

## **The Data Collection Framework**

**EU Council Regulation 199/2008 - Establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for scientific advice regarding the CFP**

## **Report of the 9th Liaison Meeting**

**Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the chair of the Regional Database Steering Committee, the ICES representative, the Chairs of STECF DCF EWG's and PGECON and the European Commission**

## **FINAL REPORT**

**DG MARE**

**Brussels, Belgium**

**24/09/2012 - 26/09/2012**



*When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached,  
don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.*

Confucius



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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 General

The 9th Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the chair of the Regional Database Steering Committee, the ICES representative, the Chairs of STECF DCF EWG's and PGECON and the European Commission was held at DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Brussels from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

## 1.2 Background & legal requirements

According to Article 5(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (Data Collection Framework, DCF) Member States shall coordinate their national programmes with other Member States in the same marine region. For this purpose the Commission may organise Regional Coordination Meetings (RCMs) in order to assist Member States in coordinating their national programmes and the implementation of the collection, management and use of the data in the same region.

Five RCMs are operational in the framework of the DCF: Baltic, North Sea/ Eastern Arctic, North Atlantic and Mediterranean/Black Sea and Long Distance Fisheries. Most fleets subject to DCF activities are covered by these RCMs.

The new EU Data Collection Regulation (EU Council Regulation 199/2008) established a community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for scientific advice regarding the CFP. According to this regulation and without prejudice to their current data collection obligations under Community law, Member States (MS) shall collect primary biological, technical, environmental and socio economic data within the framework of a multi-annual national programme drawn up in accordance with the Community programme.

According to the Commission Regulation (EC) No 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and to Commission Decision 2010/93/EU specifying practical aspects for data collection, actions planned by MS in their national programme shall be presented according to the predefined regions. The scope of these regions were slightly modified by the RCMs 2008 and the following Liaison Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> LM) as follows:

- the Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d),
- the North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIId), the Eastern Arctic (ICES areas I and II), the ICES divisions Va, XII & XIV and the NAFO areas.
- the North Atlantic (ICES areas V-X, excluding Va and VIId),
- the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea,
- regions where fisheries are operated by Community vessels and managed by Regional Fisheries Management Organisation's (RFMO) to which the Community is contracting party or observer.

Regional co-ordination greatly increases the efficiency, effectiveness and integration of the various DCF National Programmes (NPs). Regional Coordinating Meetings (RCMs) are held annually and involve National Correspondents and mainly biologists and, to limited extent, economists from each MS involved in the DCF programme (see last paragraph of this sub-section on the role of economists in DCF). The key objectives of the RCMs are to identify areas for standardisation, collaboration and co-operation between MS.

A Liaison Meeting (LM) between the chairs of STECF DCF EWG's (formerly chairs SGRN and SGECA), the chairs of the different RCM, the Chair of the PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, ICES and the Commission is held annually to analyse the RCM reports in order to ensure overall coordination between the RCMs. On the basis of the reports, the LM makes recommendations to the Commission.

The 2nd Liaison Meeting (2006) identified the following areas where it can contribute to the effectiveness of data collection and co-ordination within the framework of the Data Collection Regulation (DCR):

- Make sure that the Regional Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs) move in the same direction.
- Address recommendations made by the RCMs and comment on these / modify them when considered appropriate / necessary.
- Identify issues, developments etc. that are of a pan-European interest and propose actions to be undertaken at the appropriate level (Member States, bilateral, regional or international level)

The 8<sup>th</sup> LM discussed the role and added value of the LM in relation to the DCF framework (see Annex 5 of the 8<sup>th</sup> LM's Report) . The role of the LM is to co-ordinate the work being carried out in the development of the DCF. LM provides a coherent overview of the RCM issues at both a local and generic level. The LM prevents duplication of tasks and guides the evolution of the DCF. The LM prioritises RCM recommendations and reviews the follow up actions required.

Following the recommendation of the 8<sup>th</sup> LM, an economic planning group (PGECON) was established in 2012 to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF at European level (fleet economic data, aquaculture, processing sector). The Chair of PGECON participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> LM.

The 9<sup>th</sup> LM was also attended by the Chair of Regional Database Steering Committee.

### 1.3 Terms of Reference

The 9<sup>th</sup> Liaison meeting met to address the following terms of reference:

**TOR 1. Discussion on possible follow-up to the main outputs of RCMs and to the specific recommendations addressed to the Liaison Meeting.** *(see Sections 2 & 3.2)*

**TOR 2. PGECON – outcomes and recommendations from their first meeting in 2012.** *(see Section 4)*

**TOR 3. Discussion on horizontal issues:**

- Regional databases: *(see Section 7.1)*
  - Overview of use of the Regional Databases for RCMs in 2012, including the RCM data call, and problems identified
  - Outcomes of the Regional Database Workshops and position of the RCMs
  - Changes for the future – any recommendations from the LM?
- Feedback from data end users : *(see Section 7.2)*
  - Implications of the evaluation of Annual Reports 2011 (data transmission checks)
  - Ways forward: Further standardization of feedback from ICES (clear guidance needed from ICES to identify data transmission failures)/ possible adjustments to the data transmission evaluation process (pre-screening of data transmission reports by STECF EWG, preliminary evaluation of list of apparent data transmission failures by NCs)

**TOR 4. Workshops:** *(see Section 9)*

- Review of list 2013
- Proposals from the economists

**TOR 5. RCMs 2013 issues: Schedule, ToRs, infrastructure issues** *(see Section 11)*



**TOR 6. DC MAP 2014-2010** *(see Section 8)*

- Future role of RCMs
- Advice on the appropriate process to deal with by-catch and discards issues

**TOR 7. Studies** *(see Section 10)*

- Studies 2013

**TOR 8. AOB** *(see Section 12)*

- JRC Website/central repository for DCF files (AR, NPs)
- Recommendations database – ICES and DG MARE to create a list for STECF recommendations – discussion on content/ structure
- Derogations database - Database of derogations by Member State to be created by DG MARE – discussion on content/ structure

The Agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> LM is provided in Annex 1.

## 1.4 Participants

The 9<sup>th</sup> Liaison Meeting met with the following participants:

| Name                    | Role  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Beatriz Guijarro        | Chair of PGMED                                      |
| Christian Tritten*      | European Commission                                 |
| Bas Drukker*            | European Commission                                 |
| Christoph Priebe        | European Commission                                 |
| Constantin Stroe        | Chair of the RCM Mediterranean&Black Sea (incoming) |
| Cristina Morgado        | ICES  |
| Els Torreele            | Chair RCM NS&EA (outgoing)                          |
| Frans van Beek*         | Chair RCM NS&EA (incoming)                          |
| Gráinne Ní Chonchúir    | co-Chair ICES PGCCDBS                               |
| Heleen Bartelings       | Chair of PGECON                                     |
| Ireneusz Wójcik (chair) | Chair for RCM Long Distance Fisheries               |
| Isabelle Garzon*        | European Commission                                 |
| Jørgen Dalskov          | Chair RCM Baltic (re-elected for 2013)              |
| Katja Ringdahl          | Chair of the Regional Database Coordination Group.  |
| Kelle Moreau*           | Chair RCM NA (incoming)                             |
| Michael Ebeling*        | Chair STECF EWG                                     |
| Sieto Verver            | Chair RCM NA (outgoing)                             |

\*Part-time

## 2 Follow up of 8<sup>th</sup> LM recommendations

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The 9<sup>th</sup> LM discussed and reviewed the follow up of the 8<sup>th</sup> LM recommendations. This section describes the recommendations not completed over the course of 2011 or 2012, hence only ongoing recommendations are listed.

Based upon requests by RCMs and LM, ICES now facilitates a recommendation database. This database shall hold all ongoing LM recommendations. LM appreciates the effort made by ICES and wish to thank ICES for the facilities offered.

The following recommendations remained during 9<sup>th</sup> LM:

(12) Concerning Métier variables - Intersessional work between Sweden and Denmark in order to give the RCM Baltic the possibility to evaluate where task sharing in métier sampling could be achieved.

**LM 2011: strongly supports the proposed intersession work and recommends that relevant MS (via their National Correspondents) ensure follow-up of this work.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing**

(13) Concerning Sampling of Métier related variables including foreign landings : Requirement of on-line information on fleet behaviour – In order to ensure possibilities for adequate sampling of biological and métier related data including landings in foreign MS, national institutes need to have online access to national logbook data and national VMS data. LM notes that this recommendation is common to the Baltic, NS&EA and NA regions.

**LM 2011: supports this recommendation, as access to VMS and logbook data is critical.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing**

(14) Concerning Métier variables: Tasks for the 2012 RCM meeting: Time should be set aside at the 2012 meeting for data handlers to discuss and provide guidelines on how to deal with allocation of trips into métier in particular in cases where information is incomplete.

**LM 2011: supports this approach and recommends that the COM addresses MS to provide an overview of the percentage of trips where information for allocating trips to metiers at Level 6 is missing. This percentage should be discussed at the National Correspondents meeting in December 2011.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing. Not addressed yet.**

(15) Concerning Sampling of métier related variables: Making usage of the outcome of the Lot 2 project on VMS and logbook data: In order for all MS to gain the knowledge concluded in the Lot 2 project on VMS and logbook data, the RCM recommends a training workshop on how the different appropriate tools can be used.

**LM 2011: supports this approach and recommends that MS gain experience with the VMS tools during 2012, before reporting to a workshop in 2013.**

**LM 2012: Not completed and should be taken by SC-RDB**

(20) Concerning Stock related variables: task sharing of age reading of flatfish species caught in BITS survey, eel, and salmon - For institutes collecting small volumes of age samples for certain species and when new species are to be sampled, task sharing of age reading is necessary in order to optimise the use of age reading expertise. The RCM Baltic has recommended a task sharing scheme. The suggested coordination should be discussed, agreed and decided by the National Correspondents so the first agreements could be established before December 2011.

**LM 2011: strongly supports this approach and recommends that ICES PGCCDBS provides guidance on harmonisation and documentation of the sampling, storage and age reading methods used. LM encourages other RCMs to use a similar approach.**

**LM 2012: Not completed, to be taken by RCMs at a regional level. PGCCDBS will work on the guidelines in 2013.**

(22) Concerning Stock variables: stocks with low landings - The RCM ask for some advice or guidelines on data demands for stocks (included in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EC), which are landed in small amount.

**LM 2011: notes that this recommendation is common to the NS&EA and NA regions as well. LM recommends that the data requirements for "data poor" G2 and G3 species be discussed at ICES WKLIFE 2012 and reported back to the RCMs.**

**LM 2012: Not addressed yet, and to be taken on WKLIFE2; taking into account work provided by RCM-Baltic based on the data upload on the FishFrame.**

(35) Concerning Stock variables : Quality issues - RCM NA recommends DG MARE to review the exact needs for biological parameters for each stocks, in close relation with the end-users. In view of the future DCF, if data are not required by any EWG, these should be removed from the Appendix VII.

**LM 2011: supports this recommendation.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing**

(36) Concerning Quality issues : data collection protocols - RCM NA recommends PGCCDBS to reflect on standard ways of drafting sampling protocols, in order to improve the description by MS in their NP proposals and to enable RCM to compare and compile international procedures.

**LM 2011: notes that this work is linked with the outcome of ICES WKPICS1.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing, to be continued by WKPICS2 and WKPICS3**

(37) Quality issues : Stock variables - RCM NA recommends DG MARE and STECF to reflect on the construction on a meta information database to hold the details of the national programmes, with the view of eventually replacing the current set of Excel tables.

**LM 2011: notes that this information will be included in the RDB in future, once filled with MS data.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing. SC-RDB to discuss on sampling plans in the RDB-FishFrame.**

(38) Concerning Metier variables : Regional ranking - RCM NA recommends STECF to investigate more closely the methods used by MS to deal with <10m transversal variables.

**LM 2011: recommends that STECF EWG 11-18 discusses this issue and adds a corresponding ToR.**

**LM 2012: To be taken by PGECON in 2013**

(39) Concerning Stock Variables: Studies on shared international age–length keys - Sampling for *ages* and the construction of ALK should follow sound statistical sampling practices set out according to WKPRECISE. Greater emphasis should be placed on the collection of *age* samples for species subject to age based stock assessments as the collection of length frequency data not linked to age samples may

be of limited benefit in improving bias and precision estimates for numbers at age. Databases structures should allow storage of linked age and length samples. Collection regulations should not encourage the collection of length only data at the expense of age sampling for species subject to age based assessments.

