monitoring'

Although this ISSG did not convene during this intersession, Ms. Ivana Vukov informed participants that STECF comments on the test RWP Med&BS (submitted last year) for Text Box 4.2 and Table 2.5 were addressed. In order to progress on the RWP, MS will meet end 2023 and mid-2024, to prepare for the STECF EWG in June.

The GFCM regional plan of actions on PETs (RPOA-VUL), which is an effort to identify high risk metiers and to implement pilot projects to reduce negative interactions with vulnerable species, should be taken into account.

The ISSG workplan until June 2024 will include the following actions:

- Agreement on the list of species, high risk metiers, sampling coverage, areas;
- Analysis of data provided by MS from the EU survey;
- Update draft RWP considering the STREAMLINE proposal (see footnote 16), STECF comments, COM Marine Action Plan & GFCM RPOA-VUL;
- Liaise with DG MARE (and DG ENV).

Coverage is a major issue: GFCM proposes a coverage of 0.5%, whereas this level may not apply in other sea basins. In addition, other approaches than observers on board can be used for higher coverage rates or for specific cases (high risk metiers). The RWP could follow a more targeted approach, i.e. coverage to be increased for high-risk metiers.

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2.5.4 ISSG 'Stomach sampling'

2.5.5 ISSG 'Scientific network for sampling optimization'

Ms. Isabella Bitetto (COISPA Foundation) presented the progress of the ISSG Scientific network for sampling optimization, agreed in 2018 by RCG Med&BS as a network of experts dedicated to use the tools developed under STREAM and STREAMLINE projects on sampling stratification and optimization of biological commercial data. In 2023 the list of relevant experts nominated by MS was finalized and the first meeting was held the last 6th July, in collaboration with the ISSG on RWP (coordinated by A. Ligas).

In preparation to the first meeting, a questionnaire was distributed to the ISSG experts to identify the real needs and the knowledge of the experts involved. The results of the questionnaire highlighted that Croatia and Bulgaria would need to enhance expertise in R language; moreover, Italy and Croatia would need to improve expertise in the use of the optimization tools developed in STREAM. The most part of ISSG experts were involved in the discussion on the sampling optimization results of STREAMLINE and expressed the will to know more on the optimization tools and to be involved in the discussion of results in their study area.





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The results obtained under STREAMLINE project on sampling optimization of the 4 case studies and presented during the last RCG Annual meeting were reminded during the first meeting. Nevertheless, despite STREAMLINE results allowed to evaluate the impact of alternative sampling designs on the sampling precision of the relevant stocks and to derive the subsequent impact of the trip monitoring costs and man-hours costs associated to the sampling, the MSs expressed their doubts on how to use the results to actually optimize the sampling costs. Indeed, the monitoring of the trips has a cost independent from the number of length measurements collected. An ad hoc evaluation of the sampling effort dedicated to the collection of biological information (e.g. maturity, age) is needed, and was not carried out in STREAMLINE because the data presented at that time, except in few specific cases, important gaps and/or high uncertainty on the individual data.

The ISSG agreed a roadmap, including: 1) the collection of feedback from RCG annual meeting for additional sampling strategies to be explored, 2) launching a new data call through RCG to have more updated individual data and detailed information on sampling costs; 3) biological data revision; 4) new sampling optimization analyses (to be completed by April 2024); 4) new results to be transferred to the RWPs Intersessional Subgroup (by May 2024).

Ms. Isabella Bitteto stressed that the RCG scientific network on sampling optimization is expected to play a key role in the completion of the analysis for the finalization of the RWVP to be presented in 2024 and the experts underlined their availability to continue to work on STREAMLINE case studies for this purpose, refining and integrating the analyses.

2.5.6 Feedback from Member States





2.6 ToR 6 - Métier issues

2.6.1 Revision of standardized list of métiers

Ms Josefine Egekvist (ISSS Metiers and transversal variable issues) presented relevant work on metiers and asked for an update on the most important metiers for the Med & BS. A procedure for requesting new metiers codes and managing the codes will be discussed at the Liaison meeting⁵, as well as the need to establish a pan-regional ISSG.

⁵ The Liaison Meeting is organised by MARE (Unit C3) and will take place on the 26th and 27th of September in Brussels.



2.7 ToR 7 - Scientific surveys

Review of 2022 regional coordination (MEDITS, MEDIAS and Black Sea surveys). Next steps and actions.

2.7.1 Review of 2022-2023 regional coordination, next steps and actions – MEDIAS

The MEDIAS (MEDiterranean International Acoustic Surveys) Steering Committee met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 18-20 April 2023, hosted by ZZRS and chaired by Tarek Hattab from IFREMER. The hybrid meeting was also virtually hosted on Zoom platform. Meeting participants were representatives from the European Union countries involved in acoustic surveys in the Mediterranean Sea (i.e. Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain) and in the Black Sea (i.e. Romania and Bulgaria). Two representatives from STECF, one representative of EC from DG MARE, and one representative from RDBFIS & RDBFIS-II projects were invited to participate. In total, 34 participants attended the meeting including 20 in-person attendees and 14 virtual participants.

MEDIAS_2022

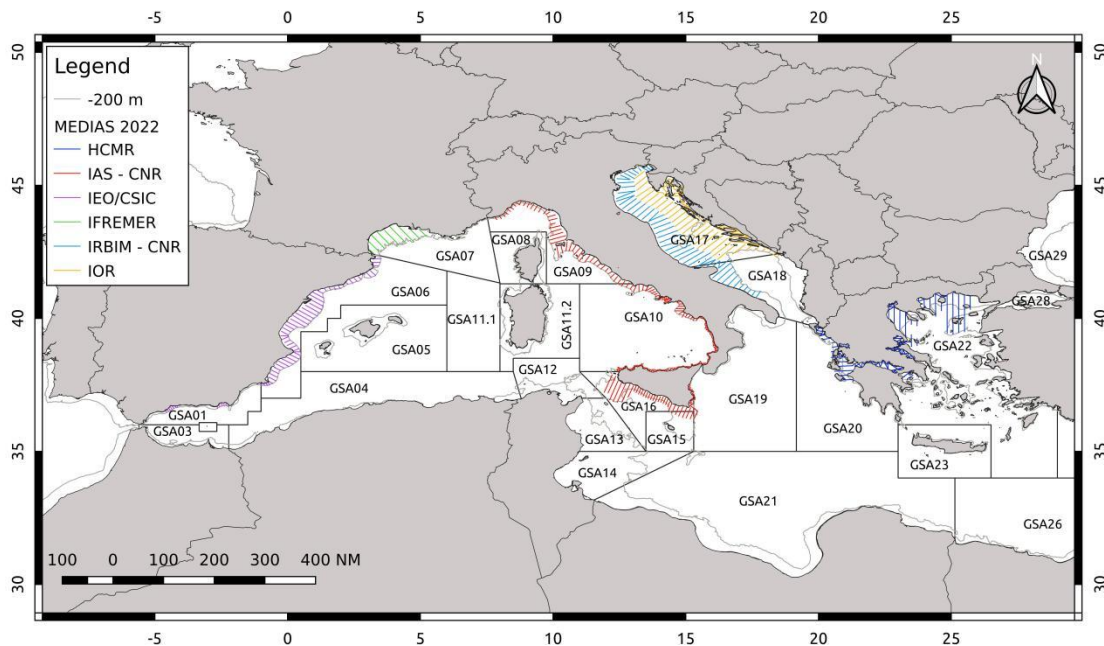


Figure 2.7.1. Acoustic surveys performed in DCF-MEDIAS framework during 2022.

