



Regional Coordination Group
on Economics Issues

Regional Coordination Group on Economics Issues

RCG ECON ANNUAL REPORT

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Acronyms

AC	Advisory Council
AER	Annual Economic Report
CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
COM	Commission
DCF	Data Collection Framework
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
DM	Decision Meeting
DTMT	Data Transmission Monitoring Tools
EC	European Commission
ECON	Economical issues
EMFAF	European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund
ESS	European Statistical System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Fisheries Dependent Information
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ISSG	Intersessional Subgroup
JRC	Joint Research Center
LDF	Long Distance Fisheries
LM	Liaison Meeting
LP	Large Pelagics
Med & BS	Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
MS	Member State
NANSEA	North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Arctic
NFP	National Fisheries Profile
NWP	National Work Plan
PIM	Perpetual Inventory Method
QAF	Quality Assurance Framework
RCG	Regional Coordination Group
RDBES	Regional Database & Estimation System
RWP	Regional Work Plan
SAF	Scientific Advice on Fisheries
SG	Sub Group
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
TM	Technical Meeting





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Executive summary

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

The RCG ECON 2024 meeting was held from 3rd to 6th June in Athens with the option to join online through the Teams virtual meeting platform, with 73 experts (Annex I) representing 23 Member States, Joint Research Centre, DG MARE and ICES. Of those, 31 joined the meeting in person in Athens and another 42 joined through the Teams platform.

The meeting agenda included the reporting of the ISSGs that took place during the last year: Evaluation of Quality Assurance Framework, and FDI and AER data calls. The ISSG on the quality assurance framework discussed the current DCF quality reporting elements and made a comparison with the European Statistical System (ESS) handbook for quality reports and the ESS Reference Metadata Reporting Standards. Although the current quality assurance framework includes almost all elements needed, several points for improvement on the transparency and user friendliness of the system were found. As Eurostat is willing to help improving the quality reporting, it is recommended that an assessment of the quality reporting information on the aquaculture data collection in the National plans and Annual reports is made by Eurostat as a basis for further work.

The meeting on harmonizing the AER and FDI data set was a hands-on workshop where inconsistencies between the two datasets in numerous countries were revealed and discussed, and experts from these countries were present to work on solving the issues. The AER and FDI data differences were found in the number of fleet segments, vessels, effort, and landing weight and value. At the end of the workshop MSs presented their findings on why these inconsistencies happened and how they would tackle them. It was concluded that MSs have to work at national level to see the inconsistencies and provide solutions. This procedure takes time to solve identified discrepancies, and to harmonize the datasets. Next year an evaluation of the outstanding discrepancies between the FDI and AER datasets will be carried out in the frame of the FDI methodological EWG.

JRC provided feedback from STECF meetings on the quality of the data provided in the various data calls. Data were provided for both fisheries and processing industry. Also, recommendations for the upcoming data call for aquaculture data were reiterated from last STECF EWG. The presentation showed that there is still uncertainty about the definitions of the variables, as the agreed definitions of the RWP have not been submitted to JRC for publication on the website. It was agreed that updating the definitions with the latest adjustments should become a fixed ToR on the agenda of the technical meeting, and changes should be included in the report and sent to JRC to be included on the DCF website.

Besides the ISSG outputs also other developments which affected the collection of social and economic data were discussed.

In view of the EC communication on the energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture, the Commission requested RCG ECON to investigate the current status of the collection of data on fuel/energy consumption and the potential to extend this collection to include more details on the fuel/energy use. An inventory of data collection for energy consumption sent to the MS has shown a wide variety in the detail in which data on fuel/energy consumption is gathered. As such, there might be potential to improve methodologies for collection and processing the data for fuel/energy consumption. Within their mandate RCG ECON can facilitate this improvement by fostering the exchange of methods and best practices, and by developing



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guidelines for MS for both data gathering and processing and for quality reporting. End users such as STECF and the European Commission can use this information to evaluate the quality of the data and procedures.

Besides this methodological issue, two presentations were made by the French expert on the distinction between low active and active segments and the application of methods to evaluate the physical capital. Both presentations provided valuable insights in the consequences of methodological decisions that were applied and provide methodologies that may be of use for other MS. Exchange of this information is highly appreciated and will increase consistency in methods and quality of data in the long run.

In order to facilitate the exchange of expertise on methodological issues such as the ones mentioned above, RCG ECON will organise an ISSG on these topics in the coming year.

RCG ECON also discussed the new developments in the area of social data. In the last year, working groups of STECF and ICES, concerned with developing the social variables to support the social dimension of the CFP by providing analytical tools, proposed developing a set of new social indicators. The STECF EWG 24-05 assessed the status of the (potential) indicators which have been informed by the policy priorities by the DG-MARE and stakeholders. The indicators are organized by categories that fit the top five priorities (social and financial status, working conditions, assessment of management measures, and generational renewal). In order to assess the practical aspects of inclusion of these new variables, RCG ECON will plan an ISSG on social aspects. This ISSG will take place in September in order for MS to include potential pilots in their National Plans.

The RDBFIS II project was presented as the developed database provides an option for regional data storage and extended data validation and checking in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. RCG ECON was updated on the latest developments. The tool seems to provide interesting and promising uses for the data collection in the coming years.

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With regards to organisational aspects of the data collection and RCG ECON activities there was a discussion on the future of the support of the RCGs by the secretariate. The secretariate presented the activities carried out over the last year and the outline of the SecWeb 2.0 project. This grant, which was successfully applied for, started in June 2024 and will support part of the activities of the secretariate for the next two years. As this project is focussed on innovation, not all regular activities of the secretariate are covered by it. 26% of the budget will need to be covered by other sources. The NCs present at the meeting discussed the proposal by the secretariate to make resources available for the secretariate to cover the 26% budget needs. The MSs agreed on this commitment and the distribution of the costs as proposed by the chair of the ISSG NC (or, in some instances agreed to find a solution bilaterally).

RCG ECON was also updated by the focal point from the EU-Commission on the developments in the EU-Commission which are relevant to the data collection: the Regional and national work plans 2025-2027, the DCF IT platform, the DTMT, Data requests, SAF grant projects and the Control Regulation.



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I. Administrative details

Regional Coordination	Regional Coordination Group on Economic Issues
Year of Appointment with the current cycle	2023
Reporting year within the current cycle (1,2 or 3)	I (2023-2024)
Chair(s)	Irene Tzouramani and Hans van Oostenbrugge

Meeting venue	Meeting dates
Athens	3-6 June 2024





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2. Terms of Reference

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

1. Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of Quality Assurance Framework
2. Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission
3. Developments on the new IT platform for data collection
4. Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture
5. Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles and analysis of social data) - *ICES end-user perspective on data needs for social indicators // National and community profiles*
6. Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls
7. Low active and Active Segments: The French case
8. Methodology testing for re-evaluation of physical capital in France
9. RCG Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation & Future of the RCG secretariat - combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA
10. RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries
11. Feedback from the STECF EWGs

The detailed agenda is reported in Annex II.