**LM 2011: notes that this issue will be discussed further in the light of a revised DCF.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing, to be taken at WKPICS3**

(44) Concerning Metier related variables: Large pelagic sampling - Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCM Med&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results. Moreover, RCM Med&BS recommend to use the conversion table finalized during the meeting to transmit the data to the different end-users (i.e. ICCAT and/or European Commission).

**LM 2011: strongly support this approach and recommends that MS follow this recommendation.**

**LM 2012: Ongoing**

(45) Concerning Large pelagic issue: Workshop proposal concerning large pelagic sampling: The two groups (RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS) propose a joined workshop among ICCAT representatives, scientists involved in large pelagic sampling, as well as representatives from RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS in order to harmonize the biological sampling issues on large pelagic and specify additional data or modifications that should be included in the future DCF, taking into account the ICCAT requirements for stock assessment.

**LM 2011: recommends that STECF set up an EWG in 2012.**

**LM 2012: COM to check the follow up. LM doesn't endorse this recommendation as LM considers this as a task for the RCMs. The RCM should invite the relevant end-user to the to deal with this issue.**

**Given the confusion which RCM is dealing with large pelagics. LM requests the Commission in cooperation with the relevant chairs to provide the RCM LDF and RCM Med&BS with a final conclusion where large pelagics are dealt with. The deadline for this decision is the December NC meetin where the decision will be announced**

(48) Concerning Economic variables: Data calls - RCM is aware that too many data calls take place each year requiring too much administrative costs to MS, especially having in mind that every data call contains the whole set of data available. Given that the new DCF does not oblige for the data to be destroyed after 20 days, the Group does not realize why the same set of data are required more than once in the same year and in different formats every time. The Group suggests that one coordinated data call takes place each year.

**LM 2011: recognises the observed differences in Data Calls and the Commission will follow-up.**

**LM 2012: The issue raised has improved but still ongoing.**

(49) Concerning Review feedback from data end users: Data presentation - Following a review of the 2011-2013 NPs of the Mediterranean MS concerning the availability of the data to end users (see data presentation in each section of NPs), the group recommends MS to agree on a harmonized time period required for data to be available for transmission to end-users. The group suggests, for all transversal

and biological data collected, a time period of 6 months following the reference year of the collection of data; this time period should be respected by the data calls and the end users.

**LM 2011:** notes that the Commission is in the process of reflecting on the reasons for delays in data transmission and that this issue will be addressed at the National Correspondents meeting.

**LM 2012:** Ongoing but applicable for the Med&BS only.

### 3 Main outcomes and recommendations from RCMs

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#### 3.1 Main outcomes

##### 3.1.1 RCM LDF

The Third RCM LDF took place at the Headquarters of the **Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia** in Madrid (Spain) from 9 to 13 July 2012. The meeting was attended by 9 participants from 6 Member States (ESP, GER, LVA, LTU, POL, and NLD).

At the two previous RCM LDF meetings (2010 and 2011) the scope of the fisheries dealt with included CECAF area, SPRMFO area and Large Pelagics (LP). As a result of consultations between the chairs of RCM Med&BS, RCM LDF and the Commission, a decision was made that the LP would be dealt with by the RCM Med&BS only. Thus, during the RCM LDF meeting in 2012 the coordination of sampling and data collection related to LP were not addressed.

RCM LDF reviewed the EU fleet activity in two areas, i.e. CECAF (Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic) area of Northwest Africa, from Morocco to Guinea Bissau and SPRMFO (South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) area.

##### **CECAF**

No formal discussion platform between EU and CECAF (scientists) exists where actual data needs, data quality and data deficiencies can be discussed. Reports from scientific working groups dealing with the assessment of the stocks in this area (FAO Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off Northwest Africa), containing recommendations on research and data collection, became available to the RCM LDF this year for the first time.

In the context of cooperation between MS and CECAF, the RCM LDF was informed that experts from Spain actively participate in the FAO Working Groups dealing with the data analysis and stock assessment for small pelagics and demersal species in CECAF area.

All MS active in pelagic fisheries (Germany, Poland, Netherlands, Lithuania and Latvia) implemented a common sampling programme in 2012 and 2013. Due to the expiration of the agreements between the EU and the Coastal States, most fisheries have already redrawn from the area (mid 2012). The shared sampling programme for pelagic stocks has been paused in May 2012 in an absence of fishing activities. This sampling programme can be restored until the end of 2013 if fisheries are reopened.

##### **SPRMFO**

In 2011, only a few EU vessels participated in the fishing for a few weeks. In 2012, no EU vessels participated in the fishery at all. At present, in the absence of fishing activity in the area, no sampling or EU coordination of sampling is required.

The RCM LDF was informed that experts from the Netherlands actively participate in the work of the SPRMFO Science Working Group. It was also noticed that expert from Poland took part in the SPRMFO workshop on Chilean Jack mackerel age reading calibration.

The Jack Mackerel Subgroup (JMSG) of SPRMFO Science Working Group (SWG) report, available to RCM LDF, indicates that the group is well aware where improvements in the quality of data and methods need to be made. The RCM LDF is of the opinion that the EU MS fishing on this stock could contribute to this process. However, the average EU contribution to this fishery over the period 2005-2011 is about 5% and most improvement, can only be made by effort of the major stakeholders in the fishery.

### ***Regional Data Base (RDB)***

In the absence of significant long distant fisheries there is no urgent need to establish such a database at present. However, the RCM LDF notes that establishing a RDB may be required in the new DC-MAP. If that is the case, RCM LDF is of the opinion that one single data base system and data format should be introduced for all RCMs. This would be most efficient in terms of maintenance, routine data submission and development of tools for analysing data.

### ***New EU DC-MAP***

The RCM LDF appreciate that many comments made by STECF on weaknesses in the present DCF and desired changes for the future are considered in the document called *Towards a New EU 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Programme for Data Collection*. Although the RCM LDF welcomes the general approach as presented in the document, it realizes that it is important how this approach will be further developed. In other words: details can matter.

The RCM LDF specifically supported the concept of regional approach to data collection and a need to strengthen links and cooperation with end users.

The present system of data collection (under DCF legislation) can create bias in case random selection of métier sampled could not be secured.

In order to facilitate cost reduction and efficiency in data use, the RCM LDF considers there is an obvious need for simplification and standardization of data formats, e.g. through the implementation of RDB.

The RCM LDF considers that not in all cases a close integration of control and science is desirable (e.g. in the context of trust between the industry and science community).

### ***Time and venue of the RCM LDF meeting in 2013***

In consideration of the development of work on the planned changes of data collection system after 2013, in order for the RCMs to contribute to the drafting of new legislation related to data collection, the time of the RCM LDF 2013 meeting is highly dependent on the outcome of consultation towards establishment of a new DC-MAP 2014-2020 which will take place by the end of 2012 and early 2013. Therefore, the time of the next RCM LDF meeting shall be decided in consultation with EC and following suggestion of LM9.

The venue was not decided yet.

### 3.1.2 RCM MED&BS

The 9th Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea [RCM Med&BS] (Chairs: Myrto Ioannou -Cyprus and Charis Charilaou – Cyprus) was held in Madrid, Spain from 23-27 July 2012.

The meeting was attended by scientists from all Mediterranean MS, including the Chair of the Mediterranean Planning Group for Methodological Development [PGMed] and the Chair of the Mediterranean Acoustic Surveys Working Group [MEDIAS WG], as well as 2 representatives of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean [GFCM] and a representative of the European Commission. 2 scientists involved in tropical large pelagic fisheries from Portugal and France attended the meeting as well, in order to have the opportunity to propose relevant recommendations; due to misunderstanding between RCM Med&BS and the RCM Long Distance Fisheries [RCM LDF], the coordination of tropical large pelagic was not included in the 2012 ToRs of none of the two RCMs.

The terms of reference [ToRs] of the meeting were based on the generic ToRs of all RCMs, agreed between the Chairs of the RCMs and the Commission, with some adaptations to suit the needs of the RCM Med&BS (basically inclusion of coordination on economic variables and a practical session by the Black Sea subgroup for preparation of data for stock assessment).

The Group addressed all ToRs and made 10 recommendations (plus one deriving from scientists involved in tropical large pelagic fisheries); the key recommendations were selected to be addressed by the 2012 Liaison Meeting. The contribution of the GFCM representatives at the meeting was greatly appreciated. The work of the RCM Med&BS included the review of the work achieved by the groups under its umbrella and the definition of their next ToRs (PGMed, MEDIAS WG, International Trawl Survey in the Mediterranean [MEDITS] WG).

The Group took some decisions concerning the RCM Med&BS Regional Database (RDB), on the type of data to be included and the expansion of the Steering Committee following the limited progress achieved so far. It was agreed that the best option for the region would be that the RDB is hosted by GFCM.

The Group proposed for 2013 two studies deriving from MEDIAS, and supported the proposal of two studies agreed by the Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling [PGCCDBS] that are of potential interest of the region.

Concerning workshops, the RCM Med&BS:

- reiterated its 2011 recommendation on a workshop on large pelagic (considered as key recommendation);
- proposed 2 workshops deriving from MEDIAS;
- supported the proposals of workshops agreed by the PGCCDBS that are of interest for the region.

The Group selected Constantin Stroie (Romania) as the new chair for the period 2013-2014. Next meeting will take place early May in Constanta (Romania).

### 3.1.3 RCM NS&EA

The RCM NS&EA 2012 was held in the Institute for Fisheries and Agriculture, Fisheries at Ostend, Belgium from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September until 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2012.

RCM NS&EA appreciates the facilities offered by the Institute for Fisheries and Agriculture, Fisheries at Ostend, and the availability of SharePoint offered by ICES proves to be very efficient in organising the work before, during and after the meeting. The availability of the RCM Database, recently set up by the ICES secretariat is an improvement for working more efficiently and more fluidly with the recommendations as well.

#### ***Data Deficiencies Table (ICES feed back)***

The RCMNS&EA2012 agrees that it should be easier for the stock coordinator to fill in the data deficiency sheets. Therefore RCMNS&EA2012 suggest to make the some adjustments in order to have a better overview and a more practical table.

The main adjustments are:

- Indication if a MS participates in fishery
- Use of shorter code in order to have full sheet on 1 screen
- Additional column “maturity” for indication if maturity is collected
- Information on assessment method used
- Consistency of Option Menu
- Pre-check by the NCs before tables are forwarded to EC

#### ***Metier related variables***

At previous RCM’s the metier ranking process was very labour intensive, cutting and pasting data from MS Technical reports to create regional summaries, impacting on other work that could be undertaken during the meeting. These tables were not usually available until the second or third day of the meeting.

Ranking of the metiers, by fishing ground, was undertaken by RCM NS&EA 2012 using outputs from the RDB. Using the RDB meant that the data were available to be used from the first day of the meeting.

Not all MS submitted data to the RDB and some MS were unable to load specific data types because of coding issues that are currently being addressed in discussions between ICES, with the support of DTU Aqua, and the individual MS concerned.

Given these limits the dataset currently held on the RDB was used to give an overview of at sea sampling for discards, by fishing ground, for the metier data produced by the metier rankings. The UK (England) 2011 at sea sampling data could not be loaded to the RDB due to coding issues that could not be resolved in time for the meeting. As this information was available at the trip level at the meeting the RCM agreed that these data could be added to the final output tables to augment the data held in the RDB.

As not all data were available, only initial overviews of sampling coverage of the ranked metiers by at sea sampling were undertaken. Given these limits, overviews of the landings sampling by metier were also undertaken.

Data as loaded on the RDB were used to identify the overall landings by MS that occurred outside the vessel flag country. The current DCF states that these landings, if for first sale, become the sampling responsibility of the MS where the landings take place. In order to co-ordinate sampling at a regional level the RCM needs to identify which MS, country of first sale, has sampling responsibility. The data as held at present does not enable the RCM to differentiate between landings for first sale and those that are in transit for first sale in another country. This can apply to both landings in the flag state as well as any landings abroad.



### ***Recreational fisheries***

WGRFS 2012 summarised the recently implemented and established recreational surveys undertaken by MS and the species included in those surveys. The WG has identified the most important recreational species for the region. Until now cod, eel and sharks have been prioritised in these surveys, however WGRFS recommends to include more species (WGRFS 2012)

For the purpose of the RCM we have included commercial data (landings and discard) of the same species, for comparison with the recreational fisheries landings where data are available. Prioritising the effort required to conduct recreational survey should be based on the relative contribution of recreational fisheries compared to total catch.