Surveys performed (2022)

- 1) IEO-ESP: MEDIAS 2022 acoustic survey was carried out in the Mediterranean Spanish waters (GSA06, Northern Spain and GSA01, Northern Alboran Sea) from 8th July to 10th August 2022 (34 days) on board the R/V “Miguel Oliver”.
- 2) IFREMER-FRA: The surveys took place from June 20 to July 31 2022. (lasted 39 days at sea, but only 15 days of effective work due to an epidemic of covid on board and bad weather) and covered the Gulf of Lions (3300 nm²) with the fishery Research Vessel L’Europe.



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- 3) CNR-IAS-ITA: MEDIAS 2022 in GSA 9 and GSA 10 took place from August 12 to 9 September (lasts 29 days at sea) and covered the continental shelf in the Ligurian and Tyrrhenian seas (6512 nm²) with the fishery Research Vessel "G. Dallaporta".
- 4) CNR-IAS-ITA: MEDIAS 2022 in GSA 16 took place from 31 July to 11 August (lasts 12 days at sea) and covered the continental shelf along the southern coast of Sicily (3981 nm²) with the fishery Research Vessel "G. Dallaporta".
- 5) IOF-HRV: Acoustic survey on the eastern part of GSA 17 in 2022 was performed in two periods due to the combination of bad weather conditions and vehicle availability. First part of expedition was performed from 31.08.2022 to 28.09.2022. Second part continued from 23.10.2022 to 04.11.2022. For this purpose, in total, R/V BIOS DVA was used for 42 days, in order to survey the area of 13.578 NMi².
- 6) CNR-IRBIM-ITA: MEDIAS 2022 acoustic surveys were carried out in the period June 3 – July 22, 2022. They were conducted in the western GSA 17, including territorial waters of Slovenia, and western GSA 18, following MEDIAS protocol (MEDIAS Handbook, 2022), in the planned area of ~ 13,300 nmi² in western Adriatic Sea. The cruises were conducted on board the research vessel "G. Dallaporta". Slovenian researchers didn't take part in the cruise in Slovenia waters in 2022, since it was not possible due to restrictions on board for COVID-19 pandemic: maximum 7 scientists (instead of 11) could be present on-board R/V "G. Dallaporta".
- 7) HCMR-GRC: MEDIAS 2022 acoustic surveys covered 8115 nm² in GSAs 20 & 22 during June - July, and 3069 nm² in eastern Ionian Sea during September with the fishery Research Vessel PHILIA.
- 8) Pelagic trawl surveys in Bulgarian and Romanian Black Sea zones (GSA 29) organized by IO-BAS-BGR and NIMRD-ROM were presented to MEDIAS SC also.

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More detailed information & results on these surveys are available in 16th MEDIAS Report on ICES sharepoint, and on MEDIAS website: <http://www.medias-project.eu/medias/website/>.

Work on MEDIAS regional database structure

Following discussions with the coordinator of the RDBFIS & RDBFIS-II projects regarding the development of the regional database, it was decided to organize a workshop dedicated to the design of the structure of the future MEDIAS regional database. The group adopted this proposal, and the Chair suggested designating one expert per team and agreeing on a date in May 2023 for a full working day on this subject.

Harmonization issues

With regard to the standardization of age readings, the MEDIAS Steering Committee informed that several inter-calibration exercises have been carried out among the MS involved in the Adriatic Sea surveys. These exercises have resulted in a standardization of the sardine age-length-keys, and that all the data collected between 2013 and 2023 has been reanalysed based on the new agreement. The same exercise is underway for the anchovy, where the same working group will continue this standardization effort. Furthermore, the group was informed about the next ICES WKARA3 WG which will take place before the end of the year and which would require the participation of all the experts involved in the age readings of anchovy.

The group has made progress on the question of standardizing echogram scrutiny procedures by qualitatively comparing the echotypes observed in all surveys. Several similarities in the structure of the fish schools were





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identified as a result of this exercise. Quantitative analyses will be continued next year, where each team will calculate quantitative descriptors of the typical echotypes observed in each region. The definition of typical echotypes will largely rely on the expertise of each team on echograms scrutinizing.

Regarding the progress review on production of standardized NASC maps at the Mediterranean scale, a first regional map of anchovy NASC in 2019 has been produced and adopted by the group. It was decided to update this analysis by producing maps for the period 2020-2022 for anchovy but also by extending this mapping to sardine as well. These data should be transmitted to Marco Barra before February of next year. In addition, the SC also decided to make these maps and their associated metadata and symbology available to the scientific community by publishing them in the IFREMER GEOportal. Three maps per year and per species will be produced, with one map for the summer surveys, one map for the autumn surveys, and finally one map combining both seasons.

In order to make progress on the issue of standardizing zooplankton sampling, the group has produced a summary of the egg and zooplankton sampling methods used within MEDIAS. It appears that the WP2 net with 200 µm micron mesh size, is the most widely used vertical sampler among the teams. It also appears that the Bongo net is also used by the most teams as a horizontal sampler, however there is a big difference in the mesh sizes used which can be 200, 300, 350 or 500 µm reflecting differences in purposes behind the use of the Bongo net in the different GSAs. This work will be continued at the next meeting, as this issue appears to be a priority issue in some GSAs. Besides, the SC emphasizes the need for experts to explore the potential for zooplankton and eggs sampling in parallel with acoustic sampling and request funding from MS through DCF to cover additional efforts.

The group also discussed the benefits of using the ZooCAM during the surveys as a tool for processing meso-zooplankton and anchovy egg data. This tool which was used for the first time in GSA7 allows to digitize and analyse on board large volume samples of preserved and living mesozooplankton (i.e. multicellular zooplankton) and fish eggs > 300 µm. The ZooCAM has been specifically designed to overcome the difficulties to analyse zooplankton and fish eggs in the framework of the acoustic survey, and provide high frequency data. The ZooCAM enabled the accurate prediction and fast on board validation of staged anchovy and sardine eggs in almost real time after collection. Hence the ZooCAM can be considered as an appropriate tool for the development of on board, high frequency, high spatial coverage zooplanktonic and ecosystemic studies. This tool is manufactured by the Detection, Sensors and Measurements Laboratory at IFREMER and is not available for sale, however there is a possibility of manufacturing some units for the needs of the MEDIAS group with a cost of 29 k€ per unit with 6 months of employee time.

The issue of standardizing the time period of the MEDIAS survey was discussed given that MEDIAS surveys take place from June to October depending on vessel availability (summer/Autumn depending on the area). This question cannot be easily solved within the group because on the one hand there are several attempts to extend the surveys in new areas, on the other hand most of the member states have only one research vessel which makes the equation more difficult to solve and especially when bad weather and administrative problems occur. As the question of the availability of vessels cannot be settled within the group, the steering committee stressed that it is important to keep in mind that differences in survey periods can generate differences in biomass estimates, and that these differences need to be taken in consideration when combining data from different surveys to perform shared analysis. In case of one such analysis, Adriatic Sea stock assessment, changing time of survey would disrupt data time series and include additional variable, since new index would be needed for the new period, as observed with previous timing changes. June-July is the best





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period for MEDIAS survey for biological reasons, even if the period could be extended to September in case of research vessel availability problems and to avoid precedent time series interruption.

The group discussed the value to include methodologies presented by Antonio Palermino (i.e. ex situ and numerical backscattering models) in the context of standardization for the target strength measurement for the target species. In this aspect, a numerical simulation approach (i.e. backscattering modelling) will be considered to improve the methodology used for the common paper on the TS of anchovy.