3. List of Recommendations

I. Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of Quality Assurance Framework	
ECON_2024_R01	For comparing quality reports, EUROSTAT's experience will be valuable for MS in homogenising the presentation of the annexes and improving quality and transparency. RCG ECON chairs and ISSG on the Quality Assurance Framework will contact EUROSTAT to start this exercise with the aquaculture case.
TOR I	Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of Quality Assurance Framework
Justification	<p>To follow recommendation 12, decided in the RCG ECON 2023 for organising an ISSG on quality assurance framework and reporting best practices, the meeting was held from March 18 to 20, 2024, in Salerno. During the meeting, current DCF quality reporting elements were discussed and compared to the European Statistical System (ESS) handbook for quality reports and the ESS Reference Metadata Reporting Standards. The discussion revealed that quality assessment is an ongoing process for continuous improvement. Interesting points were also mentioned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There is a need for transparency and easy access to quality and metadata information for users, facilitating comparative analysis between countries and indicating responsibility for data collection with provisions for user feedback. – There is Inconsistent Terminology: Quality Report [annex 1.2 of the work plans] is a Planning Report – Quality reports should be made available as standalone documents in a web repository or through open access to the DCF platform. The basic statistical rule is “no data without metadata”.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCG ECON chairs and ISSG on the Quality Assurance Framework will contact EUROSTAT to start this exercise with the aquaculture case.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCG ECON and ISSG chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed

2. Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture

ECON_2024_R02	In order to facilitate exchange of methodologies used to gather data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture, a session in the upcoming ISSG on methodological issues should be committed to the comparison of data collection procedures and estimation procedures for energy use in both fisheries and aquaculture
TOR 4	Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture
Justification	In view of the EC communication on the energy transition in fisheries and aquaculture, the Commission requested RCG ECON to investigate the current status of the collection of data on fuel/energy consumption and the potential to extend this collection to include more details on the fuel/energy use. An inventory of data collection for energy consumption sent to the MS has shown a wide variety in the detail in which data on fuel/energy consumption is gathered. As such there might be potential to improve methodologies for collection and processing the data for fuel/energy consumption. Within their mandate RCG ECON can facilitate this improvement by fostering the exchange of methods and best practices and by developing guidelines for MS for both data gathering and processing and for quality reporting. End users such as STECF and the European Commission can use this information to evaluate the quality of the data and procedures.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to facilitate the exchange of methodologies to gather data on fuel/energy consumption in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, RCG ECON will organise a session on energy use in the upcoming ISSG on methodological issues.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCG ECON chairs
Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before RCG ECON TM 2025
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed



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3. Feedback from the STECF EWG Social & ICES Social

ECON_2024_R03	RCG ECON recommends establishing an ISSG on social aspects, especially to discuss social indicators and determine the practical issues regarding data collection, availability, and the timeline for adjusting the National Plans accordingly.
TOR 5	Feedback from the STECF EWG Social & ICES Social
Justification	<p>To follow recommendation 11, decided in the RCG ECON 2023, the working groups of STECF and ICES, concerned with developing the social variables to support the social dimension of the CFP by providing analytical tools, proposed developing a set of new social indicators. The EWG 24-05 assessed the status of the (potential) indicators. The indicators have been informed by the policy priorities identified by the DG-MARE in 2023 and the stakeholder consultation developed in 2024.</p> <p>The indicators are organized by categories that fit the top five priorities (social and financial status, working conditions, assessment of management measures, and generational renewal). Potential indicators with data sources that can be used or easily gathered are discussed in EWG 24-05.</p> <p>Concerning the possible inclusion of new variables, RCG ECON concluded that the practical aspects of data collection, availability and timeline should be discussed.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCG ECON recommends establishing an ISSG on social aspects.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCG ECON chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2024, so that the results of this ISSG can be used in the drafting of pilot studies in the National programmes
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed



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4. Feedback from the work towards combining FDI and AER data calls.

ECON_2024_R04	RCG ECON recommends that MS continue discussions at the national level to resolve the inconsistencies they face with FDI and AER data.
TOR 6	Feedback from the work towards combining FDI and AER data calls.
Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2023, a virtual workshop was held on harmonizing the AER and FDI data sets. MS presented some of the inconsistencies they detected in their AER and FDI data and suggested solutions on how to fix them. Moreover, the Member States worked on their issues offline to make some comparisons. Then, the MS presented their findings on why these inconsistencies happened and how they would tackle them. The AER and FDI data differences were found in the number of fleet segments, vessels, effort, and landing weight and value. The methods used need to be harmonised at the national level. <p>Moreover, during the workshop, other sources of inconsistencies were mentioned, like Clustering issues, Inactive vessels missing from FDI, and Poor data for gears, which are considered less important at the national level and are not considered in the FDI due to significant difficulties and obstacles in collecting robust data for these small fishing segments. Some secondary fishing gears, used only occasionally, were not reported in the FDI data call; the Geo indicator was reported differently in both data calls; The Definition of Fishing technique and source of data used to prepare the AER and FDI are taken at different points in time.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSs have to work at the national level to see the inconsistencies and provide solutions. This procedure takes time to solve the discrepancies, and the harmonization needs time. Next year an evaluation of the outstanding discrepancies between the FDI and AER data will be useful to be carried out in the frame of the FDI methodological EWG.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS at the national level
Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed



5. Low active and Active Segments: The French case

ECON_2024_R05	RCG ECON recommends that during the ISSG on methodological issues a special session is organised to exchange experiences from MSs on the distinction between active and less active vessels in order to evaluate current guidelines and reporting requirements in the National plan annexes.
TOR 8	Low active and Active Segments: The French case
Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The French case showed a clear example of the pros and cons of distinguishing between low active and active vessels and provided a potential methodology based on days at sea to make the distinction. Various MS have gained experience in the last years in distinguishing between these two groups and exchange of these experiences will be very useful to proceed on methodological development and consistency among MSs
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCG ECON to organise a ISSG on methodological issues including a session on the distinction between active and less active vessels
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCG ECON chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the 2025 TM
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed





6. Methodology testing for re-evaluation of physical capital in France

ECON_2024_R06	RCG ECON reiterates the previous recommendation that MS update the information on purchase prices of vessels for the estimation of the capital costs every 4-5 years and calls upon MSs to make an effort to collect data on vessel prices in the coming year.
TOR 9	Methodology testing for re-evaluation of physical capital in France
Justification	France presented the outcomes of a study on the valuation of the tangible assets in fisheries. From this presentation it was clear that vessels prices have increased more in the last decade than the inflation rate. This justifies the advice of RCG Econ that MS should update the information on vessel prices once every 4-5 years in order to have up to date and consistent information on capital value and capital costs.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS to make an effort to collect information about the prices of vessels in order to update the value of capital in 2025 • RCG ECON to include the topic of the valuation of capital in the ISSG on methodological issues after the technical meeting in 2025
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS and RCG ECON chairs
Time frame (Deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed





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7. Updating the RCG ECON Guidelines

ECON_2024_R07	RCG ECON recommends that the update of the guidelines for economic and social data collection will become a standard TOR for the Technical meeting in order for the guidelines to be updated regularly
TOR X	Not in the original TOR
Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guidelines have not been updated on the last changes in the definitions decided during the last Technical meeting. This is partly due to the fact that the procedure for updating these guidelines is not clear yet. The group discussed that including the update of these guidelines in ToR of the Technical Meeting, the changes will be included in the report and it will be clear what decisions have been made and who needs to implement these.
Follow-up actions needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including the update of the guidelines for economic and social data collection will become a standard TOR for the Technical meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCG ECON chairs, needs to send the changes to JRC after publication of the report.
Time frame (Deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TM 2025
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed





4. List of Outcomes and Achievements of RCG ECON in this delivery period

During the third year of the RCG ECON implementation, the work under each ToR has been carried out. Two intersessional subgroups (ISSGs) were organised before RCG ECON and presented their main outcomes during the RCG ECON meeting. Then recommendations were proposed based on feedback from the RCG group. All results of the discussions, decisions, recommendations, and tasks for the ISSGs were agreed during RCG ECON on a pan-regional level. The RCG ECON 2024 report is composed of one overview of the work done under each ToR (section 5), related recommendations (section 3) and Annexes.