RCM North Sea endorses the recommendation from WGRFS that there should not be a single precision target set for all countries individually but rather a single precision target for the overall catch, harvest or release of each stock. The required precision of national sampling schemes for shared stocks should be agreed on a regional level, with the overall aim to deliver a combined estimate to a sufficient level of quality.

### ***Stock related variables***

With the detailed data uploaded into the RDB-FishFrame it has been possible to compare biological stock related data collected by the EU MS. The RCM NS&EA 2012 carried out some first attempts to analyse whether task sharing or a regional data collection approach would be possible for a limited number of species/stocks. Length/weight relationship and length/age relationship were tested. It should be mentioned that length/weight data was available for some MS and for other MS only length distributions were available.

Plots on length/weight have been made for the North Sea + Eastern English Channel (IV+VIId) for cod, herring, haddock, plaice and sole. Plot on length/age relationship have been made for the same areas for cod, herring, haddock, plaice and saithe.

### ***Regional Database***

In 2011, a first data call for uploading data into the RDB-FF was launched and during 2012, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, a second data call was launched to request MS to upload in the RDB-FF, the data needed for the upcoming RCMs. The aim of this data call was twofold:

- To facilitate analyses for regional sampling strategies at the upcoming 2012 RCMs.
- To gain experience in uploading data to FishFrame and to discuss these experiences at the RCMs

The complete data call can be found in <https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Report%202012/Forms/AllItems.aspx> provide an overview of the results of the data call and the experiences gained during the upload process are listed as well. As not all data were available in the RDB, outputs produced at RCM NS&EA 2012 are not necessarily fully correct and reliable in terms of landings, effort and value by fishing ground for 2010 and 2011. Although you could identify the presence of data in the database for MS you could not tell how complete that data were. MS were asked to complete the table below, to provide a summary of what data they were able to upload and how complete it was.

It is apparent that in order to use the outputs of the RDB, to make meaningful observations and decisions, in the future there needs to be some reference within the Database that provides the user with an inventory of what datasets are complete.

Comments relating to the uploaded data are detailed in the Report of the RDB Workshop 2 <https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Background%20and%20working%20documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2frcm2012%2fnsea%2fBackground%20and%20working%20documents%2fRDB&FolderCTID=&View=%7b17459FEB%2d2EC5%2d47A0%2dB478%2dDB73D70234DE%7d>

It is apparent that in order to use the outputs of the RDB, to make meaningful observations and decisions, in the future there needs to be some reference within the DB that provides the user with an inventory of what datasets are complete.

For work to progress in 2013 it is essential that full data sets for 2010 – 2012 are available on the RDB for all MS with fleets prosecuting Fishing grounds and stocks under the remit of RCM NS&EA.

The RDB Steering Committee developed earlier in 2012 a Data Policy Document, setting out how the procedure of storing and use of data is done, in agreement between data submitters, data users and the RDB host (ICES).

The document was provided to all MS to facilitate the data upload for the 2012 RCM data call.

The RCMNS&EA agreed not to discuss the document in detail and decided to recommend that all MS review the document. The data Policy Document is attached in <https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Report%202012/Forms/AllItems.aspx> and the National Correspondents of the MS are requested to send all their remarks, suggestions for improvements, as well editorial and content wise, to the EC.

### ***Provide feedback on the draft DCMAP & Prepare roadmap for the development of a regional sampling programmes***

Due to the time constraints and the complexity of the process and the topic, it was not possible for the EC to present a draft proposal of the DCMAP. The RCMNS&EA2012 has elaborated with the members and the EC during the meeting on the role and the position of the RCMs towards the new EUDC MAP. Based on the outcome of the RCMNS&EA2012, the “Oostende Declaration 2012” has been established.

### **3.1.4 RCM Baltic**

The RCM Baltic2012 was held in the National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) in Gdynia, Poland from the 10<sup>th</sup> of September until 14<sup>th</sup> of September. The meeting was attended by representatives from 8 EU Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden). Russia was invited but did not have the resources for participating.

Prior to the 2012 meeting an official data call was launched and all MS did their best to upload data into the RDB-FishFrame. Only one MS had problems in uploading data due to problems in extracting data from the national data bases. The status of the upload is given in annex to this summary.

Even though the RCM Baltic also for the latest years have had access to data through RDB-FishFrame this year's data upload has been included for most MS all species and that landing statistics as well as effort statistic and for some MS also value of landings has made the meeting very effective. That data on landings outside the flag country were available made the planning and evaluation whether bilateral agreement should be made very easy.

#### **Metier related variables**

The RCM Baltic found that the use of biological samples collected in foreign countries is problematic to include in the raising. As the harbour sampling is conducted with different sampling strategies (and these are not always well known for other MS) is it not possible to include the samples that have been collected by foreign MS in the flag countries raising procedures. Furthermore, it is not possible for the

landing country to include the samples from the flag country in their own sampling program as they would have to raise with the landings amount from the flag countries.

The RCM suggest that those MS that are having vessels flying their flag and these vessels are having substantial landings in other MS, that the flag MS is increasing the sampling in the flag MS to compensate for the landing made in other MS's ports.

### Access to VMS data

Again this year it should be stressed the importance for the scientific institutes that are carrying out the biological sampling that they are having online access to VMS data and logbook data.

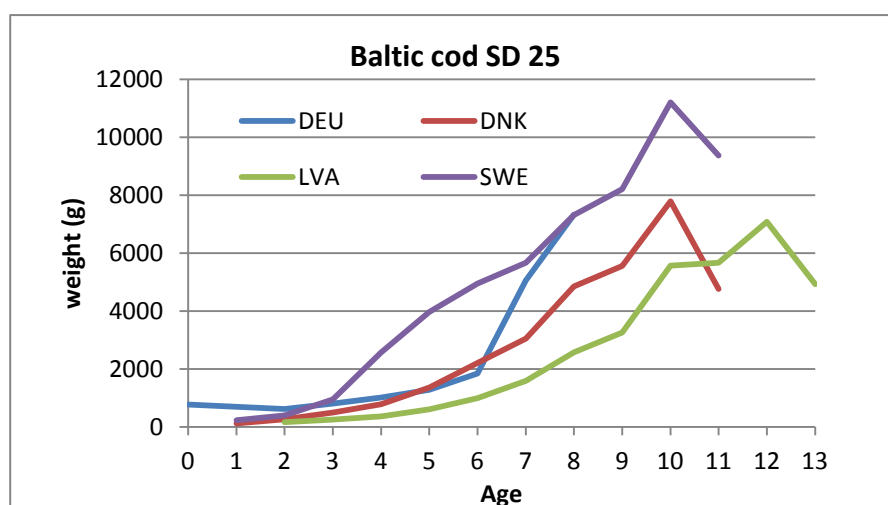
### Recreational fisheries

For the purpose of the RCM, commercial data (landings and discard) for cod, salmon and eel and compared it with the recreational fisheries' landings where data are available by stock, since we believe that the effort it takes to conduct a survey on recreational fisheries should be correlated to the relative contribution of the recreational fisheries compared to the total catch.

To conduct a statistically sound survey on recreational fisheries that provides data that can be used in stock assessments can be very costly. And the cost of obtaining data on recreational fishing should always be balanced with how important this information is for the stock assessment purposes. Therefore, it is a recommendation from the RCM Baltic that the MS, instead of surveys on a yearly basis, should conduct surveys on recreational fisheries every 5 year, given that the removals from the stock from recreational fisheries are below 10% compared to the commercial catches. Hence, recreational surveys would not be required to improve the stock assessment.

### Stock related variables

For the first time RCM Baltic had access to individual information on length, weight and age for a number of species. When plotting eg. length/age relationship per MS, area and species it was found that for some species there was a good agreement in the age-reading whereas for other species the agreement was not problematic. The figure below shows length/age relationship of cod in sub-division 25 for Denmark, Germany, Latvia and Sweden (Polish data were not available).



## **RDB-FishFrame**

All uploaded data were available at the RCM Baltic 2012 meeting, but due to the lack of reports showing non-raised data all data at the RCM were extracted by a single person through a remote session set up to the RDB-FishFrame server hosted by ICES. This is not an optimal set up, since it slows down the work and hinders the user's independence. Therefore, for the purpose of enable the RCM-Baltic to be more efficient it is suggested that reports with non-processed data should be developed. Pure 'Data dump' as raw as the data policy allows could also be a quick way to enable work with the uploaded data.

More sophisticated reports with maps and graphs should also be developed, see the RCM Baltic 2012 report can be used for inspiration.

### **3.1.5 RCM NA**

#### **General**

The RCM NA 2012 was held at the Irish Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland from September 10-14, 2012. In total, 24 participants attended the meeting in different settings, amongst the participants were national correspondents, DG MARE representation as well as ICES representatives. Invitations were sent out to Norway, Russia, Iceland and Faroese Islands, but unfortunately no representatives participated in the meeting.

RCM NA appreciated the facilities offered by Marine Institute as well as the very efficient SharePoint facilities offered by ICES. The availability RDB FishFrame is a major improvement for the work that has to be done at the RCMs.

#### ***2011 Recommendations and ICES feedback***

RCM NA discussed the outcomes and follow up of the 2011 Liaison Meeting recommendations. All recommendations were finalized except two. These recommendations have been taken over for 2012.

ICES presented the Expert Working Groups feedback to the RCM NA. Only one Expert Group addressed recommendations to RCM NA. These recommendations were dealt with during the meeting or were included in already prepared survey proposals.

#### ***Data Deficiencies Table (ICES feed back)***

ICES data deficiency tables relevant for the RCM NA area were provided, however, the data tables themselves were not discussed. The principle and layout were discussed, as RCM NA is of the opinion that these tables should be easier to use. RCM NA agrees with the already proposed changes by RCM NS&EA and wishes to add a column indicating the origin of the maturity data (surveys/commercial sampling/both)

#### ***Metier related variables***

At previous RCM's the metier ranking process was very labour intensive, cutting and pasting data from MS Technical reports to create regional summaries, impacting on other work that could be undertaken during the meeting. These tables were not usually available until the second or third day of the meeting.

Unfortunately, not all MS submitted data to the RDB and some MS only provided partial data e.g. only landings and effort without biological data. Given these deficiencies and based on the RDB output, RCM NA ranked the metiers, by fishing ground on a regional basis. Also, RCM NA provided overviews of the landings and sampling by metier.

Landings into foreign harbors were analysed to identify sampling responsibilities and coordinate sampling effort.

Based on the upload experiences discussed at the meeting, RCM NA concluded that additional species compositions were needed for some Member States to enable correct data upload in RDB FishFrame. RCM NA proposed additions to the list of allowed species compositions like Molluscs (MOL) for gear TBB.

### ***Stock related variables***

Based on the biological information available in RDB FishFrame, RCM NA analyzed sampling effort by Member State, based on e.g. number of measurements and number of ageings by species by area in 2011. In the future, these analyses can be used for coordination of task-sharing.

Also, for a number of species, length/weight and length/age relationships were analyzed to identify possibilities for task sharing and identify possible issues with e.g. age reading.

### ***Derogations***

UK presented a working document to the RCM to request derogation for sampling discards for 2 meters in area VII. RCM discussed the request and concluded that the request could be granted.

Ireland presented a request for derogation from sampling recreational fisheries for sea bass, eel and sharks. RCM NA discussed the requests and concluded that the requests could be granted.

### ***Bilateral agreements***

RCM NA provided an overview of foreign landings by species where a MS landings exceeds 5% of its total landings (minimum 200t) abroad. In these cases bilateral agreement are suggested to be established between MS.

Also, an analysis was done on the regional level where MS have a share less than 10%, but MS altogether have a share of more than 25% of the total international landings. No cases were identified, hence, no follow up is necessary.

### ***Regional Database***

Following the RCM 2012 Data Call, most MS managed to upload some, if not all, of the requested data. 2 MS didn't upload data, one without explanation, one MS presented a WD to the RCM specifying problems encountered.

### ***Provide feedback on the draft DCMAP & Prepare roadmap for the development of a regional sampling programmes***

RCM NA discussed the 'Ostend Declaration' and fully agreed on the concept as a way forward towards the new DCMAP.