Other topics

The question of the extension of the MEDIAS survey in Crete was addressed, the Greek team mentioned that some trials were carried out in 2023. However, this extension raised questions about the availability of the research vessel PHILIA which can compete with the survey in GSA20 and GSA22. The new proposed surveys should not affect in any way the implementation of the existing surveys in terms of available resources for surveys at sea. The expansion of the survey in GSA23 will contribute to the exploration of new pelagic resources, especially lessepsian pelagic species like *Etrumeus golanii*.

Regarding the implementation of the MEDIAS survey in GSA15, the Maltese team mentioned that this is now part of the DCF national work plan and that a coordination with the Sicilian team is underway in order to conduct this survey in 2023. Since carrying out surveys in this area requires an additional 5 days at sea, its feasibility will mostly depend on the availability of the Italian Research Vessel, even though the vessel's schedule for 2023 appears to be favourable for its realization.

The Spanish team informed the group of the difficulties encountered during acoustic surveys in GSA01 in connection with the hyper-use of the coastal region by tourism and navigation activity that does not allow trawling in shallow waters. The proposed solution would be to use night time pelagic trawls as a first option. Purse seiner VMS data can also be used to identify hot spot areas of small pelagic fish. In addition, collaboration with purse seiners for the realization of fishing operations during the survey was suggested as a possible solution.

The Chair raised the question of the participation of Romanian survey in MEDIAS given that there is no acoustic sampling involved but only a bottom trawling. The MEDIAS SC proposed that the Romanian survey will benefit by its evaluation during the MEDITS coordination meeting, given that this survey seems to be more in line with the MEDITS protocol, in spite of the fact that the target species is pelagic.

2.7.2 Review of 2022-2023 regional coordination, next steps and actions – MEDITS

Ms Beatriz Guijarro (MEDITS chair) presented the implementation in 2022 and future plans:

- no MEDITS survey in IT (GSAs 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19) in 2022;
- small changes on the net in FR (GSAs 7, 8);
- change of sectors from 2024 onwards in GSA 5 (ES);
- increase in the number of samples in 2024 in GR (GSAs 20, 22, 23).

The Handbook revision is ongoing and it includes a guide for ethical process and a guide for end users. It will be ready by end 2023. Once the guide to end users is finalised, the RCG Med & BS agreed to have a written procedure on the public availability of MEDITS data (please refer to 'other data requests' section).





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Regarding the timing of the survey, the MEDITS Group considers that the sampling period should be consistent among years, in order to reduce the effect of the time series. According to MEDITS handbook, the period of the MEDITS survey is centred around June (from May to July). The RCG Med & BS will ask the MEDITS Coordination Group to define the last day by which the survey should be done (i.e. acceptable period).

The next MEDITS Coordination Group meetings are planned in Malta (April 2024) and in Greece (May 2025).

2.7.3 Review of 2022-2023 regional coordination, next steps and actions – Black Sea surveys

Bottom trawl surveys (Black Sea)

The survey was carried out as planned in 2022 in both RO and BG. This survey aims to collect data on the biological traits of the target species (turbot, spiny dogfish and whiting) and bycatch of thornback ray and to assess the spatial distribution of biomass and abundance indices and assessment of the relative stocks in the Western Black Sea. In RO, additional species (other than the target species) were found in the samples.

Pelagic trawl surveys (Black Sea)

The survey was carried out as planned in 2022 in both RO and BG. The aim of the pelagic trawl survey in the Black Sea is the assessment of the biomass of sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) stock. Furthermore, an analysis of the distribution and abundance of the other species caught, as well as by-catch, is performed.

The RCG Med & BS suggested that BG and RO experts should participate to the MEDITS Coordination Group meeting.

In BG, in addition to the pelagic trawl, they also use echo sounder equipment during the survey. Still, this echo sounder is not in line with the MEDIAS protocol. RO has no hydroacoustic equipment but would be very interested to purchase. During the meeting, it was suggested for both BG and RO to liaise with MEDIAS Group, to further investigate the possibility to launch an acoustic survey in the Black Sea.





2.8 ToR 8 - Regional data requirements

2.8.1 RCG Med&BS 2023 data call

For 2023 an official data call was launched by the chair and co-chair of the RCG Med & BS, requesting the following data:

- Data on landings for the period 2020-2022 of the stocks listed in Table IA of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251, for reviewing and updating the landing template for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea
- Data on landings, effort and value by metier for the period 2020-2022, where metiers are selected from the regionally agreed list of metiers with specified coding, for using a ranking system for the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

The relevant Data Call was announced on 14th of July to all National Correspondents, with a deadline on the 15th of August 2023. 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. Data submitted under the Data Call were reviewed and analysed by the chair, Beatriz Guijarro.

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

The possibility of running both exercises under the RDBFIS will be further investigated with the consortium.

Ranking system for the Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries

A ranking system of metiers 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 2020-2022 were used, which were received under the 2023 RCG Med&BS Data Call.

Results

Mediterranean Sea

26 metiers were identified for the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2020-2022, listed in Table 2.8.1.1. Specifications provided on miscellaneous (MISC) metiers are provided in Table 2.8.1.2.





Table 2.8.1.1: List of identified metiers at level 6 in the Mediterranean Sea for the period 2020-2022.

Fishing activity category Level 6	
DRB_MOL_>0_0_0	LLS_DEF_0_0_0
FPO_DEF_>0_0_0	LTL_LPF_0_0_0
FYK_CAT_0_0_0	MISC
FYK_DEF_0_0_0	OTB_DEF_>=40_0_0
GND_DEF_0_0_0	OTB_DWS_>=40_0_0
GND_SPF_0_0_0	OTB_MDD_>=40_0_0
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	OTH
GNS_SLP_>=16_0_0	OTM_MPD_>=20_0_0
GTR_DEF_>=16_0_0	PS_LPF_>14_0_0
LA_SLP_>14_0_0	PS_SPF_>=14_0_0
LH_CEP_0_0_0	PTM_SPF_>=20_0_0
LH_FIF_0_0_0	SX_DEF_0_0_0
LLD_LPF_0_0_0	TBB_DEF_0_0_0

Table 2.8.1.2: Specifications provided by Mediterranean MS on the use of MISC and OTH metiers.

Flag country	Fishing activity category Level 6	Specify MISC / OTH
ESP	MISC	Misc_LHP**
ESP	MISC	Misc_LLS*
GRC	OTH	GTN_DEF_0_0_0
GRC	OTH	GNC_FIF_0_0_0
GRC	OTH	LHM_LPF_0_0_0
GRC	OTH	LHP_FIF_0_0_0
MLT	MISC	Combined gillnets-trammel nets
MLT	MISC	Hooks and lines
MLT	MISC	Set surface longlines
MLT	MISC	Misc. (Malta: Sicca tat-tqahhib)
HRV	MISC	HAR_DEF_0_0_0
HRV	MISC	MIS_MIS_0_0_0

The results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average landings, value and effort for the period 2020-2022 are provided in Tables 2.8.1.3 – 2.8.1.5 respectively.





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Table 2.8.1.3: Results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average landings (tons) over the period 2020-2022 for the whole Mediterranean Sea.