The RCG ECON and ISSGs reports can be found under the following link: https://dcf.ec.europa.eu/index_en
The reports can also be found in the RCG ECON webpage: <https://www.fisheries-rcg.eu/rcg-econ/>



5. Progress report on ToRs and work plan

5.1. ToR I Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of Quality Assurance Framework

Objectives

The ISSG Meeting: Developing Quality Assessment System was held from 18 to 20 March in Salerno. Participants could also join online through the Teams virtual meeting platform. 31 experts represented 14 Member States, the Joint Research Centre, DG MARE, and EUROSTAT. Of those, 19 attended the meeting in person in Salerno and 12 joined through the Teams platform.

The ToRs for the meeting were 3:

1. Discuss the elements in current DCF quality reporting and compare them in relation to the European Statistical System (ESS) handbook for quality reports and the ESS Reference Metadata Reporting Standards
2. Review the quality reports from selected MS WPs in order to compare them and identify best practices
3. The evaluation of the Quality Reports: state-of-the-art and general discussion on potential assessment criteria

Achievements

The main conclusions for ToR I highlight several areas for improvement in the current DCF quality reporting, particularly compared to the ESS handbook and Reference Metadata Reporting Standards. DCF should focus on ongoing quality enhancement, ensuring transparency, facilitating comparative analysis, and clearly indicating data collection responsibilities with user feedback mechanisms.

Current "quality reports" are actually planning documents. True comprehensive quality reports, as defined by EUROSTAT, are lacking but can be created from existing work plans and annual reports. Quality reports are not easily accessible. They should be standalone documents available on a web repository or the DCF platform, improving transparency and user feedback.

The meeting also highlighted that there are no direct links between data tables and metadata, making data sources and quality attributes hard to understand. This should be corrected by linking quality reports to data dissemination pages.

The ISSG discussed implementing the EUROSTAT methodology on reference quality framework for "other statistic" (RQF-OS Approach), with further discussion and potential legal integration by 2028.

ToR 2 involves reviewing the quality reports from selected Member States' work plans (WPs) to compare them and identify best practices. The ISSG considered that the current template is clear, includes all important information, but is slightly redundant. Missing sections include data collection activities related to GDPR and the ethical plan; these could be added under "data documentation." The format is suitable for 2025-2027 but might need amendments for 2028 onwards to align with RQF-OS standards.

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A comparative quality report, evaluating and comparing each Member State's quality reports, could improve consistency and be useful for end users. This follows EUROSTAT's practice of publishing comparative metadata reports.

Finally, in ToR 3, the ISSG concluded that the evaluation of quality reports is challenging due to the lack of established thresholds and best practices. Long-term criteria for such evaluations could emerge from a comparative exercise by the RCG, but in the short term, it is recommended that STECF experts adopt a more horizontal approach, focusing on specific survey types across regions rather than all surveys within a single country. There is a need for quality assurance and reporting to be more user-oriented, emphasizing the effective dissemination of quality-related information.

The ISSG identified some follow-up actions:

Make quality plans and metadata reports easily accessible, potentially via the DCF platform, to enhance transparency and user feedback.

Conduct comparative aggregation of quality plans to identify similarities and areas for improvement, a task for RCG ECON.

Perform quality analysis of the reports' content, including discussion of coefficients of variation (cv) and other quality indicators.

The group recognized that while certain quality requirements are mandated by regulations, the primary responsibility for promoting quality and facilitating reporting lies with the Member States and RCG ECON. This includes adhering to standards and actively working to improve data quality and reporting accuracy.

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Workplan for 2024 – 2025

The [ISSG report Developing Quality Assessment System](#) includes a summarized table of previous RCG ECON recommendations on report elements, like capital value, can serve as a checklist for Member States before submitting work plans.

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions

ECON-2024_R01: EUROSTAT's experience will be beneficial for Member States in standardizing the presentation of annexes and enhancing quality and transparency in their reports. To initiate this process, RCG ECON chairs and the ISSG on the Quality Assurance Framework will reach out to EUROSTAT, starting with the aquaculture sector.

Rapporteur: Evelina Carmen Sabatella



5.2. ToR 2 & ToR 3 Stakeholder feedback presentation by the Commission and developments on the new IT platform for data collection

The presentation covered the following topics:

- Regional and national work plans 2025-2027
- DCF IT platform
- DTMT update
- Other updates: Data requests, SAF grant projects
- Control Regulation (separate presentation)

Achievements

Regional work plans in their final form will be approved by STECF EWG 24-08 in last week of June. The national WP will incorporate relevant RWP parts. On top of the RWP parts, the NWP 2025-2027 should reflect improvements related to identified data collection issues (DTMT); integrate pilot study results into regular data collection; introduce new pilot studies reflecting end-user needs.

DCF IT platform development phase 3 in progress allowed for uploading AR 2023. Most MS experienced difficulties; investigation is ongoing to solve the technical problems. Validation rules for uploading WP 2025-2027 are being fine-tuned and should be ready in summer. WP submission will contain both workflows, through email (mandatory) and platform (voluntary).

Modified DTMT assessment cycle will be first run in STECF EWG 24-08 AR assessment group, with only high severity issues to be assessed, and other issues left for MS to resolve during following data uploads.

COM informed RCG ECON on recent data requests including socioeconomic data, and listed six winning projects in the Scientific Advice for Fisheries grant.

The revised control regulation was presented, with timelines for implementing acts for small-scale, recreational fisheries and fisheries without vessel. The data sharing provisions apply mainly to data for control purposes; the data for scientific purposes is targeted by retention period (maximum 25 years).

Workplan for 2024 – 2025

NA

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions

NA

Rapporteur: *Monika Sterczewska*



5.3. ToR 4 Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture

Objectives

There is increasing interest in the data collection on energy consumption in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This started with the communication on energy transition for the EU Fisheries and Aquaculture in the action plan set up by the Commission for a transition in these sectors. The Fish Processing sector is not included. Next year there will be a roadmap with some targets to the fishing fleet. There will be need for a baseline that enables comparison of progress towards transition (towards the targets for CO₂ emissions). To support this, there is need for good quality data on the use of various fuel types in the two sectors. The question at hand is how the national experts in their programmes may contribute to this data need.

Achievements

This topic was discussed last year during the TM and an ISSG on energy consumption was planned. Unfortunately, it was not possible to organise the ISSG, but the RCG determined the content to be too little for a workshop and considered sending a questionnaire as alternative to gathering data on MS level. The questionnaire was sent in June and consists of an inventory of the types of fuel used and the data availability to gather this information. Feedback from 20 MS has been received (2 countries were not included in the presentation because of late submission of data).

The chair presented the outcomes of the survey. There is a large variety of fuels and in some segments more than one fuel type is used. As a result, there is no straightforward correspondence between the activity of the segments and the consumption by different fuel types. The vast majority of the fisheries sector use traditional fuel types (e.g. petrol, gasoline, diesel). In some segments also electricity is used and there seems to be some experimental activity using hydrogen.

Under the DCF, many of the countries collect data on fuel use directly, but in almost as many MS, fuel use is estimated indirectly from costs (according to the average fuel prices). Less than half of the MS collect data differentiating among the use of different fuel types, e.g., in PT there is complete coverage of the fuel usage data because there is a national initiative enabling this data collection.