Task and cost sharing were discussed in a broad perspective, but the main outcome was that in some cases the freedom of engagement for MS should be limited, e.g. once MS have signed up for participation in a survey. Withdrawal from a internationally coordinated survey might pose problems in both temporal as spatial coverage, causing problems for other MS to fulfil their tasks.

Regarding small scale fisheries, RCM NA reiterates the statement that small scale fisheries form an important part of the European fisheries thus this fishery shall be included sufficiently in the new DCMAP. However, data collection (both biological as transversal data) from these vessels is in general complicated e.g. due to the lack of logbook obligations, lack of space to carry an observer and the polyvalent gears used within a short time-frame.

### ***Any Other Business***

RCM NA appreciated the offer by AZTI to hold the next RCM NA in Sukarrieta. Kelle Moreau (Bel) accepted the proposal to take over the chairmanship for the next 2 years.

### **3.2 RCM Recommendations and LM comments**

Given the short time lag between the most of 2012 RCMs and the LM, no final reports were available to the LM for RCM NS&EA, NA and Baltic. Hence, the recommendations from these RCMs are based on the draft reports and, therefore, the exact wording might differ from the final RCMs reports.

### 3.2.1 RCM LDF

| LDF 2012-01 – Establishing of RDB in DC-MAP.     |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation</b>               | Should the establishing a Regional Data Base (RDB) be required under new DC-MAP legislation, the RCM LDF recommends to introduce one single software platform to be used as a RDB for all RCMs. This would be most efficient in terms of maintenance, routine data submission and development of tools for analysing data.                              |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | If required to be implemented in DC-MAP   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG Mare   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | before 2014   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | Irrespective the legal requirements in the future, regional databases should use a common exchange format rather than 'platform'. Also, in general the number of Regional Databases should be limited to avoid duplication of costs and effort. Only if specific end-user requirements demand separate databases, separate databases can be considered. |

| LDF 2012-02 – Participation of experts from MS in the work of the relevant, regional working groups and meetings. |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM LDF 2012 Recommendation</b>  | In order to secure a cooperation platform in the context of data requirements for stock assessment in CECAF and SPRMFO areas of competence (i.e. RFMOs to which the EU is a contracting party) the RCM LDF recommends that the following meetings be included on the EC list of meetings eligible for EU financial contribution:<br>FAO Working Group on the Assessment of Small Pelagic Fish off North-west Africa.<br>FAO/CECAF Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Resources. Sub-group North<br>FAO/CECAF Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Resources. Sub-group South.<br>SPRFMO Science Working Group |
| <b>Follow –up actions needed</b>  | To include meetings listed above in the EC list of meetings eligible for EU financial contribution under the DCF  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | DG Mare   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | From 2012 onwards   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | LM supports this recommendation. However, the list of eligible meetings can be extended to other RFMO's as contracting partners with EU, as well.   |

The RCM LDF noted that the following recommendations, made last year, were missing in the LM 2011 report. Therefore they are repeated this year:

| <b>LDF 2012-03 – Métier identification: description and naming convention.</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation</b>   | Information about fishing activity of Portuguese fleet in the CEEAF area must be completed.          |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>  | Description or full templates (used in 2010) to be prepared by Portugal.                             |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>                               | Portugal   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>   | Before the 2013 RCM.   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>  | LM considered this is not a recommendation but a Strategic Comment. Cie shall contact MS to clarify. |

| <b>LDF 2012-04 – Métier identification: description and naming convention.</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation</b>   | The RCM received information on fishing activities of Portuguese vessels in the CEEAF area other than those in the waters around Madeira. The NP of Portugal makes no mention of these fisheries. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>  | Portugal to clarify the information. If the information is correct, the Portuguese NP must be adjusted  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>                               | Portugal  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>   | Before the 31 October 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>  | LM considered this is not a recommendation but a Strategic Comment. Cie shall contact MS to clarify.  |



### 3.2.2 RCM MED&BS

In accordance with the 2011 LM recommendation to RCMs on selecting the key recommendations to be addressed in the future LMs, the key recommendations of the Group are indicated with the sign “\*\*\*”.

| <b>*** On the role of RCM</b>                    |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>        | Considering the increased regional tasks and power of the RCMs under the EU MAP for data collection for 2014-2020, RCM Med& BS recommends that the current structure of the RCMs ( i.e. the inclusion of national correspondents, economists and biologists) remains the same. The Group further recommends that PGMed continues functioning under the umbrella of the RCM Med&BS.  |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | LM to approve   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DGMARE, LM, RCM Med&BS  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Before the new DCMAP  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | <p>Given the evolution of PGCCDBS and PGMED, LM suggests to consider these 2 groups amalgamate into 1 Planning Group to facilitate future work in an efficient way. One option would be to cover this group under an ICES/GFCM MoU. Another option can be to bring this group under the STECF umbrella.</p> <p>Regarding the recommendation from RCM Med&amp;BS, LM is of the opinion that pending the upcoming changes in regional coordination procedures, the current structure should not be changed.</p> |

| <b>*** Feedback from data end users: Time period for provision of data</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>                                  | RCM Med&BS, recalling its 2011 recommendation and also the STECF EWG 11-20 recommendation on a harmonized time period required for data to be available for transmission to end-users, recommends that the time period of 6 months following the end of the collection of transversal and biological data is respected by the data calls and the end users. In case this time period of 6 months continues not being respected by the data calls, the Group stresses the importance that the National Correspondents follow a common approach requesting the respect of this time period and NOT submit the data. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>  | LM to consider  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>                           | JRC, DG MARE, LM, MS, RCM Med&BS, National Correspondents.  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>   |   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>  | LM doesn't endorse this recommendation. This issue should be taken up between the Commission and MS involved while taking into account current agreements in RCM Med&BS as well as current and future regulations and legal obligations.  |

| <b>*** Review feedback from end-users: On the eligibility of GFCM meetings under DCF</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>  | The RCM Med&BS recommends GFCM to submit to the Group a list of its planned 2013 meetings, for identifying the meetings relevant to DCF and proposing their inclusion in the list of eligible meetings under the DCF for 2013. The Group was informed on the planned GFCM workshop that will be organized early 2013 for finalizing the structure and definitions of Task 1 & 2. The RCM Med&BS recommends that this workshop will be eligible under the DCF. MS are strongly recommended to participate in this workshop. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>  | Inclusion in the list of eligible meetings   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>   | GFCM, RCM Med&BS, LM, DGMARE   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>   | Before the 2012 LM   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>  | LM approves this recommendation  |

| <b>Metier-related variables: on the accuracy of geographical origin of landings and effort data</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM MED&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>   | The RCM MED&BS recalls its 2008 recommendation and recommends MS to investigate the accuracy of the geographical origin of landings and effort data (using the VMS data where possible). This information should be reviewed during the next RCM MED&BS |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   | Forward to MS   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | MS, RCM Med& BS   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | Before next RCM Med& BS   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | LM supports the recommendation.   |

| <b>***Metier related variables – on the planned minimum number of fish to be measured</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>   | RCM Med&BS recommends that in the future NPs the planned minimum no. of fish to be measured for métier related variables will not be required. Since the métier related variables are required to be collected during concurrent sampling, the Group considers that only the proposed and actual number of trips for concurrent sampling should be requested. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   | Forward for approval to responsible bodies  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | DG MARE, STECF, LM  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | Prior to the NEW DCMAP  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | LM recommends that the overview of numbers of fish to be measured is not evaluated by STECF as this number is not required by the regulation. (Table III_C_5, column J (planned no. of fish aged/measured))   |

| <b>Métier related variables: East Atlantic Bluefin tuna</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>                   | Concerning the east bluefin tuna stock (Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean sea), the RCM Med&BS appreciates the progress achieved with the provision of métier- related data (length) from MS participating in RCM LDF (Portugal, France, Spain) to the PGMed chair. However, the Group recommends that the data are provided according to the required data format, in order to be actually utilized for a complete estimation of the relevant CV of the bluefin tuna. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                             | Transmission of data to PGMed chair   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>            | MS (France, Spain and Portugal), RCM LDF chair, PGMed chair   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                                | Before the 2013 PGMed meeting   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                                     | LM did not consider this as it was not a key recommendation   |

| <b>*** Workshop on large pelagics</b>            |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>        | RCM Med&BS reiterates the 2011 recommendation by RCM Med&BS and RCM LDF on a joined workshop among ICCAT representatives, scientists involved in large pelagic sampling, as well as representatives from RCM LDF and RCM MED&BS for harmonising the biological sampling issues on large pelagic and specifying additional data or modifications that should be included in the future DCMAP, taking into account the ICCAT requirements for stock assessment.   |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  |   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG MARE; Liaison meeting; STECF; RCM LDF; RCM MED&BS; ICCAT; MS   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Before the new DCMAP  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | <p>LM doesn't endorse this recommendation as LM considers this as a task for the RCMs. The RCM should invite the relevant end-user to the to deal with this issue.</p> <p>Given the confusion which RCM is dealing with large pelagics. LM requests the Commission in cooperation with the relevant chairs to provide the RCM LDF and RCM Med&amp;BS with a final conclusion where large pelagics are dealt with. The deadline for this decision is the December NC meeting where the decision will be announced.</p> |

| <b>Stock related variables: Development of ICCAT reporting forms for submitting data on large pelagic</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>   | RCM Med&BS endorses the recommendation made by PGMed on the development of reporting forms by ICCAT Secretariat for submitting information on individual stock-related variables – length, weight, sex, maturity and age estimation for the large pelagic, and awaits DG MARE to contact and collaborate with ICCAT on the development of the forms. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   |  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | DG MARE; ICCAT   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  |  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | LM did not consider this as it was not a key recommendation  |

**\*\*\* On the usefulness of CV as a quality indicator**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>        | RCM Med&BS considers that the calculation of the CV is a poor indicator for quality. Considering also that this value is not being assessed by the end-users, it is recommended that the future DCMAP will not include the CVs as a quality indicator. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | Forward to DG MARE   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG MARE, STECF, LM   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Before the new DC-MAP  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | Pending the current developments towards the DCMAP, LM doesn't agree with this recommendation. The issue of quality indicators will be dealt with in the proper forum in the near future.  |

| <b>*** On the regional database</b>              |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>        | <p>The Group agreed that the Med&amp;BS RDB will include biological and transversal data. It was decided that economic and survey data will be excluded for the time being from the RDB, following the decision by PGECOM to develop one European Database for including economic and transversal data from all supra-regions.</p> <p>The Group agreed that the Med&amp;BS RDB could be hosted by GFCM and that the Steering Committee for the development of the RDB will include 1 person per MS, economists for the transversal data, the Chairs of Medias and Medits and a GFCM representative. It was further agreed that the RDB Steering group will be represented at the planned GFCM Workshop for the finalization of GFCM Task 1 and Task 2.</p> |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | Forward to DG MARE   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DGMARE, MS, LM, RCM MED&BS, GFCM   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Before the new DCMAP   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | <p>LM notes that GFCM will cover the data for the BS area as well.</p> <p>LM supports the recommendation and suggests that a representative from the Med&amp;BS RDB participates in the RDB FishFrame Steering Committee.</p> <p>However, LM notes the different approaches in selecting members for the steering committees as well as the approval procedures for proposals from the committees. LM suggests the steering committees to streamline the procedures in cooperation with the Commission to prevent both groups to develop own procedures.</p>   |

| <b>*** Implementation of a Large Pelagics RDB</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>RCM Med&amp;BS 2012 Recommendation</b>         | The RCM recommends the implementation of a large pelagics RDB  |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                   | Organisation of a regional meeting (included in NP 2013) for discussing the prototype prepared by IRD and drafting a multiannual plan 2014-2020  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | IRD, DG MARE, LM, RCMs, RDB-SC   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                      | July 2013  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                           | In general, LM stresses that the number of databases should be limited. LM can't assess the need for (a specific) RDB for large pelagics due to the limited background information available. The Commission is asked to specify the need for this database and if a RDB is needed, a dedicated RDB Large Pelagic Steering group shall be established in close cooperation with other Steering Committees to ensure similar approaches, procedures and systems between the different RDBs. |