Metier at level 6	Average Landings	%	CumSum
PS_SPF_>=14_0_0	125818674	42.6	42.6
OTB_DEF_>=40_0_0	63287624	21.4	64.1
PTM_SPF_>=20_0_0	17108207	5.8	69.9
GTR_DEF_>=16_0_0	16279331	5.5	75.4
DRB_MOL_>0_0_0	15927036	5.4	80.8
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	9334838	3.2	83.9
PS_LPF_>14_0_0	8636460	2.9	86.8
LLD_LPF_0_0_0	7400346	2.5	89.4
FPO_DEF_>0_0_0	6406482	2.2	91.5

Table 2.8.1.4: Results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average value of landings (euro) over the period 2020-2022 for the Mediterranean Sea.

Metier at level 6	Average Value	%	CumSum
OTB_DEF_>=40_0_0	440212485	29.7	29.7
PS_SPF_>=14_0_0	187279804	12.6	42.3
GTR_DEF_>=16_0_0	166607711	11.2	53.5
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	87907573	5.9	59.4
OTB_DWS_>=40_0_0	85515866	5.8	65.2
PS_LPF_>14_0_0	80522397	5.4	70.6
LLD_LPF_0_0_0	66143463	4.5	75.1
DRB_MOL_>0_0_0	65584808	4.4	79.5
LLS_DEF_0_0_0	64053239	4.3	83.8
OTB_MDD_>=40_0_0	58034526	3.9	87.7
FPO_DEF_>0_0_0	54493686	3.7	91.4



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Table 2.8.1.5: Results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average effort (days at sea) over the period 2020-2022 for the Mediterranean Sea.

Metier at level 6	Average Effort	%	CumSum
GTR_DEF_>=16_0_0	1338693	36.5	36.5
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	670191	18.3	54.8
LLS_DEF_0_0_0	448849	12.3	67.1
OTB_DEF_>=40_0_0	346574	9.5	76.6
FPO_DEF_>0_0_0	263823	7.2	83.8
OTH	102090	2.8	86.5
PS_SPF_>=14_0_0	89604	2.4	89.0
DRB_MOL_>0_0_0	80237	2.2	91.2

The ranking system based on effort could not be performed again disaggregating the OTH métiers, due to lack of information on the specified fishing activities included in the OTH metier. Considering that OTH has been selected through the ranking procedure, it is suggested that MS give the effort to specify all OTH metiers.

In overall, 13 metiers were selected through the ranking procedure in the Mediterranean Sea (see Table 2.8.1.6). The analysis showed that there are no major differences in the list of metiers from previous years.

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Table 2.8.1.6: Overall métiers selected through ranking procedure over the period 2020-2022 for the Mediterranean Sea.

Metier at level 6	Selection based on Landings	Selection based on Value	Selection based on Effort
DRB_MOL_>0_0_0	X	X	X
FPO_DEF_>0_0_0	X	X	X
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	X	X	X
GTR_DEF_>=16_0_0	X	X	X
LLD_LPF_0_0_0	X	X	
LLS_DEF_0_0_0		X	X
OTB_DEF_>=40_0_0	X	X	X
OTB_DWS_>=40_0_0		X	
OTB_MDD_>=40_0_0		X	
OTH			X
PS_LPF_>14_0_0	X	X	
PS_SPF_>=14_0_0	X	X	X
PTM_SPF_>=20_0_0	X		



Black Sea (GSA29)

13 metiers were identified for the Black Sea for the period 2020-2022, listed in Table 2.8.1.7. Specifications provided on miscellaneous (MISC) and other (OTH) metiers are shown in Table 2.8.1.8.

Table 2.8.1.7: List of identified metiers at level 6 in the Black Sea for the period 2020-2022.

Fishing activity category Level 6
FPN_LPF_>0_0_0
FPO_DEF_>0_0_0
FPO_DEF_0_0_0
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0
GNS_DEF_360-400_0_0
GNS_SLP_>=16_0_0
LH_FIF_0_0_0
LLS_DEF_0_0_0
MISC
OTH
OTM_MPD_>=13_19_0_0
PS_SPF_>=14_0_0
SX_DEF_0_0_0
TBB_DEF_0_0_0

Table 2.8.1.8: Specifications provided by Black Sea MS on the use of MISC and OTH metiers.

Flag country	Fishing activity category Level 6	Specify MISC / OTH
BGR	MISC	LHM_SPF_0_0_0
BGR	MISC	LHP_DEF_0_0_0
BGR	MISC	LLD_DEF_0_0_0
BGR	MISC	LLS_DEF_0_0_0
BGR	MISC	SB_SPF_0_0_0
ROU	MISC	Manual harvesting with divers
ROU	OTH	Hydraulic mechanized dredge

Table 2.8.1.9: Results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average landings (tons) over the period 2020-2022 for the Black Sea.

Metier at level 6	Average Landings	%	CumSum
TBB_DEF_0_0_0	3882365	36.9	36.9
OTM_MPD_>=13_19_0_0	3623161	34.5	71.4
MISC	2331187	22.2	93.6



Table 2.8.1.10: Results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average value of landings (euro) over the period 2020-2022 for the Black Sea.

Metier at level 6	Average Value	%	CumSum
OTM_MPD_>=13_19_0_0	2929276	33.1	33.1
MISC	2369197	26.8	60.0
TBB_DEF_0_0_0	1837198	20.8	80.7
GNS_DEF_360-400_0_0	989804	11.2	91.9

Table 2.8.1.11: Results of the ranking system at a cut-off level of 90% based on average effort (days at sea) over the period 2020-2022 for the Black Sea.

Metier at level 6	Average Effort	%	CumSum
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	7044	28.0	28.0
MISC	6675	26.5	54.5
OTM_MPD_>=13_19_0_0	4858	19.3	73.8
GNS_DEF_360-400_0_0	2585	10.3	84.1
TBB_DEF_0_0_0	1933	7.7	91.8

In overall, 5 metiers were selected through the ranking procedure in the Black Sea (see Table 2.8.1.12). Considering that MISC has been selected through the ranking procedure, it is suggested that MS give the effort to specify all MISC metiers.

The analysis showed that there are no major differences in the list of metiers from previous years.

Table 2.8.1.12: Overall métiers selected through ranking procedure over the period 2020-2022 for the Black Sea.

Metier at level 6	Selection based on Landings	Selection based on Value	Selection based on Effort
GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0			X
GNS_DEF_360-400_0_0		X	X
MISC	X	X	X
OTM_MPD_>=13_19_0_0	X	X	X
TBB_DEF_0_0_0	X	X	X



2.9 ToR 9 - Diadromous species

2.9.1 ISSG on Diadromous

Mr. Argyrios Sapounidis gave an overview of progress in 2023 at EU and GFCM levels. The Joint EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM WGEEL 2022 concluded that the status of European eel remains critical across its entire distribution range with the lowest recruitment ever recorded. The GFCM Working group on management of European eel (WGMEASURES-EEL) agreed to have a permanent GFCM expert group on European eel in the Mediterranean.

The **GFCM Eel Research Programme** was carried out between September 2020 and February 2022 and involved 9 partners. The final report can be accessed [here](#). The SAC agreed on a second phase of the research programme extending through 2023, with the following targets:

- conduct a socioeconomic analysis of the proposed closures;
- implement standardized fishery independent monitoring of all eel life stages coupled with long-term monitoring efforts for fishery-dependent data, involving fishers;
- conduct stakeholder awareness activities;
- work on modalities for compensation schemes for fishers;
- conduct pilot studies in key sites.





3. Next venue and chairs

New chairs for next year: Mr. Emmanuel Tessier (FR) and Ms. Charis Charilaou (CY).

