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Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)

Balance indicators (STECF-14-09)

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SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES (STECF)

Balance indicators (STECF-14-09)

THIS REPORT WAS ISSUED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE IN MAY 2014

Background

EWG 14-04 was requested to quality check, analyse and summarise economic, social and technical balance indicators produced by JRC for the period 2008-2012/13. Biological indicators were derived through two *ad hoc* contracts. All sets of indicators were submitted to the STECF in May 2014. These indicator tables as reviewed and adopted by the STECF are planned to be sent by DG MARE to Member States for inclusion in the Member States' national reports on balance-capacity.

Request to the STECF

The STECF is requested to review and adopt the calculated tables of economic, social and technical balance indicators, after being checked by EWG 14-04.

The STECF is requested to review and adopt the calculated tables of balance indicators prepared by two *ad hoc* contracts.

Observations of the STECF

STECF acknowledges the work undertaken by EWG 14-04 to prepare economic and social indicators and by the contractors in preparing the sustainable harvest indicator and the stock-at-risk indicator (<http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/balance>).

Economic and social indicators

STECF notes that the following technical, economic, and social indicators have been calculated using the data collected through the data call for fleet economic scientific data concerning 2008-2014 (Ares(2014)119891-31/01/2014):

Technical Indicators

- 1 - Fleet structure
- 2 - Vessel utilisation ratio for three levels of maximum number of days at sea

Economic Indicators

- 1 - Current revenue to break-even revenue ratio (CR/BER)
- 2 - GVA to Revenue (%)

- 3 - Net profit margin (%)
- 4 - Return on fixed tangible assets (RoFTA)
- 5 - Return on Investments (RoI)

Social Indicators

- 1 - Average wage per FTE
- 2 - Net value added per FTE (NVA/FTE)
- 3 - Labour productivity (GVA/FTE)
- 4 - GVA per vessel
- 5 - Fleet segment GVA as a % of total MS fleet GVA

Definition and interpretation of values in relation to these indicators can be found in the updated guidelines for the Member State reports on the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities.

With regard to the indicators prepared by the EWG 14-04, STECF notes that:

- CR/BER is calculated by including capital costs
- ROFTA is calculated only using the values covering tangible assets
- Opportunity cost of capital is calculated using the method used in the Annual Economic Report
- Net profit margin and NVA per FTE values were provided by the EWG 14-04 on its own initiative

STECF observes that there is no or very limited added value of including new indicators like 'net profit margin' or 'NVA per FTE' as they provide not much additional information to the existing indicators (profit plays a role already in the CR/BER indicator, the other social indicators seem sufficient).

Sustainable harvest indicator.

Sustainable harvest indicator (SHI) values were prepared under an ad hoc contract (<http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/balance>). STECF notes that the contractor has satisfactorily addressed the description of work which was as follows:

Calculate, for all possible fleet segments and on the basis of DCF data:

- *the sustainable harvest indicator F^* , being a weighted average of $F_{current}/F_{MSY}$, using the same methodology as used in 2013 for preparing the STECF working group 13-11 on the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities.*

Stock At Risk Indicator.

Stocks At Risk (SAR) Indicator values were prepared under an ad hoc contract (<http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/balance>). STECF notes that the contractor has satisfactorily addressed the description of work which was as follows:

For each fleet segment, the stocks at risk indicator is the number of stocks for which, according to the advice of international scientific bodies, are

EITHER below SSB Blim

OR there is biological advice to stop fishing

*OR there is considered to be a biological (stock status) emergency if no Blim is defined
AND for which either:*

- a) the stock makes up 10% or more of the catches by the fleet segment, or*
- b) the fleet segment takes 10% or more of the total catches from that stock*

The SAR indicator is calculated based on the methodology as used in 2013 for preparing the EWG 13-11 on the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities.

STECF notes that the SHI and SAR values are based on data uploaded until the end of EWG-14-04 on 11 April 2014. Exact dates are provided in the corresponding EXCEL data files (<http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/balance>). Indicator values may not match if further data submissions/corrections have been undertaken after these dates (e.g. in the AER 2014 exercise).

STECF also notes that the SHI and SAR are difficult to apply to Mediterranean stocks because agreed biomass reference points are often not available and partial F calculation are likely to be not appropriate, due to the evidence that the same stock is usually exploited by different fisheries with completely different gear selectivity. Moreover, the issue of the partial F calculation estimation and the different gear selectivity is likely to be valid also for the other areas (i.e. North Sea). Thus there is the risk that SHI and SAR are biased also in other areas than in the Mediterranean. This could be solved in the future moving towards fleet based stock assessment models where the gear selectivity is properly estimated.

Conclusions of the STECF

Noting that the technical, economic and social indicators have been correctly calculated by established procedures for those Member States that submitted appropriate data under the 2014 AER data call, STECF considers that it would be appropriate for Member States to include the indicator values in their National reports as an aid to undertake an assessment of the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities.

STECF therefore suggests that the Commission points the Member States to the indicator values given in the tables calculated by EWG-14-04 and the two *ad hoc* contract reports (<http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/balance>). However, STECF proposes not to include the two indicators provided by EWG 14-04 on its own initiative.

STECF also notes that the sustainable harvest indicator (SHI) has been calculated correctly for all Member States' fleets for which appropriate data were available to the contractor and that such values may also provide an additional indicator for Member States to consider when assessing the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities. If member States wish to take account of the sustainable harvest indicator values in assessing the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities, STECF considers that member States take note of the comments of the STECF on the utility of this indicator (section 4.1 of the 2013 STECF April plenary report (<http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/plenary>)).

Finally, STECF notes that the Stocks At Risk (SAR) indicator has been calculated in accordance with the established procedure, and that Member States could also consider this additional indicator in their national reports assessing the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities.

If a Member State considers an indicator value erroneous, STECF suggests that Member States be required to provide an explanation and alternative values together with the basis for such values.

List of STECF members

1 - Information on STECF members and invited experts' affiliations is displayed for information only. In some instances the details given below for STECF members may differ from that provided in Commission COMMISSION DECISION of 27 October 2010 on the appointment of members of the STECF (2010/C 292/04) as some members' employment details may have changed or have been subject to organisational changes in their main place of employment. In any case, as outlined in Article 13 of the Commission Decision (2005/629/EU and 2010/74/EU) on STECF, Members of the STECF, invited experts, and JRC experts shall act independently of Member States or stakeholders. In the context of the STECF work, the committee members and other experts do not represent the institutions/bodies they are affiliated to in their daily jobs. STECF members and invited experts make declarations of commitment (yearly for STECF members) to act independently in the public interest of the European Union. STECF members and experts also declare at each meeting of the STECF and of its Expert Working Groups any specific interest which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to specific items on the agenda. These declarations are displayed on the public meeting's website if experts explicitly authorized the JRC to do so in accordance with EU legislation on the protection of personnel data. For more information: <http://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/adm-declarations>

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Abstract

The STECF reviewed and adopted calculated tables of economic, social and technical balance indicators provided by EWG-14-04 and calculated tables of biological balance indicators prepared by ad hoc contracts by written procedure in May 2014.

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The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has been established by the European Commission. The STECF is being consulted at regular intervals on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of living aquatic resources, including biological, economic, environmental, social and technical considerations.



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