### 3.2.3 RCM NS&EA

| Métier variables: Review of RCM Agreements       |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM NS&amp;EA 2012 Recommendation</b>         | RCM NS&EA 2012 recommends to review the summaries on the derogations reached during RCM NS&EA 2011, to provide a final list of current derogations. From these lists the Liaison Meeting could review the derogations and where appropriate put forward a list of derogations that could be approved to cover métiers across all RCM's. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | RCM Chair to provide updated lists of agreements to the Liaison Meeting for consideration.  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | Liaison Meeting 2012  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | September 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | LM doesn't see the need to consider the agreements as this is done in the RCMs. The list of agreements has to be included in the RCM report and be forwarded to STECF for further consideration based on the National Programmes.   |

| Regional Database: Access rights to data in the regional database; specific role in the RCM |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM NS&amp;EA 2012 Recommendation</b>  | Access to data hold in RDB-FishFrame is restricted to persons with a password. Different roles are defined within the system and different users have access to a certain level of data and functionalities. To facilitate future regional coordination work it is recommended that members in the RCMs are given a specific role in the system in accordance with their needs. |
| <b>Followed actions needed</b>  | SC need to identify and specify a role for RCM work and suggest level of access rights. Depending on the work required this may be included in the study proposal for development needs.  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | RDB-SC  |
| <b>Timeframe</b>  | 2013  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | LM forwards this to RDB-SC and suggest to cover this under the 2013 study proposal if needed regarding technical impact of the implementation of the access rights.   |



| <b>Stock related variables: Potential bilateral agreements on sampling of landings abroad</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>RCM NS&amp;EA 2012 Recommendation</b>  | Where it was identified that bilateral agreement is required, according to the rules agreed upon at the RCM NS&EA 2011 and endorsed by the LM8 and STECF 11-19, MS are requested to establish or update a bilateral agreement on sampling of landings abroad |
| <b>Follow-up actions</b>  | MS to evaluate the need for such an agreement based on the overview provided by the RCM NS&EA (Annex No ??)  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | MS   |
| <b>Time frame</b>   | Annually. Before deadline for compilation/amendment of NP  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | LM supports this recommendation.   |

| <b>DCMAP: Oostende Declaration 2012</b>          |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM NS&amp;EA 2012 Re-commendation</b>        | RCM NS&EA recommends that the Oostende declaration is reviewed by RCM NA, RCM Baltic, the Liaison meeting and STECF EWG 12-15 as the appropriate framework for proposing, carrying out and reporting on regionally coordinated data collection from commercial marine fisheries under the proposed DC MAP. |
| <b>Followed actions needed</b>                   | The named RCMs, Liaison Meeting and EWG 12-15 to review the declaration with a view to endorsing its aims and principles.  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | Chairs of RCMs, Liaison Meeting and STECF EWG 12-15.   |
| <b>Timeframe</b>                                 | RCM 2012 meetings, 9th Liaison meeting, STECF EWG 12-15 (October 2012)   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | LM acknowledged that RCM Baltic and NA reviewed the Ostend declaration and forwards the Declaration to STECF EWG 12-15.  |

| <b>Regional Database: Review of the Data Policy Document</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM NS&amp;EA 2012 Recommendation</b>                     | <p>In respect of the development of the RDB and the protection of the data and the ownership of the data, a draft Data Policy Document has been established. The data policy document is based on the current situation but need to reviewed in all its aspects in order to be satisfactory for all MS. The data policy document is a “flexible” document and must be updated as the needs and the development of the RDB are changing. For example, a new data policy document will be prepared if there are changes to the exchange format (update is needed). The document is available in Annex 5 of of the RCM report or through link:<br/> <a href="https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Report%202012/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2frcm2012%2fnsea%2fReport%202012%2fToR6%20%2d%20RDB&amp;FolderCTID=%2f7b3B9FD9D2%2d7943%2d41B0%2dAE26%2d53E95ED5D50A%7d">https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Report%202012/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2frcm2012%2fnsea%2fReport%202012%2fToR6%20%2d%20RDB&amp;FolderCTID=%2f7b3B9FD9D2%2d7943%2d41B0%2dAE26%2d53E95ED5D50A%7d</a>)</p> |
| <b>Follow up actions needed</b>                              | <p>The National Correspondents (NC) from all MS are requested to read through the document, and sent all remarks and/or suggestions for improvements to the chair of the relevant RCM and to the RDB Steering Group (RDB-SG). Even if the NC has no specific remarks or suggestions, it is recommended to send a notification that the document has been read. Based on the input from the NCs, an updated version will be presented at the next NC Coordination meeting organized by the EC.</p>   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>             | Chair RCM & RDB-SG, National Correspondents of all MS, EC   |
| <b>Timeframe</b>   | Before the 15th of November 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>                                      | LM agrees with this recommendation and recommends the Commission to forward the request to the NC’s.  |

### 3.2.4 RCM Baltic

| 1 ) RCM Baltic 2012 - Métier variables: Tasks for the 2013 meeting |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 recommendation</b>                              | As the catches taken in the recreational fishery compared to the total catches for some stocks are very limited the RCM Baltic recommends that if the level of the recreational fishery by nations is below 10% of the total catch for that stock, a recreational survey on this stock can be conducted every 5 years instead of on an annually basis. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                                    | Decision made on the LM  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>                   | RCM Chair to put in the agenda for the meeting   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                                       | LM 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>  | LM supports this recommendation as basis for a derogation to be requested by MS involved, however, current regulations and end-user needs at the time of the 2013 meetings should be taken into account.   |

| Data quality: Standard reports in the Regional database |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 Recommendation</b>                   | RCM Baltic recommends that some standard reports should be established in FF that present overview of sampling intensities in maps, tables and figures. The reports would give the regional coordination, assessment working groups and other end users an overview of the quality of the data in an efficient way. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                         | A list of useful standard reports should be suggested and discussed in several fora. Input needed from WKPICS, RCM and ICES.  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>        | RDB-SC  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                            | As soon as possible. To be considered by the RDB-SC in the further development of new functionalities in RDB-FishFrame.   |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>                                 | LM endorses this recommendation for inclusion in the study proposal by the RDB-SC taking into account the suggestions done by the RCMs, ICES expert groups, RDB WK3 and methodological groups like WKPICS.  |

| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 – Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilatereal agreements</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 Recommendation</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MS should upload all landing data into the Regional Data Base allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements.</li> <li>2. The RCMs should each year perform an analysis on landings in foreign countries and conclude where bilateral agreements need to be made. MS should set up agreements, fixing the details of sampling, compilation and submission of data in each case when it is indicated by the RCM that a bilateral agreement is needed. To include the agreed analysis in FishFrame would be very convenient and time saving.</li> <li>3. MS should set up agreements, fixing the details of sampling, compilation and submission of data in each case it is concluded by the RCM that a bilateral agreement is needed.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Follow-up actions</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MS to upload data into FishFrame</li> <li>2. RCMs to check for the need for agreements and ICES/FishFrame respectively</li> <li>3. MS to set up bilateral agreements</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MS</li> <li>2. RCM 2013</li> <li>3. MS</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Time frame</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annually. Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013</li> <li>2. Annually</li> <li>3. Annually. Before deadline for compilation /amendment of NP</li> </ol>   |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>  | LM endorses the recommendation while noting that the development of the agreed analysis has to be taken up by the RDB-SC.  |

| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 - Sampling of Métier related variables in foreign landings : Requirement for sampling of foreign landings</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 Recommendation</b>  | The RCM Baltic 2012 recommends that landings should not be sampled abroad by landings countries as these data cannot be used but should be compensated by the flag countries by a higher sampling level in the flag country.  |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>  | MS should ensure bilateral agreements are made.   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>   | Chair to present in the LM  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>   | LM 2012   |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>  | <p>LM supports the recommendation for 2013 under the conditions that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 The data needs of the end-users are sufficiently covered under the current standards.</li> <li>2 MS involved specify the approach through a derogation or a bilateral agreement in the 2013 National Programs and seek approval through the</li> </ol> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | evaluation process currently in place. |
|--|--|

| <b>RCM Baltic - Sampling of Métier related variables including foreign landings : Requirement of on-line information on fleet behaviour</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 Recommendation</b>   | To ensure possibilities for adequate sampling of biological and métier related data including landings in foreign MS, it is recommended that the national authorities give ensure that national institutes have online access to national logbook data and national VMS data as this is needed for carrying out cost efficient DCF obligations. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   | National institutes to get access to online logbook and VMS data  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | MS administrations  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | As soon as possible   |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>   | LM endorses the recommendation and notes that access to this information, preferably online and in real-time, is crucial for adequate sampling. This recommendation should be forwarded to the NC's by the Commission.  |

| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 – RDB-FishFrame development: Standard reports in the Regional database</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM Baltic 2012 Recommendation</b>   | <p>The RCM Baltic recommends that in order to facilitate the data upload process it should be possible to download the look up tables.</p> <p>In addition, for the purpose of the RCM-Baltic report with non-processed data should be developed. As a start very simple reports where it is possible to tabulate the results are needed, see "Overview of used data" for data needed by the RCM-Baltic</p> <p>Pure 'Data dump' as raw as the data policy allows could also be a quick way to enable work with the uploaded data.</p> <p>More sophisticated reports with maps and graphs should also be developed, see RCM Baltic 2012 report for inspiration.</p> |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   | A list of useful standard reports should be suggested and discussed in the RDB Steering Committee.  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | RDB Steering Committee.   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | April 2013 at latest  |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>   | LM endorses this recommendation and forwards this to RDB-SC to take into account the suggestions done by the 2012 RCMs.   |

### 3.2.5 RCM NA

| Métier variables: Additional Species compositions in metier coding |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM NA 2012 Recommendation (RCMNA 1)</b>                        | <p>RCM NA 2012 recommends allow for new species compositions to link to certain gear types to allow appropriate classification of metiers. The following species compositions are proposed:</p> <p>SPF, DEF &amp; DWS to be allowed for gear LHM</p> <p>MPD to be allowed for gear PTB</p> <p>MCF to be allowed for gear SDN</p> <p>MOL to be allowed for gear TBB</p> |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                                    | Approval by Liaison Meeting.   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>                   | LM   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                                       | September 2012   |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>  | LM endorses this recommendation and forwards this to RDB developers for inclusion in the allowed list of metiers.  |

| Métier variables: Metier Descriptions            |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM NA 2012 Recommendation (RCMNA 2)</b>      | <p>RCM NA 2012 recommends that the metier descriptions for fishing grounds under the remit of the RCM be updated by each MS in as much detail as possible. These descriptions to be used as a tool, in conjunction with outputs from the RDB, to identify metiers that could be combined for regionally coordinated sampling plans.</p> |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | MS to update Metier descriptions  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | MS participating in fisheries under the remit of RCM NA   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | June 2013   |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>                          | LM endorses this recommendation.  |

| <b>Métier variables: Review of RCM Agreements</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>RCM NA 2012 Recommendation (RCMNA 3)</b>       | RCM NA 2012 supports the Recommendation of RCM NS&EA 2012 that the Summaries of agreements reached during RCM NA 2011 be reviewed to provide a final list of current agreements. From these lists the Liaison Meeting could review the agreements and where appropriate put forward a list of agreements that could be approved to cover métiers across all RCM's |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                   | RCM Chair to provide updated lists of agreements to the Liaison Meeting for consideration   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | Liaison Meeting 2012  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                      | September 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>                           | As with the similar RCM NS&EA recommendation LM doesn't see the need to consider the agreements as this is done in the RCMs. The list of agreements has to be included in the RCM report and be forwarded to STECF for further consideration based on the National Programmes.  |

| <b>Stock related variables: Setting up of Bilateral agreements</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>RCM NA 2012 Recommendation (RCMNA 4)</b>                        | RCM NA recommends MS put in place bilateral agreements for sampling of landings abroad where applicable. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                                    | Include bilaterals in the revised NP proposals   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>                   | MS   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                                       | 31 Oct 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>  | LM endorses this recommendation  |

| <b>Stock related variables: Setting up of Pilot programmes for sampling of Boar fish (<i>Capros aper</i>)</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>RCM NA 2012 Recommendation (RCMNA 5)</b>   | RCM NA recommends MS involved and that have obligations in the Boar fish fishery to set up a pilot program for sampling. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   | Include pilot study in the revised NP proposals  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | MS fishing Boar fish   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | 31 Oct 2012  |

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b> | LM endorses this recommendation. |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|

| <b>Regional Database: Review of the Data Policy Document</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>RCM NA 2012 Recommendation (RCM-NA 6)</b>                 | <p>In respect of the development of the RDB and the protection of the data and the ownership of the data, a draft Data Policy Document has been established. The data policy document is based on the current situation but need to re-viewed in all its aspects in order to be satisfactory for all MS. The data policy document is a “flexible” document and must be updated as the needs and the development of the RDB are changing. For example, a new data policy document will be prepared if there are changes to the exchange format (update is needed).</p> <p>The document is available in Annex 5 of the RCM NA report or through link: <a href="https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Report%202012/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2frcm2012%2fnsea%2fReport%202012%2ftoR6%20%2d%20RDB&amp;FolderCTID=%2f6115f3b9fd9d2%2d7943%2d41b0%2dae26%2d53e95ed5d50a%7d">https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/Report%202012/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2frcm2012%2fnsea%2fReport%202012%2ftoR6%20%2d%20RDB&amp;FolderCTID=%2f6115f3b9fd9d2%2d7943%2d41b0%2dae26%2d53e95ed5d50a%7d</a></p> |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                              | The National Correspondents (NC) from all MS are requested to read through the document, and sent all remarks and/or suggestions for improvements to the chair of the relevant RCM and to the RDB Steering Group (RDB-SG). Even if the NC has no specific remarks or suggestions, it is recommended to send a notification that the document has been read. Based on the input from the NCs, an updated version will be presented at the next NC Coordination meeting organized by the EC.  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>             | Chair RCM & RDB-SG, National Correspondents of all MS, EC   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                                 | Before the 15th of November 2012  |
| <b>LM 2012 Comments</b>                                      | LM endorses, see comment RCM NS&EA.   |



## 4 Outcomes and recommendations from PGECON

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### 4.1 Main outcomes

The Planning Group on Economic Issues met in Salerno, from 16th to 19th April 2012. 27 experts from 16 Member States attended the meeting.