Regarding the potential to collect data on use of individual types of fuel, the majority of MS stated that it is feasible for them to distinguish, especially those countries where the fishing sector is using one type of fuel. Some other MS foresee big problems collecting these data,

Some MS question the usefulness of the data produced. There is a recurrent recommendation to make this collection of data more specific. Fuel use estimates does not automatically translate into available data. Also, some changes in legislation might be needed.

For Aquaculture, also various types of fuel are used. In total 36 segments are mentioned, so it is more difficult to get an as clear overview as in fisheries. However, in more than half of the segments multiple energy sources are used, so it is not strait forward to estimate/collect data on energy use per type of fuel.

Few countries collect data on energy consumption directly and hardly any country distinguishes between different fuel types in the data collection. However, Ireland distinguished between electricity and other fuel types.

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Most MS state that implementation of a detailed data collection will be difficult. As the data are gathered by questionnaires, the success of data collection on this item will depend on the willingness of enterprises to provide the data. Because of this it is important to be able to communicate about the end users needs for these data and the type of data collection (e.g. annual collection of consumption per fuel type). It is also stated that pilot studies may be needed on how to collect these data.

For the processing industry only eight countries replied as data collection is not mandatory for all countries. For this sector, very few countries collect information on energy consumption and most countries foresee that gathering data would be problematic.

During the session several different aspects were discussed:

In order to collect correct data, the purpose of the data collection should be clear, which is not so clear now. More information on the purpose and methods used will enhance the specificity of the data collection scheme and the quality of the data gathered. There are several options to take into account:

It is questioned whether the data collection through the DCF is the best instrument to answer the question at hand. In various countries pilots are currently carried out to reduce the environmental footprint of fisheries and aquaculture, but these are still pilots covering small parts of the sector. Various examples are mentioned, which are focussing both on more efficient vessels, other fuel types, or reducing emissions by technical adjustments. It is not clear whether annual data collection will be the right instrument to map these, or that this could be better done in a survey (e.g. once every 5 years). In this way also specific attention can be given to the costs of the transition.

Currently, it is not clear which distinction between various kinds of fuels/energy sources needs to be made, in case the data collected are used for estimation of environmental footprints of the sectors, i.e., is a distinction between electricity and traditional fuels and biofuels sufficient or is more detail on fuel types necessary. And what about the sources of electricity? If they are not considered, is there any use for distinguishing between carbon-based fuels and electricity? It was also stressed that the energy use in the whole company should be taken into account, e.g., also cars.

It is also questioned whether annual data collection will be needed to monitor changes in fuel consumption. On the other hand, having an annual data collection might have the advantage of becoming a routine. In Ireland data on energy consumption has been gathered annually for some time, and after some problems in the first years the industry has adjusted to this routine. Especially for the larger firms the extra data needs are not a big problem as they have their accountants to provide the data. For smaller companies it is more difficult.

It was also suggested that information on the type of engines, which is available in the fleet register, could be useful to attain more information about fuel use and efficiency in the fleet. So this could be used as complementary information. This could also provide information on changes and technologies with regards to energy use.

It was concluded that an ISSG to further discuss these issues and some pilot studies will be needed before a data collection programme on use of various fuel types can be launched. This ISSG can also be used to compare the data collection and estimation procedures that are used in the current national plans in order to learn from one-another.



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Workplan for 2024 – 2025:

Organising an ISSG on fuel consumption in fisheries and aquaculture with the following ToR:

- Comparison of current data collection methods for collection of data on fuel/energy consumption in order to provide best practices.
- Discuss the needs for data collection from the objectives of monitoring the ecological footprint of energy use in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Recommendation:

ECON_2024_R02: In order to enhance exchange of methodologies used to gather data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture, a session in the upcoming ISSG on methodological issues should be committed to the comparison of data collection procedures and estimation procedures for energy use in both fisheries and aquaculture.

Rapporteur: Hans van Oostenbrugge



5.4. ToR 5 Feedback from STECF (EWG 24-05) & WGSOCIAL (national fishing profiles, fisheries communities and social indicators)

Objectives

The social dimension of the DCF is getting increased attention and both in ICES and STECF there are working groups on developing new social data that should be gathered in the future. Therefore, RCG ECON members were updated on these developments because data collectors need to get involved in the collection of social data within their National data collection plans.

Achievements

On Tuesday June, 4 Marloes Kraan presented a summary of the developments in the ICES working group SOCIAL and of the recent Expert Working Group Social (EWG 24-05) of the STECF (13-17 May, 2024).

WGSOCIAL

WGSOCIAL is progressing the work on fishing communities and social indicators along a couple of lines. The methodology developed to identify fishing communities (by using landing ports as proxy) was also used with the Ecosystem Overview for the North Sea^[1], and will now be applied in the Ecosystem Overview of the Baltic, the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast. The method can also be deployed in research projects, an example thereof is the SEAwise project where the method is used to perform a dependency analysis (linking communities to species, fleets, areas at sea). The review of social indicators WGSOCIAL is working on with FAO is still in progress. It is a systematic literature review to build a database of social and economic indicators in use globally to understand, evaluate and achieve sustainability in fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The literature sample, pilot coding and conceptual guidelines to support indicator coding (based on theoretical frameworks) is finished. The next steps are to develop a list of sustainability themes that can be linked to management (i.e., to the CFP) and to provide a detailed description of indicators and coding of each indicator to finalise the database. WGSOCIAL has new chairs and is part of a new steering group Human Dimension (HUDISG).

EWG24-05

The preliminary outcomes of the EWG were discussed, whereby it was noted that the report was not finalized yet and the STECF Plenary meeting still needed to review it.

Three core themes were on the agenda:

- 1) An assessment and update of the National Fisheries Profiles (NFP);
- 2) An operational definition of fisheries communities, including a first partial list of communities and an updated template for developing Fisheries Communities profiles;
- 3) The development of a set of social indicators, pointing at next methodological steps for their integration in an EU data call. It also includes a list of countries for pilot studies on these new indicators.

It was explained that the national profiles, community profiles and social indicators together with data calls were all seen to be part of a toolbox to unpack the social dimension of the CFP. Each of them linked to (different) data, information (and knowledge) with different data frames: ranging from individual to vessel, firm,

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family unit-household, community and institutional. And that each of them could be linked to research (making use of other methods).

National fisheries profiles

Since last year, when 3 NFPs were written, 10 additional NFPs were produced. The EWG was asked to assess with these were fit for purpose and whether they allowed for cross-comparison. It concluded that the ten recently submitted NFPs are considered largely fit for purpose and allow for cross-comparison, although there is scope for improvement, for which suggestions were made.

Community profiles

A definition of fishing communities was developed, for the purpose of developing community profiles. In addition, 96 fishing communities have been identified that fulfil at least one of the criteria contrast, plurality and/or policy. In addition to the total list selections of 60, 30 and 15 communities are proposed. The template for community profiling was discussed and improved.

Social indicators

DGMARE had consulted with stakeholders (ACs, MS, NGOs) to ask for their prioritisation of policy area's. The results of the consultation were analysed which resulted in a top 5 of: the current socio-economic situation of fishers, vulnerability of fishers, number of fishers that have 'dropped' or discontinued, attractiveness of the profession for the younger generation and impact of EU conservation measures on fishing communities. In total 38 social indicators were developed, of which 12 were selected as being 'ready' to start with.

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Workplan for 2024 – 2025:

The EWG expressed the wish to maintain close links with RCG ECON and reiterated the suggestion from the last EWG report (23-17) to organize an ISSG meeting with RCG ECON focusing on the advancement of social indicators.