2024 RCG Med & BS meeting: Venue in France, location TBD, 26-30th Aug 2024.





4. AOB





5. Recommendations from the RCG Med&BS 2023

ToR I End-users input – Data requirements and data transmission issues	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation I	Following-up the process of transferring biological data from Mediterranean and Black Sea Data Call to FDI, including in the process the RCGMed&BS
Justification	<p>Currently, information of biological data from the Mediterranean and Black Sea is being submitted in a Data Call with specific formats. In addition to this, MS submit data to the FDI. A process has started to include data from the official Med&BS Data Call to the FDI. However, it would be necessary include in the “Id” field in the Med&BS Data Call the information of “Domain” to make possible the transfer of information. Although there was a proposal to do this in the Med&BS Data Call 2024, there are still concerns about the possibility and adequacy to do so. For this reason, it was proposed to include the RCGMed&BS in the follow-up of this topic.</p> <p>In addition to this, the role of the RDBFIS in the data transmission process should also be considered in the future.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include in the discussion the RCGMed&BS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	FDI JRC focal, DGMARE, RCG Med&BS chairs, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	Before making any modifications to the Data Call Med&BS
Comments	





ToR I End-users input – Information included in RCGMed&BS Data Call	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 2	For the RCGMed&BS Data Call, it is reminded that landings data by species submitted by MS should only include those species and GSAs included in Table IA in the Regulation. If a combination species-GSA is not in this table, this information should not be submitted by MS.
Justification	<p>Before the RCG Med&BS, a Data Call is yearly launched to collect information of landings by species and catches (biomass, value and effort) by metier. Regarding the landings data, information is submitted for those species and GSAs included in Table IA from the Regulation. However, in this table not all the combinations of species-GSAs are included. MS should only submit the data for those cases in which the information is included in this table.</p> <p>MS agreed to provide data only for those stocks for which data collection is mandatory based on the EU MAP and resulting WP.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the landing in accordance to the requested table.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	Next RCG Med&BS Data Call
Comments	





Marine Action Plan – role of RFMOs	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 3	Including RFMOs with influence in the Mediterranean (GFCM and ICCAT) in the special group DGENV and taking into account their work plans and the already existing guidelines (ex. FAO guidelines)
Justification	<p>The Marine Action Plan was adopted on 21 February 2023 in the ‘Fisheries and Ocean package together with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFP functioning report – relevant for DCF e.g. recreational fisheries - Energy transition in the EU fisheries and aquaculture – relevant for possible socioeconomic data collection – follow-up at RCG ECON technical meeting - Common market organisation – implementation report <p>The plan is focussed in assessing the state of seas and the sustainability of fisheries, being a bridge between fisheries and environment worlds. It is built on existing legislative framework for both areas</p> <p>The plan aims at improving gear selectivity and address bycatch of sensitive species and protecting the seabed. Thus, it should get sound knowledge base through systematic data collection and scientific monitoring, to assess impact of fishing on marine habitats and species. This would be done through targeted bycatch monitoring programmes, covering high-risk fisheries and the potential impacts of all relevant fleet segments, including smaller vessels and looking at data on recreational fisheries, including recreational fishing boats. However, some of these activities are currently part of research programs or workplans of RFMOs operating in the Mediterranean, such as GFCM and ICCAT, so they should be part of the process of implementing the Marine Action Plan. Additionally, already available guidelines for some type of sampling (like FAO guidelines for vulnerable species) should be respected.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include RFMOs operating in the Mediterranean and Black Sea in the process of implementation of the Marine Action Plan • Take into account the already available guidelines for some type of sampling (like FAO guidelines for vulnerable species)
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DGENV, DGMARE
Time frame (Deadline)	In the next meeting of this special group at the latest
Comments	





Marine Action Plan – Inclusion in the WP activities covered by other programmes	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 4	Establishing guidelines on how to include work done by other programmes or projects (e.g. MSFD) in the WP
Justification	Currently, marine data is collected not only from the DCF but also from other programmes (such as Marine Strategy Framework Directive) and projects. With the increasing sampling that the implementation of the Marine Action Plan will bring, it is important to coordinate the activities of the different programmes, in order of not to duplicate efforts, but also to inform the relevant authorities (DGMARE, DGENV) of the work performed in these other programmes. However, if these activities are included in the WPs, it would imply a request of funding, which would not be needed as these programmes have their own sources of funding. So, it is necessary to establish clear guidelines on how MS can communicate the different activities carried out under these programs and how to integrate all the data collected by them.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish clear guidelines to MS about how to integrate all the data collected by different programmes
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	LM, DGMARE, STECF, RCGs, MSs
Time frame (Deadline)	LM 2023
Comments	





Surveys – Sampling season for scientific surveys	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 5	Establishing a limit period of time for which the seasonality of the scientific surveys (e.g. MEDITS and MEDIAS) would not affect the information obtained
Justification	<p>Internationally coordinated scientific surveys include specific time frameworks in which their activities should be carried out, in order to reduce the variability of the data collected. For instance, according to the MEDITS handbook, the period of the MEDITS survey should be centered around June (from May to July) and keep the sampling period consistent among years. In relation to the MEDIAS handbook, the period of the MEDIAS survey should be in the summer and autumn season from June to October. June-July is the best period for MEDIAS survey for biological reasons, however depending on vessel availability the period could be extended to October.</p> <p>However, due to different reasons, the period can vary among GSAs and years and this could make that data obtained are not useful for the purposes of its collection. In this sense, it is requested to mark a limit of time, before and after the mentioned months, for which it is considered that the seasonality would not significantly affect the results of the information obtained.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a limit of time for which it is considered that the seasonality would not significantly affect the results.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Scientific survey Coordination Groups (e.g. MEDITS and MEDIAS), GFCM and STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	Spring 2024
Comments	





Surveys – Quality checks	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 6	Using the available tools for quality checks of data before being submitted to the Data Call
Justification	<p>In the last years, several tools have been developed in order to check the quality of the data collected before being submitted to any data call, such as RoME for MEDITS survey or the RDBQC R package for the information obtained in the monitoring of the commercial fleet. In addition to this, the Qualitrain project will be providing training on quality checks, which will be a very good opportunity for building capacity and improve the quality of Med and BS data. Regarding these training activities, it is recommended that the hands-on training session foreseen in 2024 is scheduled in April not to clash with a too busy period already in May.</p> <p>All MS should be well aware of these tools which may help to provide consistent information to all end-users through the different data calls. It is also recommended that MS go into the Qualitrain github (https://github.com/COISPA/RDBqc) and follow-up the process of the project regarding quality checks. Additionally, there is a purpose to organise a network of training experts and two reference people by MS should be appointed to this group and work complementarily to the network of experts on data optimisation.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS should use the available quality check tools to ensure the consistent information provided to end-users MS should appoint two experts to be part of the network organised by the Qualitrain project
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MSs, QualiTrain consortium
Time frame (Deadline)	Before submitting information to any Data Call
Comments	





Surveys – Acoustic data collection during the pelagic trawl surveys in the Black Sea	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 7	Investigating the possibility to collect acoustic data during the Pelagic Trawl Survey in the Black Sea (PTSBS).
Justification	In order to have consistent and harmonized surveys for the assessment of pelagic species in the Black Sea the RCG recommends to the Black Sea Member States to ensure the availability and use of equipment according to MEDIAS protocol. In addition, Software and training could be provided by the MEDIAS scientific network.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigate the possibility to ensure the use of equipment according to MEDIAS protocol (e.g. Simrad EK80).
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Bulgaria and Romania (both NC and experts), MEDIAS Coordination Group
Time frame (Deadline)	End of 2023
Comments	