The terms of reference for the meeting were as follows:

#### *General Terms of reference*

1. Discuss methodological issues regarding the collection of economic variables and suggest best practices
2. Discuss the use of transversal and economic variables
3. Discuss coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF at European level (fleet economic data, aquaculture, processing sector)
4. Identify tasks that need a regional coordination and propose appropriate TORs for RCMs
5. Propose studies and workshops needed to improve coordination and methodological issues of data collection
6. Define guidelines for an European Data base of economic data (fleet, aquaculture and processing)

#### *Additional specific Terms of reference for the first meeting (2012)*

1. Compare price per capacity unit, depreciation rates and other assumptions applied by MS in estimating capital value and capital costs
2. Look into the consistency of depreciation as estimated through PIM and the collected data on investments carried out by the fleet segments
3. Assess values of accuracy indicators and discuss precision targets for different fleet segments and different variables
4. Presentation of questionnaires used for the collection of economic data (fleet, aquaculture and processing). Analysis of the questionnaires in order to improve them. (MS will be required to provide an English version of the questionnaire before the workshop)
5. Propose TORs for studies and workshops
6. Discuss the development of a European Data base of economic data (fleet, aquaculture and processing). Criteria and roadmap

PGECON is an operative meeting with a general aim to compare different approaches and to share different experiences. Participation is open to national experts involved in the implementation of the economic modules of the DCF. Attendance to the PGECON is expected to give useful inputs in improving the national sampling schemes.

The meeting dealt with a broad range of issues considered relevant for the improvement of the collection of economic data and for the evolution of the DCF.

A key topic for the meeting was the discussion on the revision of the data collection framework. This discussion considered both the general principles of the new Data Collection Multiannual Program (DCMAP) as well as the technical and operative issues of the new framework.

PGECON discussed that for the economic modules of the DCF, a certain degree of flexibility would be advisable. This will allow to adjust the data requirements in terms of level of aggregation and to include additional variables if a specific scientific or political need emerges or to exclude variables when

they turn out not to be needed. However, this flexibility should not exclude the necessity to also have stability in terms of the core of the economic data requirements.

PGECON also addressed the issue of the level of aggregation of economic data. The present DCF requires the collection of economic data by fleet segment, by year and by supra-region. However, there seems to be several scientific fields where the availability of economic data at higher temporal, regional or activity-related level could be necessary. It was concluded that DCF fleet economic data should not be collected at less aggregated levels as it is not feasible to collect data at a level of resolution that fulfils all potential requirements. Rather these data should be disaggregated on the basis of other information (transversal variables) which is available at the required resolution.

PGECON compared the methodologies used by the Member States attending the meeting in calculating the ecosystem indicator on “fuel efficiency of fish capture” and the variable “direct subsidies”. The aim of this comparative exercise was to attempt the definition of a standard methodology to calculate the ecosystem indicator and the direct subsidies.

The Workshop on calculating capital value using PIM and definition of DCF variables, (13th - 17th June 2011) clarified some fundamental concepts related to the PIM methodology for the estimation of capital value and capital cost and illustrated some practical implementation of the approach. As a follow up of this workshop, PGECON carried out a comparison of the average prices per capacity unit and corresponding assumptions applied by the Member States attending the meeting.

Another important topic for the meeting was the exercise aimed at comparing the quality indicators achieved by MS, in order to share experiences and to improve the surveys implemented at national level.

Each participant at PGECON presented the questionnaires used for the collection of economic data for the fleet, the aquaculture and the processing sector. The presentations focused on the structure and on the general approach used.

PGECON discussed the utility to implement a European database for the delivery and the access to economic data for the fleet, the aquaculture and the fish processing sector. Most of the participants were in favour of this proposal. A specific workshop should be convened to discuss the practical implementation of such database.

PGECON suggested the Terms of Reference for two other DCF workshops to be held in 2012 (they are already included in the list of eligible meetings for 2012). No specific new studies have been requested but PGECON recommended the European Commission to launch the studies already requested by previous DCF workshops and STECF meetings.

## 4.2 PGECON recommendations and LM comments

| Split of RCM / PGECON                            |  |
|--|--|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>                | The group suggested to consider the RCM as the legal group tackling biological variables while another group (like PGECON) should be set up for economic issues only. Who should attend this legal group (Eurostat participation could be useful) and how decisions should be taken within the group should be clarified by the new regulation.                                      |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  |  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG Mare  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | before 2014  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | In terms of number of participants (27 experts from 16 Member States), PGECON can be considered a success. A concern remains that biological and economic data collection need to remain interconnected. It was considered whether bio-economic models should be included in the DCF. Thus the needed connection between economic data and biological data becomes more transparent. |

| <b>Estimation economic data with a very low productivity and/or a very low of activity.</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>   | In case there exists in a Member States a fleet segment with a very low productivity and/or a very low of activity, it should be possible to estimate economic data with no obligation to collect them through a specific survey. The threshold in activity or in production, as well as models for estimations, should be agreed at regional level within a well established legal framework. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   | Threshold in activity needs to be defined at regional level  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | PGECON, DG Mare  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | Next PGECON meeting  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | The LM supported this suggestion.  |

| <b>Inclusion of additional variables in the new DCMAP</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>                         | As general recommendation, the group considered that the inclusion of additional variables in the new DCMAP should depend on a cost-benefit analysis, where the specific objectives and needs for each variable should be considered.  |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                           |  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>          | DG Mare  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                              |  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                                   | <p>There should be a close liaison between the Commission and PGECON to establish which new variables are desired by the Commission and what the expected costs are to collect these variables according to PGECON.</p> <p>Both socio economic indicators and spatial indicators may be needed by the Commission as new variables. The Commission is working on a cost benefit analysis for socio economic indicators.</p> |

| Continuation time-series in the new DCMAP        |   |
|--|---|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>                | PGECON suggested that the DCF should not be altered with respect to the resolution requirements as it is practically impossible to get comprehensive cost data for higher resolution scales. It is considered essential to keep the current segmentation of the fleet also to ensure consistency on data series.        |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  |   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG Mare   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     |   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | The list of current variables collected should be discussed with end-users to determine whether all the variables collected now are needed.<br><br>There are some concerns about the access MS have to fishermen accounts. Accountants are more reluctant to provide data. This should be discussed in the next PGECON. |

| Definition Ecosystem Indicator                   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>                | PGECON recommended that if <i>Ecosystem Indicator</i> will be kept in the future DCF, then the name of the indicator should be changed into “value of landings per fuel cost” |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | If indicator will be kept the name of the indicator should be adjusted to reflect the content   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG Mare   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Before 2014   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | No specific comment from LM   |

| Definition variable “direct subsidies”:          |   |
|--|---|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>                | <p>“direct subsidies” should include:</p> <p>refunds of fuel duty, subsidies for temporary cessation, socio-economic compensation for fishermen</p> <p>“direct subsidies” should exclude:</p> <p>Fuel tax exemption ,Subsidies for permanent cessation of fishing activities,investment subsidies (fleet modernization)</p> |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | Guidelines DCF should be adjusted   |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | DG Mare, MS   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Beginning 2013  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | No specific comment from LM   |

| Compare price per capacity unit, depreciation rates and other assumptions applied by MS |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>   | Participants analyzed the prices per capacity unit estimated in different countries. This exercise showed that there still exist differences in the application of the method. This comparative exercise should be repeated also during the next year meeting. |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>   |  |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>  | PGECON   |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>  | Next PGECON meeting  |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>   | <u>Question to PGECON</u> : If errors are found during this exercise, will MS adjust their capacity data retrospectively?  |

| Comparison of the quality indicators             |   |
|--|---|
| <b>PGECON 2012 Recommendation</b>                | A comparison of the quality indicators achieved by MS was carried out by PGECON in order to share experiences and to improve the surveys implemented at national level. The group considered useful to repeat this exercise in the next PGECON.   |
| <b>Follow-up actions needed</b>                  | <p>The exercise should be better organized. For instance CV can be required only for very important variables (such as fuel costs) and only for total income and total costs.</p> <p>The group also considered that present quality indicators, as requested and defined by STECF are useful but could be complemented by a measure of accuracy (i.e. bias)</p> |
| <b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b> | PGECON  |
| <b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>                     | Next PGECON meeting   |
| <b>LM 2012 comments</b>                          | No specific comment from LM   |

## 5 Main outcomes of the PGCCDBS 2012

*Although it was not included in the original TORs for the LM, the main outcomes of 2012 PDCCDBS meeting were presented to LM as it is relevant to the overall evaluation and discussion the DCF execution, particularly in the context of sampling procedures to be applied by MS and coordinated by the RCMs and in the planning of methodological workshops and studies.*

The Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling [PGCCDBS] (Co-Chairs: Mike Armstrong, UK, and Gráinne Ní Chonchúir, Ireland) met in Rome, Italy, 30<sup>th</sup> January – 3rd February 2012, in parallel with the Mediterranean Planning Group for Methodological Development (PGMed).

The PGCCDBS was established in 2002 in response to the EC-ICES Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) requesting ICES to provide support for the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF). It implements the ICES Quality Assurance Framework to ensure that data sets and parameters supporting assessments and advice for the ICES area are based on i) statistically-sound sampling schemes; ii) correct and consistent interpretation of biological material such as otoliths and gonads; iii) technology that improves accuracy and cost-effectiveness of data collection; iv) comprehensive and easily sourced documentation, and v) efficient collaboration between PGCCDBS, expert groups and other bodies in relation to data collection.

The 2012 meeting of PGCCDBS focused on work completed since last year, and planned work for 2012 and 2013, in the following topics which formed the basis of the Terms of Reference:

- Stock-based biological parameters from sampling of fishery and survey catches (age, growth, maturity, fecundity, sex ratio)
- Fleet/métier related variables (discards estimates and length/age compositions of landings and discards) and statistical design of sampling schemes
- Data collection technology (hardware, and software such as WebGR and the Regional Data bases).
- Implementation of the ICES Quality Assurance Framework
- Addressing recommendations and requests for advice from ICES expert groups (including through PGCCDBS data contact persons), and RCMs.

In addition, the PGCCDBS provided views on the revision of the Data Collection Framework, focusing on the need for statistically-sound, regional sampling programmes and task-sharing to improve cost effectiveness.