Recommendations:

ECON_2024_R03: RCG ECON recommends establishing an ISSG on social aspects, especially to discuss social indicators and determine the practical issues regarding data collection, availability, and the timeline for adjusting the National Plans accordingly.

I. Have an intersessional meeting with social scientists from the STECF-EWG (24-05) and RCG ECON in September. The timing is important, so that new work towards social indicators can be incorporated in the 2025 workplans. Here it can be discussed which information for the 12 new 'ready' indicators is already available and what data would need to be collected (as part of the DCF). In addition, it can be discussed which indicators can be developed further in pilot studies in which MS. It is up to DG MARE to choose which indicators they would like to see developed and what the budgetary implications are.

II. RCG ECON notes that the social data available, was not assessed this year by the EWG (as it was not part of the ToRs) thus that this still needs to be done. DG MARE is contemplating whether to have a separate



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(annual) social report. Pending the outcome of that process, it needs to be decided what to do with these data in 2025.

III. Make a clear overview of social and economic data: when is what collected for which sector (fisheries, processing, aquaculture) and create a clear pattern of collecting, analyzing and publishing data. There are pro's and con's with different choices of alignment.

Rapporteur: Hans van Oostenbrugge

[https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Greater North Sea Ecoregion Ecosystem overview/18629543](https://ices-library.figshare.com/articles/report/Greater_North_Sea_Ecoregion_Ecosystem_overview/18629543)



5.5. ToR 6 Towards combining FDI and AER data calls

Objectives

The final objective is to harmonize the Annual Economic Report (AER) and Fishery Dependent Information (FDI) data with the aim to only ask for transversal variables in the FDI data call in the future. There have been efforts to harmonize the transversal data in the data calls in collaboration with the RCG ISSG on Métier and Transversal Variables issues, JRC and the STECF FDI group. Recommendation from the RCG ECON at the Liaison meeting 2022 was to organize a workshop to bring together biologist and economists that submit data to these data calls and discuss the methodology and the data they use to prepare data. STECF Plenary meeting 22-02 also agreed for the RCGs, in coordination with JRC, to organize a workshop towards harmonizing the data submitted to the Fleet Economics and FDI data calls.

Achievements

The workshops were held online on Monday 11th December half the day and on Thursday 14th December half the day. During Monday 11th December MS presented some of the inconsistencies they detected in their AER and FDI data and suggested solutions on how to fix them. During 12th and 13th December, the Member States worked on their issues offline. On Thursday 14th December the MS presented their findings on why these inconsistencies happened and how they were going to tackle the issues.

The terms of reference for the meeting, ToR1: Propose solutions for the identified inconsistencies between data provided to FDI and AER for each MS following the outcomes of the STECF FDI EWG 23-10 analysis) (most recent year available for both data calls: 2022) and ToR2: Identify the problems that are related to definitions following the questionnaire filled in by the MS and propose solutions on how to fix these problems. Major issues identified by STECF EWG 23-10 FDI: gear codes used for two different concepts in the two data calls, and two specific fields 'fishery' and 'activity level' which are asked in AER but not available in FDI.

The reasons for the inconsistencies were identified as different people submitting data, clustering issues, inactive vessels missing from FDI, poor data for gears which are considered less important at national level, geo indicator reported differently in the data calls, definition of the fishing technique codes, and source of data used to prepare the AER and FDI are taken at different points in time.

Solutions proposed were for MS to communicate and work on the methodology nationally to apply the same estimation routines for the same variable and then derive both AER and FDI datasets from the same master file by aggregating according to the call-specific requirements.

A recommendation from Liaison 2022 meeting was to implement the Fishing Activity data (landing; effort) from EUMAP Table 6 in the frame of a Fishery Dependent Information (FDI) data call. The FDI group thinks this is not possible because it would require massive further disaggregation of the data to even lower fleet segments and potentially more confidential data in the FDI Table A and other tables, e.g., with spatial data.



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Workplan for 2024 – 2025

The work to harmonize the AER and FDI data calls will continue nationally. Data submitters responsible for preparing the data to the data calls will align their methodologies and communicate towards harmonizing the data. One suggestion would be to check again in 2025 if there have been improvements in the consistency of the transversal data that is submitted to the AER and FDI.

Recommendation:

ECON_2024_R04: RCG ECON recommends that MS continue discussions at the national level to resolve the inconsistencies they face with FDI and AER data.

Rapporteur: Zeynep Hekim





5.6. ToR 7 Low active and Active Segments: The French case

Introduction

Olivier Guyadier presented a case study focusing on "Low Active" and "Active" fishing segments within France, specifically in the regions of Guadeloupe and French Guyana. This presentation aimed to provide insights into the implications and practicalities of applying segmentation in fisheries data collection and management, with a reference to RCG ECON recommendation 5 from 2018 and EU guidelines.

Key Points Discussed

Current Use of Sub-segmentation using activity levels:

- Only France (FR), Germany and The Netherlands use sub-segmentation based on activity level in their data collection.
- The distinction between activity levels is not widely utilized in data calls.

Workshop and Discussions:

- Two workshops in 2024 and 2017 addressed the use of activity thresholds for distinction between active and less active vessels in reporting economic figures.
- Identified advantages and disadvantages highlighted the challenges of applying this without clear links to fisheries management and well-defined thresholds.

Case Study Insights:

- A test was run for Guadeloupe and Guyana.
- Data is provided at an aggregated level to avoid compromising the sustainability of the data collection process for legitimacy perception reasons.

Socioeconomic Thresholds:

- Socioeconomic thresholds are difficult to apply due to a mismatch of indicators and heterogeneity in activity.
- Regional minimum wage data is unavailable, and wages are not the sole source of remuneration.

Indicators and Sensitivity Analysis:

- First methodology tested days at sea as a common indicator.
- Sensitivity analysis revealed 76 days at sea as a critical threshold, where profit becomes negative for part of the fleet.
- Data aggregation remains possible at the segment level.

Fishermen Demographics:

- Fishermen have an average age of 52, with nearly one-third nearing retirement.
- Consultations indicated that older fishermen need to continue fishing to supplement their pensions.





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Additional Factors Influencing Activity Levels:

- Seasonality, illness, engine failures, and ownership structures impact activity levels.
- Some fishermen engage in other activities such as maintenance, fish mongering, processing, and tourism.

Conclusions

Segmentation Application:

- Applying segmentation to Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) provided valuable insights.
- The methodology used appears simple and pragmatic.

Data Interpretation Challenges:

- Interpreting data for all stakeholders is challenging, which poses a risk to the future of the Data Collection Framework (DCF).

Threshold Determination:

- The threshold of 76 days at sea is deemed adequate based on the case study.

Future Considerations:

- The application of low activity segmentation may be relevant to large-scale fisheries as well.
- Further discussions are needed to determine the next steps for the RCG ECON group.

The RCG ECON group should consider the findings of Olivier G.'s presentation to enhance the economic analysis of fisheries trends, ensuring the approach remains simple and understandable for all stakeholders involved.

Workplan for 2024 – 2025

1. Evaluate the broader application of the segmentation methodology.
2. Engage stakeholders to improve understanding and acceptance of segmentation outcomes.
3. Monitor and refine the 76-day threshold based on ongoing data collection and analysis.

Recommendation:

ECON_2024_R05: RCG ECON recommends that during the ISSG on methodological issues a special session is organised to exchange experiences from MSs on the distinction between active and less active vessels in order to evaluate current guidelines and reporting requirements in the National plan annexes.