Surveys – test study for new sampling during acoustic MEDIAS survey

<p>RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 8</p>	<p>Including test studies in MS National Work Plans for egg and meso-zooplankton sampling and processing during MEDIAS surveys.</p>
<p>Justification</p>	<p>According to the conclusions of MEDIAS steering committee in 2023 (Report of 16th meeting for MEDiterranean International Acoustic Surveys) MSs shall explore the potential for plankton and eggs sampling in parallel with acoustic sampling. To achieve this objective, they are encouraged to seek funding for a test study via the DCF to cover additional efforts.</p> <p>The reasons for this proposal are numerous. First of all, sampling of plankton scattering layers using plankton nets could facilitate echogram interpretation by providing a ground truth of some targets in the acoustic data, so that, during the acoustic processing, these targets could be discarded with a higher degree of certainty, while separating the small pelagic fish echoes from unwanted plankton echoes. The accuracy of this process could be further enhanced through the knowledge of the kind of planktonic organisms that are prevalent in a certain area.</p> <p>Plankton and eggs sampling are also important because of the potential relationships between acoustic surveys and anchovy stock assessments based on the daily egg production method. Finally, by knowing plankton abundance it is possible to have an index of productivity, and thus prey availability, that is important in the study of small pelagic fish abundance over the years and of their spatial distribution; this ecosystem indicator could also be important in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> <p>This proposal concerns the MEDIAS surveys that are held along the Iberian coast (GSA 1 and 6) carried out by IEO (Spain), Gulf of Lion (GSA 7) by IFREMER (France), Sicily Channel (GSA 16) by CNR-IAS (Italy), western Adriatic Sea (GSA 17 and 18) by CNR-IRBIM (Italy), eastern Adriatic Sea (GSA 17) by IOR (Croatia) and eastern Ionian Sea and Aegean Sea (GSA 20 and 22) by HCMR (Greece). The proposal also concerns the acoustic survey carried out by CNR-IAS (Italy) in the Tyrrhenian and Ligurian seas (GSAs 9 and 10), that are part of the MEDIAS since 2017. However, MSs should include in their NWP only those GSAs in which the test study could be carried out, taking into account an adequate timing of the study.</p> <p>A proper number of stations (depending on transect length) could be performed along dedicated transects in order to collect information on meso-zooplankton and eggs with an appropriate resolution. A 3-year test study can be carried out for this purpose. Thus, a proper financial support is needed in order to plan and perform this kind of activities, including funding for the acquisition of equipment for sampling (i.e. WP2 plankton nets, flow meter, laboratory staff for the preservation) and for the analysis of the samples (i.e. conventional counting under a microscope or using a ZooCAM a in-flow imaging system for fast onboard counting, sizing and classification of fish eggs and meso-zooplankton already used within the ICES WGACEGG working group).</p>





Surveys – test study for new sampling during acoustic MEDIAS survey	
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MSs interested in adding these additional data collection activities should ensure that the above justification is included in the "test study" section (text box 1a) in their National Work Plans.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MSs from the MEDIAS group
Time frame (Deadline)	Submission of the next NWP
Comments	





Data Calls: increasing demand on MS	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 9	Identifying ways to facilitate the managing of the increasing number of data calls through different ways, such as looking for commonalities, specific times for the data calls or tools that may facilitate the work.
Justification	In the last years, an increasing number of data calls for Med and BS data have ended in a situation in which MS found it difficult to answer all the data calls in time and with consistent information. This is peculiarly important as the data requested is often the same, but the different formats and details have increased the workload of the MS. Although the implementation of the RDBFIS could be a solution at the medium term, it is necessary to identify ways to facilitate their management and adequate response. In this situation, end-users may have an important role in order to find commonalities, fitting an adequate calendar or even specific tools that may help MS to answer to all the data calls in time. This discussion may be carried out in a group including all the end-users involved.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconvene the end users group to facilitate the managing of the increasing workload of MS with the data calls
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	End-users (STECF, GFCM, ICES), DGMARE, RCG chairs, MSs
Time frame (Deadline)	Before next RCGMed&BS
Comments	





RDBFIS- Regional Data Base	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation 10	Continue the close collaboration with RDBFIS consortium through the RDB Steering Committee, ensuring the supplementary role of the Steering Committee and the technical experts group from the consortium.
Justification	In recent years, the work of the RDB Steering Committee have been complemented with the activities carried out by the RDBFIS consortium. This close collaboration should go on, together with the MS, in all the aspects involving the RDB and provision as data, such as the case of the data call for the Med and BS. For instance, RDBFIS consortium will provide MS with the first draft of the data call to be able to have the format of the requested data that will be recurrently facilitated by the RDB itself.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate to MS draft formats of the data call before it is launched • Respond the data call • Facilitate recurrent work for the RCG Med&BS (e.g. data call) • Feedback from MS experts participating in trainings
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RDBFIS Consortium, RDB Steering Committee, RCG Med&BS, MS experts
Time frame (Deadline)	Before next RCG Med&BS
Comments	





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RWP: Roadmap	
RCG MED & BS 2023 Recommendation II	Roadmap for adopting the agreed draft RWP from all Med&BS MS
Justification	Updated draft RWP will be circulated by all Med&BS MS by Wednesday 13 th of September to final agreement on RCG Decision Meeting.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circulate RWP by the RCG Med&BS chairs• Reviewed by MS• Submission to COM after the RCG Decision Meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCG Med&BS, MS
Time frame (Deadline)	LM 2023
Comments	





Annexes

Annex I: Meeting agenda

DAY 1 - End-users Meeting

Topic	Presenter	Docs & Links	ToR
Welcome and introduction			
• Introduction of participants, adoption of the agenda and ToR, subgroups formation, plenaries, rapporteurs	Chairs	ToR	
European Commission - Identification of data needs in 2023 and use of data		STECF EWGs	
• Fisheries Dependent Information FDI. Data methodology and dissemination (EWG 23-25) - Alessandro Ligas	DG MARE, NCs, MAPAFISH MED consortium	EWG 23-05	ToR 1
• Evaluation of the 2022 Annual Reports for data collection and data transmission issues from 2022 (EWG 23-08) - Alessandro Ligas		EWG 23-08	
• Overview of 2023 DG MARE Med & BS data call			
• Data requests and overview on data sharing			
Discussion in plenary		Request in ICES Sharepoint	
<i>Coffee break</i>			
European Commission - Identification of data needs in 2023 and use of data (cont.)			
• MAPAFISH MED project - Nico Sturaro			
European Commission - Policy updates on main initiatives and priorities			
• Control regulation - Marta Moren	DG MARE, NCs	Discussion paper in ICES Sharepoint	ToR 1
• AOB			
Discussion in plenary			
GFCM - Identification of data needs, data issues and use of data			
• Relevant GFCM data submission obligations and related data quality indicators	GFCM	Data submissions calendar	ToR 1
• Data transmission issues and procedures to revise/update data			
• Schedule of relevant working groups and stock assessments			
• Outcomes of GFCM SAC 2023 and new GFCM requirements in relation to data collection			
Discussion in plenary			
<i>Lunch break</i>			
JRC			
• Data collection	Sven Kupschus		ToR 1
Discussion in plenary			
RCG Med&BS 2023 data call			
Regional analysis of landing, effort and landing value by species and metier	Chairs		ToR 8
Discussion in plenary			
<i>Coffee break</i>			
GFCM - Regional Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - RPOA-SSF (Res. CGPM/45/2022/3)			
Mid-term revision of the objectives and results of the RPOA-SSF (2024)	GFCM	RPOA-SSF	ToR 1
Discussion in plenary			
COM - EU Action Plan: Protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries (COM/2023/102 EU Action Plan)			
Special focus in point 4. Strengthening the knowledge base and research and innovation	DG MARE, NCs	EU Action Plan	ToR 2
Discussion in plenary			
Conclusions - Identification of main issues and possible steps forward	All		