The PGCCDBS met in plenary with PGMed to review the outcomes of a wide range of workshops and age exchanges conducted since PGCCDBS 2011 and the workplan for 2012. The 2012 PGCCDBS work plan can be seen in Annex 16, and PGCCDBS proposals for 2013 and beyond can be found in Annex 17. On the basis of this and the PGCCDBS long term planning process, further workshops and exchanges were proposed for 2013-2014. These include:

- Age workshops (WKARBLUE: Workshop on Age Reading of Blue whiting; WKNARC2: Workshop of National Age Readings Coordinators; WKSABCAL: Workshop on the Statistical Analysis of Biological Calibration Studies [postponed until 2014]; WKA VSG - Workshop on Age Validation Studies for Gadoids; WKMIAS: Workshop on Micro increment Daily Growth in European Anchovy and Sardine).
- Sampling design workshops (WKPCS3- Workshop on the Practical Implementation of Statically Sound Catch Sampling programmes)
- Age exchanges (Sprat-Full scale exchange North sea only; Mackerel - small exchange; Herring (norwegian spring spawner) - small exchange; Saithe -full exchange using only images; Capelin - small exchange between Iceland and Norway; Dab - 2012 exchange postponed until 2013; Sea Bass - full scale exchange).
- Proposals for study contracts on i) anglerfish ageing (*Lophius piscatorius*); ii) stock- and component related issues for the herring in the West of Scotland, West of Ireland, Irish Sea and North Sea; iii) Supporting design based regional data collection programmes
- Proposal for a series of training courses covering the design of statistically sound catch sampling for fisheries monitoring programmes, and for a theme session at the 2013 ICES Annual Science Conference – “Improving statistical survey methods for monitoring commercial catches”

The PGCCDBS report also contains a full and updated list of national age readers and co-ordinators, and recommendations on ways of streamlining and improving the effectiveness of the system of recommendations passed between ICES expert groups, planning groups, RCMs and DCF Liaison Meeting.

The ToR's for PGCCDBS 2013 were also discussed and agreed, see Annex 15, and it was also agreed that the PGCCDBS 2013 meeting will be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland.



## 6 Main outcomes of the PGMed 2012

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The Mediterranean Planning Group for Methodological Development (PGMed) (Chair: Beatriz Guijarro, Spain) met in Rome, Italy, 30th January – 3rd February 2012, in parallel with the Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling [PGCCDBS]

The PGMed was created during the 2006 Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean area (Malta, 26th -28th April 2006, 3rd RCM Med), as a forum similar to the ICES PGCCDBS for discussing methodological matters related to data collection referring particularly to the Mediterranean area.

The 2012 meeting of PGMed continued part of the work carried out during the previous years in aspects such as performing two ranking systems at regional level (one for the Mediterranean and one for the Black Sea), reviewing and updating the landing template for the Mediterranean and for the Black Sea, determining the number of sampling trips by métier at the Geographical Subarea level (GSA) for those métiers with shared stocks and assess the coefficient of variation (CV) of these shared stocks. The work performed during PGMed 2012 with the COST tool was limited due to time restrictions and only possible thanks to the participation of a COST expert. In this sense, MS complained about the difficulties found in general for using the COST tool. If this tool should be further used both at national (by MS) and regional (in PGMed) levels, the need of training courses is highly encouraged.

PGMed also updated the work conducted in previous meetings for large pelagic species on sampling of length and stock related variables, as well as assessing the CV for length. Again, the work performed during PGMed 2012 with the COST tool was only possible thanks to the participation of a COST expert. Another aspect covered in relation with large pelagic sampling, was the review of the methodology used in the sampling of these species, focussed in harmonizing it with ICCAT requirements.

A review of the Ecosystem Indicators was also performed, by reviewing the different methodologies used by the Member States for computing them. The PGMed also discussed the requirements between the so-called GFCM task 1.5 (related to biological variables) and the EU DCF needs. The PGMed was informed that an active collaboration has started between GFCM and EU in order to harmonize as much as possible the requirements and the data collected under the DCF and GFCM biological task.

In relation to the Regional Data Base, first steps were taken in order to proceed with it, including the creation of a steering group and the creation of a proposed roadmap to be followed during the next months.

The PGMed met in plenary with PGCCDBS to review the outcomes of a wide range of workshops and age exchanges conducted since PGCCDBS 2011 and the workplan for 2012 (See PGCCDBS summary for more details).

## 7 Regional Database and feedback from data end users

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### 7.1 RDB use at 2012 RCMs

#### 7.1.1 Response to data call, upload and problems encountered

MS participating in the RCM Baltic, RCM NS&EA and RCM NA uploaded data in the RDB-FishFrame as a response of a data call launched by the RCM chairs. The purpose of the data call was twofold:

- To facilitate analyses for regional sampling strategies at the upcoming 2012 RCMs.
- To gain experience in uploading data to RDB-FishFrame and to discuss these experiences at the RCMs

More detailed information on the response to data call in relation to particular RCMs are given below. In general, most MS uploaded all requested or at least some data in RDB-FishFrame. This meant that the meeting time in the RCMs could be used in a much more effective way. In previous years a large part of the meeting time have been spent on harmonising national datasets and compiling them into international overviews. In 2012 meeting time could be spent on analysing data uploaded in RDB-FishFrame and discussing sampling and outcomes of sampling based on those analyses.

In particular the data uploaded by MS to the RDB facilitated analyses on:

- Landings in foreign countries – were do we need to have bilateral agreements in place
- Ranking of metiers to sample
- Regional overviews of sampling intensity
- Data quality at a regional level- simple plots of e.g length at age reveal if there are differences in contries or not

One major issue that became apparent is that the RCMs do not know if the data sets are complete or not. This knowledge is of cause essential for the RCM work. In the future it is important to create some kind of reference within the database that provide the users with information on completeness of the datasets.

Only two MS did not uploaded any data. Most MS managed to upload at least part of the requested data. There were several reasons for MS failing to deliver all the requested data. These reasons are described in the RCM reports and include:

- Some MS were unable to load specific data types because of coding issues (reference tables in FishFrame)
- Problems to convert data in national databases into the FishFrame format in an efficient way
- Impossibility to report missing values on mandatory field leading to entire sets of valid data not to be uploaded.
- Privacy issues; The fields Vessel\_length, Vessel\_power, Vessel\_size are mandatory in the TR file, MS expressed concerns that these values could matched with fleet registers and individual vessels be identified.

## RCM LDF

Prior to the 2012 RCM LDF meeting a data call was sent to National Correspondents of MS concerned requesting a revised and updated data on fishing activities in CECAF and SPRMFO areas. All MS participating in 2012 meeting responded to this data call and provided data requested.

## RCM Baltic

This year all the member states participating in the RCM-Baltic were asked to upload commercial landing, effort and sampling statistic for 2010 and 2011 to RDB-FishFrame.

The member states at the RCM-Baltic have been working with RDB-FishFrame for a long period of time, so most of the MS are familiar with the exchange format and nearly all data requested were available at the start of the meeting.

All data shown in RCM-Baltic 2012 report are based on data uploaded to RDB-FishFrame. An overview of uploaded data are given in table 6.1.1 below.

**Table 6.1.1.1. Overview of uploads of data relevant for the Baltic region to RDB-FishFrame**

| Nation      | Commercial landing statistic <sup>2</sup> | Commercial effort statistic <sup>3</sup>   | Commercial sampling At sea <sup>4</sup> | Commercial sampling At shore <sup>5</sup>          |
|-------------|---|--|---|--|
| Denmark     | YES                                       | Yes  | Yes                                     | No   |
|             | None                                      | None   | None                                    | Our commercial Eel samples have not been uploaded. |
| Estonia     | Yes                                       | No   | Yes                                     | Yes  |
|             | None                                      | Fisheries information system in force in Estonia does not allow to upload the effort data from small-scale fisheries | None                                    | None   |
| Deutschland | Yes                                       | Yes  | Yes                                     | Yes  |
|             | none                                      | none   | none                                    | none   |
| Finland     | Yes                                       | Yes  | Yes                                     | Yes  |

|           |   |  |  |  |
|-----------|---|--|--|--|
|           | Some of the data had to be aggregated to a higher level than asked in the data call. This was due to data confidentiality reasons. Parts of the salmon landings were missing due to an error. | Some of the data had to be aggregated to a higher level than asked in the data call. This was due to data confidentiality reasons. | Sampling data on all G1 and G2 species were uploaded Data on such G3-species, where no individual samples were taken, were missing due to a bug in database. | Sampling data on all G1 and G2 species were uploaded Data on such G3-species, where no individual samples were taken, were missing due to a bug in database. |
| Latvia    | Yes   | Yes  | Yes  | Yes  |
|           | None  | For 2011   | None   | None   |
| Lithuania | Yes   | Yes  | No   | Yes  |
|           | None  | None   | Only commercial species from discards are uploaded   | Our commercial Eel samples have not been uploaded.   |
| Poland    | Yes   | Yes  | No   | No   |
|           | For 2011  | For 2011   | Problems in extracting data from the national data bases   | Problems in extracting data from the national data bases   |
| Sweden    | Yes   | Yes  | No   | No   |
|           | None  | None   | Commercial sampling for eel and salmon have not been uploaded  | Commercial sampling for eel and salmon have not been uploaded  |

1) Relevant areas IIIb, IIIc and IIId and all underlying areas.

2) Yes – Uploaded data for all relevant areas for 2010 and 2011. Value included in the figures.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or value is missing.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

3) Yes – Uploaded data for all relevant areas for 2010 and 2011. DaysAtSea included in the figures.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or DaysAtSea is missing.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

4) Yes – Samplingtype='S'. Uploaded all 'at-sea' samples for all relevant areas in 2010 and 2011. All species included with figures for length and age.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or species. Lacking data on length, weight and/or age.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

5) Yes – Samplingtype in ('M','V','D'). Uploaded all 'at-shore' samples for all relevant areas for 2010 and 2011. All species included with figures for length and age.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or species. Lacking data on length, weight and/or age.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

## RCM NS&EA

Not all data requested were available in the RDB to enable complete analysis by the RCM NS&EA 2012. Although the presence of data in the database for MS could be identified, it was not known how complete that data were. MS were asked to complete the table below, to provide a summary of what data they were able to upload and how complete it was:

**Table 6.1.1.2. Overview of uploads of data relevant for the region North Sea, Eastern Arctic and NAFO<sup>1</sup> to RDB-FishFrame with MS comments**

| Nation  | Commercial landing statistic <sup>2</sup>  | Commercial effort statistic <sup>3</sup>   | Commercial sampling At sea <sup>4</sup>   | Commercial sampling At shore <sup>5</sup>   |
|---------|--|--|---|---|
| Belgium | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Yes   |
|         |  |  |   |   |
| Denmark | YES  | Yes  | Yes   | No  |
|         | None   | None   | None  | Our commercial Eel samples have not been uploaded.  |
| Estonia | No   | No   | No  | No  |
|         | Comments   | Comments   | Comments  | Comments  |
| France  | No   | No   | No  | No  |
|         | <p>A part of the Eastern Channel and North Sea data was overwritten after uploading North Atlantic data.</p> <p>Difficulties encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too big data to be uploaded at once, obliged to split</li> <li>• All references to be agreed by RCM (species names, metiers, areas, ...)</li> </ul> | <p>A part of the Eastern Channel and North Sea data was overwritten after uploading North Atlantic data.</p> <p>Difficulties encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too big data to be uploaded at once, obliged to split</li> <li>• All references to be agreed by RCM (species names, metiers, areas, ...)</li> </ul> | <p>Not uploaded yet because of the problems encountered for landings and effort data. Moreover, given the large amount of data, precision is demanded on the possibility to restrict the upload to a list of species/stock.</p> | <p>Not uploaded yet because of the problems encountered for landings and effort data. Moreover, given the large amount of data, precision is demanded on the possibility to restrict the upload to a list of species/stock.</p> |
| Germany | Yes  | Yes  | No  | No  |

|                 |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
|                 | None (Some specific comments regarding the uploading process were forwarded to the FishFrame administrator ) | None (Some specific comments regarding the uploading process were forwarded to the FishFrame administrator ) | Data for the NAFO area could not be uploaded because of missing definition of statistical rectangles, all other data were uploaded | Germany does not carry out this kind of sampling in the RCM NS&EA area |
| Ireland         | Yes/No   | Yes/No   | Yes/No   | Yes/No   |
|                 | Comments   | Comments   | Comments   | Comments   |
| Lithuania       | Yes  | Yes  | No   | No   |
|                 | None   | None   | Comments   | Comments   |
| Netherlands     | Yes  | Yes  | Partial  | Partial  |
|                 | Full Upload  | Full Upload  | Main commercial species uploaded for both discards and landings  | Main commercial species uploaded for both discards and landings        |
| Sweden          | Yes  | Yes  | Yes  | Yes  |
|                 | Value only for 2011, value for 2010 will be uploaded before RCM Baltic.                                      | Comments   | Comments   | Comments   |
| UK <sup>6</sup> | Yes*   | Yes*   |  |  |