Rapporteur: RCGs Secretariat, Rosa Fernández





5.7. ToR 8 Methodology testing for re-evaluation of physical capital in France

Introduction

The presentation by Olivier Guyadier focused on the evaluation of physical capital in France, specifically discussing the findings and methodologies from the ISSG workshop on tangible and intangible capital held in 2023. The workshop aimed to harmonize the estimates of capital value and improve the use of the Perpetual Inventory Method (PIM).

Key Points discussed

PIM Method Application:

- Only 11 MS currently apply the PIM method.
- Uniform methodology is crucial for providing homogeneous results and accurately calculating net profit.

Reference Price Estimation:

- Regular surveys should be conducted to estimate reference prices, incorporating technological advancements affecting capital costs.
- PCU statistical analysis should consider the number of vessels as stock capital per period/year.

Fleet Composition and Construction Trends:

- One-third of the Atlantic fleet consists of vessels built in the 1980s, indicating a high number of vintage vessels.
- The construction of new vessels has significantly declined since the 1990s, with varying rates across different years and vessel lengths.

Survey on Construction Prices:

- A survey conducted in 2022 examined construction prices from 2012 to 2021, revealing:
 - Constant increase in the Mediterranean.
 - Decrease in the Atlantic post-2005.
 - General increase in both areas.
- The survey targeted various information sources, including vessel owners, design officers, and newspapers, achieving good coverage across most vessel segments, though there was limited data for small vessels.

Price Variability:

- Significant differences in construction prices were found even for vessels built in the same shipyard but differing in tonnage.
- Construction of vessels in foreign countries adds to the price variability, necessitating consideration of third-country construction in price calculations.





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Alternative Approaches:

- Tested alternative statistical models using vessel and segment characteristics due to a low number of samples.
- High variability in deflated prices suggested the need for more categories to estimate capital value accurately.
- A statistical model identified factors influencing price evolution, including fleet (gear), length, engine power, and year of construction.

Simulation and Findings:

- Price simulations based on vessel characteristics and segments indicated a higher price increase compared to inflation in some fleet segments, highlighting potential biases in economic indicators.
- The decomposition of vessel prices by length category emphasized the importance of updating construction prices, even if data is from the construction period.

International Relations and Market Share:

- International aspects such as buying and operating vessels, and the significant market share of foreign shipyards in some fleets, are crucial for accurate PCU calculations.
- Current DCF categories may not be the most suitable for PCU segmentation.

New Calculation Approach:

- Proposed calculating both replacement value and rental value for more accurate capital depreciation.
- Emphasized the benefit of sharing experiences across different countries regarding data collection aspects.

Conclusions

Harmonizing Capital Estimates:

- Consistent use of the PIM method across MS is essential for reliable and homogeneous economic analysis.

Need for Updated Data:

- Regular updates and detailed categorization in construction prices are necessary to reduce biases in economic indicators.

International Considerations:

- Considering international construction and operational practices is vital for accurate capital valuation.





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Enhanced Segmentation:

- Adopting more refined segmentation and including rental value in calculations could improve the accuracy of capital depreciation assessments.

Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing:

- Encouraged sharing of methodologies and experiences between countries to enhance data collection and analysis practices.

Workplan for 2024 – 2025

1. Promote uniform application of the PIM method across MSs.
2. Regularly update and refine capital cost data through comprehensive surveys.
3. Incorporate international construction data into capital value calculations.
4. Test and adopt alternative statistical models for better segmentation and depreciation assessments.
5. Facilitate cross-country collaboration and experience sharing on data collection practices.

Recommendation:

ECON_2024_R06: RCG ECON reiterates the previous recommendation that MS update the information on purchase prices of vessels for the estimation of the capital costs every 4-5 years and calls upon MSs to make an effort to collect data on vessel prices in the coming year.

Rapporteur: RCGs Secretariat, Rosa Fernández



5.8. ToR 9 RCGs Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation & Future of the RCGs Secretariat - combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA

ToR 9.1: RCGs Secretariat, SECWEB 2.0 project presentation

Objectives

The objectives of the RCGs Secretariat during the period have been the following:

1. To carry out the basic regular activities of the RCGs Secretariat as they were agreed as an outcome of the SecWeb project (January 2021 – end of February 2023).
2. To manage the financial plan and specific conditions of the funding with the MSs and the EC.
3. To help the financial viability of the RCGs Secretariat by preparing and submitting a proposal under CINEA EMFAF-2023-PIA-FisheriesScientificAdvice. The proposal for the Project 101156582 — SECWEB 2.0.

Achievements

From March 2023 until the end of February 2024 the RCG Secretariat was run by Fundación CETMAR with the financial support of the Member States, and a service contract, for a specific set of activities, by the European Commission (Support to the LM preparation, accomplishment and reporting, elaboration of a set of guidance and hand-over documents).

Work carried out involved the development of the following activities; Management of the regular correspondence with all RCGs; Maintenance of basic protocols and procedures; Maintenance of virtual working spaces (on CETMAR MS teams); Updates and formatting of documents and templates; Maintenance of website, newsletter, and social media; Promotion and support to registration to the RCGs SHs database; Generation of new support/guidance documents; Preparation support, attendance and reporting to all RCGs TMs, DM and LM; Support to 5 consultation processes; Support to ISSG activities (7 ISSGs); Regular meetings with RCGs chairs (under request); Management of funding sources (contractual procedures with MS and EC, reporting, invoicing, etc); Preparation and submission of SecWeb2.0.

Specific outcomes

- The Secretariat could deliver support services to all the RCGs and 7 ISSGs
- The communication tools and platforms were maintained updated
- From the activities under the Service Contract by the EC:
 - It was delivered support to the preparation, accomplishment and reporting of the LM
 - The following guidance / hand over documents were produced:
 - Regional Coordination Groups. Virtual repositories and working spaces. An overview.
 - RCGs Secretariat Functions and working protocols.
 - DISCOVER Regional Coordination Groups for Fisheries Data Collection.
 - Compilation of common documents formats.
 - These new documents have been made available on the RCGs website.
- SECWEB 2.0 was successfully submitted and granted for funding, and the contract signed to start in June 2024.

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RCGs Secretariat Workplan for 2024 – 2025:

Regular RCGs Secretariat activities

- **Partly (~74% to be addressed through SecWeb2.0)**
- **26% pending on financial solution by the MSs** (support to RCGs meetings preparation and reporting).

Implementation of SecWeb2.0

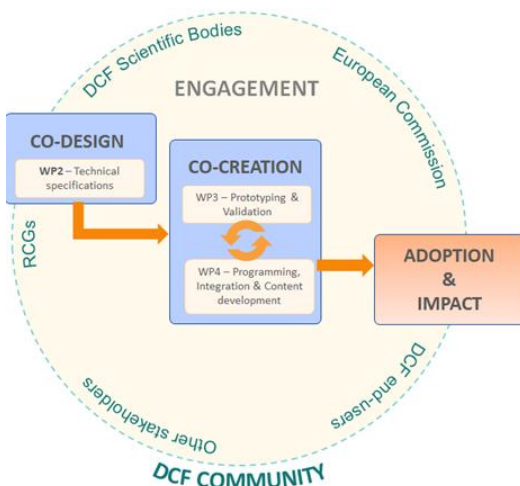
The SecWeb 2.0 project aims to improve the online working environment, tools, and services of the Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) Secretariat for the RCGs community.