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DAY 2 - Update on activities carried out in 2023

Topic	Presenter	Docs & Links	ToR
Diadromous species			
Review of progress in 2023 at EU (RCG ISSG Diadromous) and GFCM level	Argyrios Sapounidis		ToR 9
Discussion in plenary			
RCG's Secretariat			
• SECWEB	RCG's Secretariat	SECWEB webpage	ToR 4
• AOB	NCs	RCG's webpage	
Discussion in plenary			
Scientific surveys - Review of 2022-2023 regional coordination, next steps and actions			
MEDIAS	Tarek Hattab		
MEDITS	Beatriz Guijarro		
Discussion in plenary			
Coffee break			
Scientific surveys - Review of 2022-2023 regional coordination, next steps and actions			
Black Sea surveys	??		ToR 7
Discussion in plenary			
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea			
ISSG on RWP for the Mediterranean and Black Sea proposals. An overview	Alessandro Ligas		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
Lunch break			
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea			
ISSG on Recreational Fisheries	Manos Koutrakis		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea			
ISSG Stomach sampling	Paolo Sartor		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
Coffee break			
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea			
ISSG PETs bycatch monitoring	Ivana Bukov		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
Summary	All		
END OF DAY 2			





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DAY 3 - Update on activities carried out in 2023

Topic	Presenter	Docs & Links	ToR
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea			
ISSG Scientific network for sampling optimization	Isabella Bitetto		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
QUALITRAIN project			
• Timeline of the project QUALITRAIN and milestones	Isabella Bitetto		ToR 4
• Open issues			
Discussion in plenary			
RDBFIS II project			
• Timeline of the project RDBFIS and milestones	Stefanos Kavadas		ToR 4
• Open issues			
Discussion in plenary			
<i>Coffee break</i>			
Métier Issues			
• Intersessional Sub Group on Métier Issues	Josefine Egekvis	Project documentation	ToR 6
• Presentation of new list of metierMed&BS			
• Identification of new métier at national level	NCS		
Discussion in plenary			
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (continued)			
Feedback from each MS	MSS, all		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
<i>Lunch break</i>			
Regional Workplan for the Mediterranean and Black Sea (continued)			
Feedback from each MS	MSS, all		ToR 5
Discussion in plenary			
<i>Coffee break</i>			
Regional database			
• Stabishment of technical group on the Regional Database	Alessandro Ligas		ToR 3
• Outcomes of the last meeting of the RDB SC			
• AOB			
Discussion in plenary			
FISHGENOME project and roadmap			
• Timeline of the project FISHGENOME and milestones	DG MARE		ToR 4
• Open issues			
Discussion in plenary			





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DAY 4 - Update on activities carried out in 2023, Agreements & Recommendations

Topic	Presenter	Docs & Links	ToR
<i>RCG Med&BS Agreements and Recommendations</i>			
Follow-up on RCG Med&BS 2022 recommendations	Chairs, NCs, All	Recommendations 2022	
<i>RCG Med&BS Agreements and Recommendations</i>			
Agreement on RCG Med&BS 2023 recommendations	Chairs, NCs, All		
<i>Coffee break</i>			
<i>RCG Med&BS Agreements and Recommendations</i>			
Agreement on RCG Med&BS 2023 recommendations (continued)	Chairs, NCs, All		
RCG chairing in the next 5-year period (2024-2028) - agreement on MS rotation		Proposal for 2023-2027	
RCG meeting calendar in 2024 (chairs, dates, venues, ToRs, ISSG)	Chairs		
Participation in RCG Decision meeting	NCs		
<i>END OF THE MEETING</i>			





Annex II: List of Participants

Name	Institution	Country	Email	Role	
STEFANOS KAVADAS	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research	GRC	stefanos@hcmr.gr	'RDBFIS' coordinator	online, partial
Beatriz Guijarro	IEO-CSIC	ESP	beatriz.guijarro@ieo.csic.es	RCG chair, ISSG chair (MEDITS)	physical
Tarek HATTAB	IFREMER	FRA	tarek.hattab@ifremer.fr	ISSG chair (MEDIAS)	physical
Venetia Kostopoulou	DG MARE Unit C3	EU	venetia.kostopoulou@ec.europa.eu	European Commission	physical
Susana Rivero Rodríguez	CETMAR Foundation	ESP	srivero@cetmar.org	Other	physical
Isabella Bitetto	Fondazione COISPA ETS	ITA	bitetto@fondazionecoispa.org	ISSG chair; RCG expert; 'Qualitrain' coordinator	online, partial
Tessier Emmanuel	IFREMER	FRA	emmanuel.tessier@ifremer.fr	RCG chair	physical
Alexandru Gheorghe	National Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture	ROU	alexandru.gheorghe@anpa.ro	National Correspondent	physical
María González Aguilar	CO Málaga - CNIEO-CSIC	ESP	maria.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es	RCG expert	physical
Tiganov George	NIMRD	ROU	gtiganov@alpha.rmri.ro	Other	physical
Sven Kupschus	JRC	EU	sven.kupschus@ec.europa.eu	European Commission	physical, partial
Pedro Luís Torres Cutillas	Instituto Español de Oceanografía-Centro Oceanográfico de Málaga	ESP	pedro.torres@ieo.csic.es	RCG expert	physical
Veselina Vasileva Mihneva	Institute of Fish Resources - Varna	BGR	vvmihneva@yahoo.com	RCG expert	physical
Elitsa Petrova Pavlova	Institute of Fish Resources - Varna, Bulgaria	BGR	elitssa.petrova@gmail.com	RCG expert	physical
Angeles Armesto	Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO-CSIC)	ESP	angeles.armesto@ieo.csic.es	RCG expert	physical
Ivana Vukov	Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries (Croatia)	HRV	ivana.vukov@mps.hr	National Correspondent	physical
Igor Isailovic		HRV		RCG expert	physical
N. Eréndira GARCÍA NUÑEZ	General Fisheries Secretariat, SPAIN	ESP	negarcia@mapa.es	National Correspondent	physical
Charis Charilaou	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	CYP	ccharilaou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy	RCG expert	physical
Rosa Fernández Otero	Centro Tecnológico del Mar - Fundación CETMAR	ESP	rfernandez@cetmar.org	Other	physical
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Violin Raykov	Institute of Oceanology -Bulgarian academy of sciences	BGR	vio_raykov@abv.bg	RCG expert	physical
Dimitar Dimitrov	Institute of Oceanology-Bulgarian academy of sciences	BGR	dimpetdim@io-bas.bg	RCG expert	physical
Jurgen Mifsud	Fisheries Research Unit, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture	MLT	jurgen.a.mifsud@gov.mt	National Correspondent	physical
Tim Berginc	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	SVN	tim.berginc@gov.si	National Correspondent	physical
Petra Pavšič	Fisheries Research Institute of Slovenia	SVN	petra.pavsic@zzrs.si	Stakeholder	physical
Kostantinos Katsafaros	DG FISHERIES	GRC	kkatsafaros@minagric.gr	National Correspondent	physical
Jelavić Dalibor	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries Split	HRV	jelavic@izor.hr	RCG expert	physical
Anaïs Roussel	DGAMPA	FRA	anaïs.roussel@mer.gouv.fr	National Correspondent	physical
Elisa Moreno de la Cruz	GFCM (FAO) - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean		elisa.morenodelacruz@fao.org	Observer	physical, partial
Koutrakis Emmanouil	Fisheries Research Institute-ELGO	GRC	manosk@inale.gr	RCG expert	physical
ANASTASIOS PAPAPOULOS	FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE - ELGO DIMITRA	GRC	apapadop@inale.gr	RCG expert	physical
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Simona Vasileva Nicheva Zheleva	Executive agency for fisheries and aquaculture	BGR	simona.nicheva@iara.government.bg	National Correspondent	physical