Enhance the effectiveness of the RCGs Stakeholders Database through the systematization / automation of frequent processes:

- DB systematic update – e.g. alert system
- Connection with registration to meetings and events and consultations processes
- Validation of appointed experts by NCs

Develop **new web-based tools and content sections** enabling better regular **interactions processes**:

- *e-Library*
- *Consultation processes.*
- *Follow up of RCGs recommendations and decisions.*
- *Direct channel/forum for the end-users of the RCGs work.*
- *Some flexibility to adapt to requests (in the project scope)*



The Secretariat will promote the involvement of policy stakeholders, scientists, and concerned end-users in co-design and co-creation efforts to deliver value added products and content.

Through SecWeb 2.0 actions it is expected that RCGs gain efficiency in their interactions and with this, enable further capacity to respond to their commitments regarding improved data quality, increased stakeholder participation, enhanced scientific advice, and better-informed fisheries management decisions.

Recommendation:

N/A

Rapporteur: Rosa M. Fernández Otero (RCGS Secretariat by CETMAR)



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ToR 9.2: Future of the RCG secretariat - combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA

Objectives

To confirm the capacity and willingness of the MS to enable the funding for the activities of the RCGs Secretariat beyond the scope of SecWeb2.0.

According to the presentation made by Rosa Fernández (CETMAR), SecWeb2.0 involves new and extra commitments and tasks for the Secretariat. This entails that some of the regular activities, not under the scope or financial cover of the new Grant, need yet to confirm the financial support by the MSs as it was explained during the NCs meeting accomplished on the 7th March 2024. In that meeting it was agreed that a discussion to address this topic would be held in the context of RCG ECON within its TM2024 (where all the countries are invited).

Anna Hasslow, acting on her remit as ISSG NCs chair, presented some background about the previous consultations and financial scenarios communicated to the NCs. The scenario resulting from the approval of the new grant for SecWeb2.0, with the new amounts for 2024 and 2025 represents a meaningful reduction of the cost for the MSs to a total of 40.125€ per year. This changes the financial situation significantly, so it is requested that one by one the Member States confirm or not their willingness and capacity to enable the funding.

The amounts by country were calculated following the same calculation method that was used for the original Secretariat budget estimation from Secweb project. Below it can be found the distribution of the request in a country-by-country basis:





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	Annual contribution by MS according to the total EMFAF budget for the period 2021-2027	Annual contribution by MS according number of RCGs in which each MS is participating	TOTAL MS annual contribution
BEL	152	463	615
BGR	321	756	1077
CZE	113	154	268
DNK	759	714	1473
DEU	800	937	1737
EST	368	937	1305
IRL	538	686	1224
GRC	1417	979	2396
ESP	4233	1511	5743
FRA	2142	1288	3430
HRV	921	979	1900
ITA	1958	1202	3160
CYP	145	979	1124
LVA	510	937	1446
LTU	231	937	1168
LUX	0	0	0
HUN	142	154	297
MLT	82	979	1062
NLD	370	686	1056
AUT	25	154	180
POL	1936	937	2872
PRT	1430	909	2339
ROU	614	756	1370
SVN	90	756	847
SVK	58	154	212
FIN	271	405	676
SWE	438	714	1152
			40.125

The question is posed to NCs and to only be answered by them if available and to RCG Experts only when they have been authorised to express themselves on behalf of the NC. Also, it is pointed that some NCs have already sent written confirmation to the Secretariat and to the ISSG NCs chair.

The result of the process is below detailed:

1. Belgium. Yes.
2. Bulgaria. Yes.
3. Czech Rep. Yes.
4. Denmark. Yes (confirmed by Denmark's NC through Jeppe Strandgaard Herring during the meeting)
5. Germany. Yes (through Jörg Berkenhagen)
- 6. Estonia. The NC is not available**
7. Ireland. Yes.
8. Greece. Yes.
9. Spain. Yes (confirmation received through e-mail)
10. France. Yes
11. Croatia. Yes.
12. **Italy does not have answer yet.** Rosaria Sabatella will ask and give the answer, although she assumes it will be also a yes.





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13. Cyprus: Yes.

14. Latvia: Yes (**though they need a legal act**, so they will propose an agreement with other MS for this)

15. Lithuania: Not NC. Available Will withhold

16. Hungary: Yes.

17. Malta: Yes.

18. The Netherlands (though Hans van Oostenbrugge): Yes.

19. Austria: Yes. There is an e-mail confirming.

20. Poland: Yes.

21. Portugal: Yes (Cristina Rosa through e-mail)

22. Romania: Will commit 24 and 25, will negotiate some bilateral solution

23. Slovenia: The NC is not available.

24. Slovakia: The NC is not available

25. Finland: Yes

26. Sweden: Yes

In RCG NANSEA&Baltic back-to-back Annual Meeting, scheduled right on the week after RCG ECON Annual Meeting 2024, the NCs will reconvene to ask the countries not having confirmed their contribution to do so or, otherwise, to propose a solution. In the interim they will be contacted to guarantee that the final decision is taken for all during the slot for the NCs in the TM for RCG NANSEA&Baltic.

Rapporteur: Anna Hasslow (NC, Sweden and ISSG NC Chair)



5.9. ToR 10. RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries

Objectives

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

Achievements

Stefanos Kavadas (project coordinator) presented the progress work of the RDBFIS II project and the integrated module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries. The data structures in the system incorporate information from various data calls (Med&BS, FDI, AER, GFCM/DCRF), experimental samplings (MEDITS & MEDIAS), detailed biological sampling, Eggs&Larvae, PETS, stomach contents, recreational fisheries, and alien species. Several tools are integrated into RDBFIS for data visualization, data quality checks and processing. A tool has developed to estimate spatial fishing effort and landings from small-scale fisheries (most vessels are not equipped with a positioning system), based on multi-criteria decision analysis. An open access tool also has been developed to illustrate the evolution of fleet dynamics in Europe, with possible links to landings, discards, and value variables (FDI Table A). He highlighted the RDBFIS advantages:

- Centralized database system hosting aggregated DCR/DCF data sets including MEDITS, MEDIAS & BS surveys as well as detailed biological data, AER data and DCRF data
- Common syntax and consistency procedures ensures the quality of the uploaded data
- The MS can visualize and manipulate their data
- A “Processing” package support the creation of the datacalls
- Other tools are included in the system (spatial effort & landings for SSF, fleet analysis, data entry forms for stomach contents, alien species, ...)

Two datacalls are currently running to populate the RDBFIS database with aggregated data, detailed biological data, MEDITS and MEDIAS. Regarding the RDBFIS and RDBES and in order to avoid duplication of efforts, RDBFIS can adopt and integrate existing routines developed for RDBES, with appropriate adjustments (e.g. common exchange format for LP database).

As far as the socio-economic module, the constructed database is consistent with the formats and codification of the DCF. The integration of the AER module within RDBFIS aims to: (i) support syntax and consistency checks before submitting data to the JRC and (ii) to decrease discrepancies between the AER and FDI datacalls (cross checking between AER & FDI is a goal for the project). Additionally, various economic performance indicators for STECF EWG are under construction. Stefanos Kavadas informed the RCG ECON that aggregated socio-economic data were uploaded by the Med&BS MS.



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Workplan for 2024 – 2025

N/A

Proposals for Recommendation and Decisions

RCG ECON acknowledges that combining socio-economic data with other data sources (e.g., FDI) will enhance the quality of the data and facilitate more efficient data reporting within the DCF framework, although duplication of data submission should be avoided. RCG Econ recommends being updated on the progress of the project.

Rapporteur: Stefanos Kavadas





5.10. ToR II. Feedback from the STECF EWGs

Objectives

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

Achievements

In February, the data call for economic data for fishing fleets was launched. In this data call for AER 2024, some additional voluntary variables were included: geo indicator, Gear, Fishing, and Activity level. They should be used only for the purpose they are designed for and consistently in time to maintain the fleet segmentation in time.

The activity level indicator can now be used to distinguish between low activity and normal/high activity levels. Its use is voluntary, but it is useful for separately analyzing the economic performance of subsegments with low activity from those with normal-high activity. (Low activity does not mean inactive). Two MSs used these voluntary variables when reporting the data for AER. The activity level indicator should only be filled in to separate the high/low activity sub-segments. It is advisable to retroactively update economic data by activity levels whenever possible to facilitate time series analysis.

In addition, Qlik dashboards facilitate standard checks and identify data issues. They also display all the uploaded and stored data in a user-friendly way. The dashboards also present the national data graphically; we are working on doing the same for the EU and regional data.

The feedback from the STECF on STECF EWG on the processing industry noted that 15 countries provided data based on their data collection programs under the EUMAP. Eurostat data will fill in the gaps for ten countries. The 2023 data call highlighted large heterogeneity in the data provision among MSs in relation to dataset coverage and compliance with RCG ECON recommended categories. Moreover, there are recommendations for social data collection, such as collecting data by size classes and following RCG ECON age classes to split the age group 40-64 into smaller groups. Regarding the raw material data collection, there is also a recommendation to follow the RCG ECON recommendation to use 3-alpha codes for species and to avoid names for consistency reasons. There are suggestions from the EWG 23-14 for additional data needs to enhance data collection for comprehensive analysis, to present the raw material by geographical origin and production environment data, size classes, and activity type could improve the analysis of energy costs and cost structures. Moreover, later in the year (e.g., November/December), an EWG meeting will be scheduled to accommodate the EUROSTAT data release. The data call for aquaculture data will open on 3rd September 2024 with a deadline of 2nd October 2024. The EWG 24-14 for Economic Report on the EU aquaculture will be from 21 to 25 October 2024. Feedback from the STECF for STECF EWG 22-17 on Aquaculture, referring to social data and a better alignment of social data, is necessary to enable comparison between MSs. A new age group, definitions, and where to include “non-paid labour”- FTE are recommended. It is proposed that RCG ECON provide clear definitions across the sectors.





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Workplan for 2024 – 2025:

N/A

Recommendation:

Voluntary variables (Geo indicator, Gear, Fishing, Activity level) should be used only for the purpose they are designed for, following the guidelines on the data collection website, and they should be used consistently over time. Based on the data available, the group recommends using these new classes for the whole time series where possible.

It is proposed that RCG ECON provide clear definitions across the sectors for social data definitions.

Rapporteur: Jarno Virtanen and Irene Tzouramani





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6. Next meetings

RCG ECON 2025

Preliminary ToRs:

- Feedback from ISSGs
- Feedback from the Commission, the STECF EWGs and other end users
- Feedback from Eurostat on aquaculture quality reports
- Adjustment of the RCG ECON guidelines on variables and methods.

Chairs: Irene Tzouramani & Jeppe Strandgaard Herring

Dates: 12 – 15 May 2025

Venue: Copenhagen, Denmark

Number of days: 4 days (hybrid)

RCG ECON ISSG: Methodological issues

Ref. recommendation: ECON_2024_R02

Preliminary ToRs:

- Review the methodologies for collection and processing of data on energy consumption in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Exchange of experiences and methods to distinguish between active and low active vessels and the economic effects of the distinction between active and low active vessels.
- Exchange of experiences and methods to estimate the value of intangible assets.

Chairs: TBC

Dates: 2024

Venue: TBD

Number of days: 5 days





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RCG ECON ISSG: Exploring options for data collection for new social variables

Ref. recommendation: ECON_2024_R03

Preliminary ToRs (TBD):

- Contents of new social variables and available data sources.
- Implementational issues.

Chair: TBD

Dates: week of 16th of September 2024

Venue: Online

Number of days: 2-3 days (Online)



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Annex I: RCG ECON 2024 List of Participants

First name	Last name	Email address	Attendance
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Annex II: Agenda for RCG ECON 2024

Monday 3rd June				
Time		Topic	ToR	Presenter
12:30	30 min	testing		
13:00	30 min	Welcome and introduction Welcome, house rules, adoption of the agenda, format of the report, notification of AOB		RCG chairs
13:30	60 min	Feedback from ISSG Evaluation of Quality Assurance Framework Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 1	Evelina Sabatella
14:30	30 min	<i>Coffee break</i>		
15:00	30 min	Stakeholder feedback presentation by the commission Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 2	Monika Sterczewska
15:30	30 min	Developments on the new IT platform for data collection Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 3	Monika Sterczewska
15:30	60 min	Summary of the 1st day		RCG chairs
17:00		END OF A DAY		

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Tuesday 4th June				
Time		Topic	ToR	Presenter
9:00	15 min	testing/chat		
9:30	60 min	Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 4	Hans van Oostenbrugge / Angel Calvo-Santos
10:30	30 min	ICES end-user perspective on data needs for social indicators Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 5	Eirini Glyki
11:00	30 min	<i>Coffee break</i>		





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11:30	90 min	Feedback from STECF EWG social & ICES social (national profiles, and analysis of social data) Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 5	Marloes Kraan
13:00	90 min	<i>LUNCH</i>		
14:30	60 min	National and community profiles Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 5	Marloes Kraan
15:30	30 min	<i>Coffee break</i>		
16:00	30 min	Data needs to support the energy transition on EU fisheries and aquaculture Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 4	Hans van Oostenbrugge / Angel Calvo-Santos
16:30	30 min	Summary of the 2nd day		RCG chairs
17:00		END OF A DAY		

Wednesday 5th June				
Time		Topic	ToR	Presenter
9:00	30 min	testing/chat		
9:30	60 min	Work towards combining FDI and AER data calls Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 6	Zeynep Hekim
10:30	30 min	Low active and Active Segments: The French case Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 7	Olivier Guyader/ Marie Dominique
10:30	30 min	Methodology testing for re-evaluation of physical capital in France Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions	ToR 8	Olivier Guyader/ Marie Dominique
11:00	30 min	<i>Coffee break</i>		





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	15 min	RCG Secretariat SECWEB 2.0 project presentation		RCGs secretariat/ Rosa Fernández
		Future of the RCG secretariat - combined discussion with RCG Baltic and NANSEA	ToR 9	Anna Hasslow
		Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
13:00	90 min	<i>LUNCH</i>		
		RDBFIS II: Developing a module for socioeconomic data from the Mediterranean and Black Seas countries	ToR 10	Stefanos Cavadas
14:30	45 min	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
15:45	30 min	<i>Coffee break</i>		
		Feedback from the STECF EWGs	ToR 11	Jarno Virtanen
16:15	30 min	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
16:45	30 min	Summary of the 3rd day		RCG chairs
17:00		<i>END OF A DAY</i>		

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Thursday 6th June				
Time		Topic	ToR	Presenter
9:00	30 min	testing/chat		
		Drafting the recommendations and the report		RCG chairs
10:30	60 min	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
11:30	30 min	<i>Coffee break</i>		
		Summary, overview of Intersessional work 2024-2025, tasks		RCG chairs
12:00	30 min	Discussion: 1. define next step, short/ long term actions 2. identify recommendations / decisions		
12:30	60 min	Summary of the last day		
13:30		<i>END OF THE MEETING</i>		