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ALESSANDRO MANNINI	MASAF Italian Ministry Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste	ITA	alessandro.mannini@irbim.cnr.it	Other	physical
MYRTO IOANNOU	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research	CYP	mioannou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy	National Correspondent	physical
Alessandro Ligas	Consorzio per il Centro Interuniversitario di Biologia Marina ed Ecologia Applicata	ITA	ligas@cibm.it	ISSG chair (RWP, RDB); RCG expert; STECF	physical
Lorenzo Manolo		ITA		National Correspondent	physical
Nico Sturaro	DG MARE Unit C3	EU	Nicolas.STURARO@ec.europa.eu	European Commission	online, partial
Zeynep Hekim	JRC	EU	Hekim.ZEYNEP@ec.europa.eu	European Commission	online, partial
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Antonio Di Franco	Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn Sede Interdipartimentale della Sicilia, Lungomare Cristoforo Colombo, 90149 Palermo, Italy	ITA	antonio.difranco@szn.it	MAPAFISH MED coordinator	online, partial
Kate Hogg		ITA	kehogg@gmail.com	MAPAFISH MED consortium	online, partial
Dimitrios Damalas	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Institute of Marine Biological Resources & Inland Waters, Former US Base at Gourmes, P.C. 71500 municipality of Hersonissos, P.O. Box 2214 T.K. 71003 Heraklion Crete, Greece	GRC	shark@hcmr.gr	MAPAFISH MED consortium	online, partial
Josefine Egekvist	DTU AQUA, Denmark	DNK		ISSG 'METIER AND TRANSVERSAL VARIABLE ISSUES'	online, partial
Argyrios Sapounidis	Fisheries Research Institute-ELGO	GRC		ISSG Diadromous	online, partial



Annex III: RCG MED&BS – 2023 Data Call



RCG MED&BS - Data call 2023

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 August 15th 2023 at the latest**. The characteristics of the data required are described below.

Content

The 2023 data call requests data for the **period 2020-2022** 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.

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).

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_2023 RCMMEDBS Data Call	All species landed (combined)
Review and update the landing template for the Mediterranean and for the Black Sea	Landings	Landings template_2023 RCMMEDBS 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.

14/07/2023

Beatriz GUIJARRO, chair RCG Med&BS 2023, beatriz.guijarro@ieo.csic.es

Emmanuel TESSIER, co-chair RCG Med&BS 2023, Emmanuel.Tessier@ifremer.fr





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Landings template for 2023 RCG MED&BS Data Call (for years 2020, 2021, 2022)





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Format:

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





Ranking_Med&BS Table_2023 RCG MED&BS Data Call

File:

Flag country	GSA	Year	Fishing activity category Level 6	Specify MISC / OTH	Landings (kg)	Effort (days-at-sea)	Value (€)

Format:

Field name	Description / Comments
Flag country	ISO 3166 – 1 alpha-3 codes. The flag country of the vessel.
GSA	See GFCM Geographic stratification coding.
Year	Years required: 2020, 2021, 2022.
Fishing activity category Level 6	see codification
Specify MISC / OTH	If needed specify
Landings (kg)	Landings in kg
Effort (days-at-sea)	Number of days at sea as defined in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 adopting a multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019.
Value (€)	In euro





Codes:

GFCM geographic stratification_GSA		Country		Fishing activity category level 6	
Code	Description	Code	Description	Code	Description
GSA1	Northern Alboran Sea	BGR	Bulgaria	DRB_MOL_>0_0_0	Boat dredge for molluscs
GSA2	Alboran Island	CYP	Cyprus	FPN_LPF_>0_0_0	Stationary uncovered pound nets for
GSA3	Southern Alboran Sea	ESP	Spain	FPO_DEF_>0_0_0	Pot and Traps for demersal species
GSA4	Algeria	FRA	France	FYK_CAT_0_0_0	Fyke nets for eels
GSA5	Balearic Island	GRC	Greece	FYK_DEF_0_0_0	Fyke nets for demersal species
GSA6	Northern Spain	HRV	Croatia	GND_DEF_0_0_0	Driftnets for demersal fish
GSA7	Gulf of Lions	ITA	Italy	GND_SPF_0_0_0	Driftnets for small pelagic fish
GSA8	Corsica Island	MLT	Malta	GNS_DEF_360-400_0_0	Set gillnets for demersal fish (for Black
GSA9	Tyrrhenian Sea	ROU	Romania	GNS_DEF_>=16_0_0	Set gillnets for demersal fish according
GSA10	South Tyrrhenian Sea	SVN	Slovenia	GNS_SLP_>=16_0_0	Set gillnets for small and large pelagics
GSA11.1	Sardinia (west)			GTR_DEF_>=16_0_0	Set trammel nets for demersal species according meshsize regulation
GSA11.2	Sardinia (east)			LA_SLP_>14_0_0	Lampara nets according to meshsize regulation
GSA11	Sardinia			LH_FIF_0_0_0	Hand and Pole lines for finfish
GSA12	Norther Tunisia			LH_CEP_0_0_0	Hand and Pole lines for cephalopods
GSA13	Gulf of Hammamet			LLD_LPF_0_0_0	Drifting longlines for large pelagic
GSA14	Gulf of Gabes			LLS_DEF_0_0_0	Set longlines for demersal fish
GSA15	Malta Island			LTL_LPF_0_0_0	Trolling lines for large pelagic
GSA16	South of Sicily			OTB_DEF_>=40_0_0	Bottom otter trawl for demersal
GSA17	Northern Adriatic			OTB_DWS_>=40_0_0	Bottom otter trawl for deep water
GSA18	Southern Adriatic Sea			OTB_MDD_>=40_0_0	Bottom otter trawl for mixed demersal
GSA19	Western Ionian Sea			OTM_MPD_>=13_19_0_0	Pelagic trawl according meshsize regulation (for Black Sea region)
GSA20	Eastern Ionian Sea			OTM_MPD_>=20_0_0	Midwater otter trawl for mixed demersal and pelagic species
GSA21	Southern Ionian Sea			PS_LPF_>14_0_0	Purse seine for large pelagic
GSA22	Aegean Sea			PS_SPF_>=14_0_0	Purse seine for small pelagics
GSA23	Crete Island			PTM_SPF_>=20_0_0	Pelagic pair trawl for small pelagic species
GSA24	North Levant			SX_DEF_0_0_0	Beach and boat seines for demersal
GSA25	Cyprus Island			TBB_DEF_0_0_0	Beam trawl for demersal trawling
GSA26	South Levant			MISC	Miscellaenous metiers (defined at
GSA27	Levant			OTH	of DCF Decision 93/2010 for the
GSA28	Marmara Sea				
GSA29	Black Sea				
GSA30	Azov Sea				





Annex IV: Presentations

It is a separate file