|                           |  |  |    |     |
|---------------------------|--|--|----|-----|
|                           | <p>The only exclusions from the complete national official data were where records could not be entered due to incompatibility with the RDB exchange format field checks.</p> <p>Records with effort but no landings or catch, unknown country of landing, blank species name, blank species code, ROE as a species code, landings with zero value. Collectively these amounted to &lt; 1% of the official landings and effort totals.</p> | <p>The only exclusions from the complete national official data were where records could not be entered due to incompatibility with the RDB exchange format field checks.</p> <p>Records with effort but no landings or catch, unknown country of landing, blank species name, blank species code, ROE as a species code, landings with zero value. Collectively these amounted to &lt; 1% of the official landings and effort totals.</p> |    |     |
| UK <sup>6</sup> – England |  |  | No | Yes |

|  |  |  |  |      |
|--|--|--|--|------|
|  |  |  | <p>All Landings samples uploaded - work undertaken at RCM NS&amp;EA highlighted some problems with incorrect fish lengths being uploaded so data for both 2010 and 2011 will need to be checked.</p> <p>At sea sampling data could not be loaded due to formatting issues that could not be resolved prior to RCM NS&amp;EA – mainly compulsory fields and additional codes required. Cefas is in contact with ICES trying to resolve the issue.</p> <p>We have problems with adding species to an existing extraction query due to the RDB requirement to have weights for all for all species of fish uploaded, we weigh no fish as sea and thus rely on weight length relationships to generate fish weights – it was not felt appropriate to upload calculated weights as there was no method in the current structure to identify that this was the case.</p> | None |
|--|--|--|--|------|



|                                    |    |    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|----|----|--|--|
| UK <sup>6</sup> – Northern Ireland |    |    | Yes/No   | Yes/No   |
|                                    |    |    | Comments   | Comments   |
| UK <sup>6</sup> – Scotland         |    |    | No   | No   |
|                                    |    |    | All 2011 at-sea observer data for the 23 species we can currently extract data from the national database were uploaded.   | All 2011 at-sea observer data for the 23 species we can currently extract data from the national database were uploaded.   |
|                                    |    |    | All 2010 at sea observer data for 13 main species that were extractable from the national data base were uploaded.   | All 2010 at sea observer data for 13 main species that were extractable from the national data base were uploaded.   |
|                                    |    |    | All 2010 and 2011 on shore landings for the 23 species we can currently extract data from the national database were uploaded.   | All 2010 and 2011 on shore landings for the 23 species we can currently extract data from the national database were uploaded.   |
| UK <sup>6</sup> - Wales            |    |    | We have problems with adding species to an existing extraction query due to the FISHFRAME requirement to have weights for all for all species of fish uploaded, we weigh no fish as sea and thus rely on weight length relationships to generate fish weights. | We have problems with adding species to an existing extraction query due to the FISHFRAME requirement to have weights for all for all species of fish uploaded, we weigh no fish as sea and thus rely on weight length relationships to generate fish weights. |
|                                    |    |    | Yes/No   | Yes/No   |
| Spain                              |    |    | Comments   | Comments   |
|                                    | No | No | No   | No   |

|  |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|--|--|
|  | Spain is clarifying its concerns related to confidentiality, access, security and use of the data; this concerns will be discussed in the next Steering Committee meeting, where the document "Data policy for the Regional Fisheries Database hosted by ICES" will be analysed." | Spain is clarifying its concerns related to confidentiality, access, security and use of the data; this concerns will be discussed in the next Steering Committee meeting, where the document "Data policy for the Regional Fisheries Database hosted by ICES" will be analysed." | Spain has been working mainly in CS files preparing the Fishframe format. Main problems detected for CS files where related to catch categories and other coding fields. Spain is clarifying its concerns related to confidentiality, access, security and use of the data; this concerns will be discussed in the next Steering Committee meeting, where the document "Data policy for the Regional Fisheries Database hosted by ICES" will be analysed." | Spain does not carry out this kind of sampling in the RCM NS&EA area |
|--|---|---|--|--|

1) Relevant areas 27.I, 27.II, 27.IIIa, 27.IV, 27.Va, 27.VIId, 27.XII, 27.XIV, 21.0, 21.1, 21.2, 21.3, 21.4, 21.5, 21.6 and all underlying areas.

2) Yes – Uploaded data for all relevant areas for 2010 and 2011. Value included in the figures.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or value is missing.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

3) Yes – Uploaded data for all relevant areas for 2010 and 2011. DaysAtSea included in the figures.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or DaysAtSea is missing.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

4) Yes – Samplingtype='S'. Uploaded all 'at-sea' samples for all relevant areas in 2010 and 2011. All species included with figures for length and age.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or species. Lacking data on length, weight and/or age.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

5) Yes – Samplingtype in ('M','V','D'). Uploaded all 'at-shore' samples for all relevant areas for 2010 and 2011. All species included with figures for length and age.

No – Data are missing for some areas and/or species. Lacking data on length, weight and/or age.

Comments – If No, please specify which data are lacking.

6) UK landings data uploaded as one, covering Scotland, England, Wales, Northern Ireland. UK samples uploaded separately for Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**RCM NA**

Following the RCM 2012 Data Call, most MS managed to upload some, if not all, of the requested data. 2 MS didn't upload data, one without explanation, one MS presented a WD to the RCM specifying problems encountered.

The following table provides an overview of the data upload by MS:

**Table 6.1.1.3. Overview of uploads of data relevant for the region North Atlantic to RDB-FishFrame**

| Nation  | Commercial landing statistic <sup>2</sup>                 | Commercial effort statistic <sup>3</sup>                  | Commercial sampling At sea <sup>4</sup>  | Commercial sampling At shore <sup>5</sup>   |
|---------|---|---|--|---|
| Belgium | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   |
|         | None  | None  | None   | None  |
| France  | Yes   | Yes   | No   | No  |
|         | See comments related to FishFrame in report section 6.3.2 | See comments related to FishFrame in report section 6.3.2 | See comments related to FishFrame in report section 6.3.2t   | See comments related to FishFrame in report section 6.3.2   |
| Germany | Yes   | Yes   | Yes  | Yes   |
|         | See comments related to FishFrame in report               | See comments related to FishFrame in report               | See comments related to FishFrame in report  | See comments related to FishFrame in report   |
| Ireland | Yes   | Yes   | No   | NO  |
|         |   |   | Vessel length, power, type and mesh size not always available. Landing category not is recorded all assumed to be HUC. | Vessel length, power, type; number of hauls and mesh size not always available. Landing category not is recorded all assumed to be HUC. <i>Nephrops</i> data from concurrent sampling is included, however the main <i>Nephrops</i> sample data are stored in a separate database and were omitted by mistake in the extraction |

|                       | Yes                                    | Yes                              | Partial   | Partial   |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Netherlands           | Full upload                            | Full upload                      | Main commercial and relevant by-catch species included in upload. | Main commercial and relevant by-catch species included in upload. |
| Portugal              | Yes                                    | Yes                              | No  | No  |
|                       | See Error! Reference source not found. | Comments                         | Comments  | Comments  |
| Spain                 | No                                     | No                               | No  | No  |
|                       |  |                                  |   |   |
| UK – England          | Yes                                    | Yes                              | No  | Yes   |
|                       |  |                                  |   |   |
| UK – Northern Ireland | Yes                                    | Yes                              | Yes   | Yes   |
|                       |  |                                  |   |   |
| UK – Scotland         | Yes                                    | Yes                              | Yes   | Yes   |
|                       | See comments re uploading to RDB       | See comments re uploading to RDB | See comments re uploading to RDB                                  | See comments re uploading to RDB                                  |
| UK - Wales            | Yes                                    | Yes                              | No  | No  |
|                       |  |                                  |   |   |

### 7.1.2 Outcomes of workshops and position of the RCMs

Two workshops supporting MS to upload and process data in the RDB have been held so far in 2012. A third workshop is scheduled in November 2012. The first workshops targeted the Baltic MS, which have worked with the RDB for several years. The workshop dealt with how data can be processed and raised within the RDB. The second workshop dealt with how data is uploaded into the RDB-FishFrame. The workshop was held in late spring to support MS to reply to the data call. Participants from 8 MS were present in the first workshop, while participants in the second workshop represented 7 MS.

The third workshop will deal with raising within RDB-FishFrame as well as output facilities.

The general view expressed at various RCMs meetings in 2012 was that the workshops were beneficial and appreciated. The workshops increased the overall knowledge in the facilities within FishFrame. The workshops have also provided relevant feed-back to the steering group for the regional database.

### 7.1.3 Future work

The knowledge and experience in the RDB-FishFrame have substantially increased during last year. Different users see the potential and data providers identify needs for development to optimise the facilities in the database. We need to cope with the fact that we live in an environment of constant changes. The assessment models change and so do the requirements of the data. The RDB is expected to adjust to such changes.

Presently there are a lot of users seeing the potential in the RDB as well as a lot of providers with ideas on how the database needs to be developed to meet foreseen requirements of the new DCMAP. The resources for development are however limited since presently there is no financial supporting in the MoU between ICES and COM. A proposal for a study covering the most urgent needs have been put forward by the RDB-SC and the RCMs and it is of great importance that this study get financed as soon as possible. It is also important to realise that it is not possible to meet all different users needs at the same time. The RDB have primarily been set as a tool for the RCMs but have substantial potential for usage in the assessment group preparations as well.

### 7.1.4 LM comments and recommendations in relation to RDB

With regard to the data call launched by RCMs chairs and the response received from MS, **the LM concluded that it would be beneficial if the results of the data call are presented at a meeting between National Correspondents**. The RCM chairs should compile the information and one of them should present the result at the meeting.

Reflecting on the outcomes of RDB workshops, **the LM encourages MS to participate in forthcoming RDB workshops**.

As regards the future work related to RDB, **the LM recommends the RDB-SC to develop a timeline for user objectives and developments in the RDB-FishFrame**. There should be two scenarios, one with money and one without.

## 7.2 Feedback from the endusers

### 7.2.1 Data transmission tables

The ICES feedback of DCF data transmission is primarily prepared by the ICES stock coordinators. Stock coordinators are not aware of the data that was being collected and available for scientific use. Therefore, the option not transmitted to ICES could be used, when a given set of data was: i) not collected due to derogations or minor landings and ii) collected by another Member states after bilateral agreements.

The information on these tables only concerns the transmission of data of the given assessment year and is in line with the information of the stocks annex (document where the basis for assessment is described). When acknowledged that a given set of data is “not relevant” the end-users of this information (i.e. European Commission and STECF) should not infer that the data is not needed and recommend to stop the collection of that specific set of data. This feedback is secured by ICES through the

close link between assessment groups and PGCCDBS and the participation of ICES as an observer at the relevant RCMs.

The RCM-NA proposed changes for the current report on data transmission to ICES, and this proposal could be analysed by ICES and the European Commission. This information is available in section 2.3 of RCM-NA 2012 report.

Whenever there are major issues with data availability, quality and transmission, this information is highlighted in the ICES advice (under “Quality consideration”). This information could also be part of the ICES feedback on the data transmission.

### 7.2.2 Data transmission failures

EWG-12-08 was asked to review the summaries of perceived “Data Failures” prior to the EU Commission sending out formal letters relating fines to these data transmission failures. Unfortunately the expert working group (EWG) workload was already very heavy so only a cursory glance was possible, highlighting only those very obviously erroneous “Data Failures” and these were removed before the letters were sent out.

It is widely agreed that some perceived data failures are of minor importance and do not have any effect on the ability of the assessment working groups (AWG’s) to complete their stock assessments. However in some cases non transmission of data from key players involved in a fishery have major consequences for the quality of an assessment and perhaps hampers the ability of the AWG from completing a stock assessment successfully.

The **Liaison Meeting recommends** that the degree of financial penalties issued by the EU Commission should be weighted to reflect the seriousness of the impacts of the data failure, in order to encourage those member states to provide the relevant data in future. It would appear to be more productive, to tackle the high impact data failures as a priority in the first instance, and then look to the minor data failures after these issues have been resolved. This is perhaps an issue that should be reflected in the new DC-MAP.

## 8 DCMAP 2014-2020

### 8.1 Progress towards the DC-MAP: A discussion between the Liaison Meeting and the EU Commission.

Isabelle Garzon (DG MARE) joined the Liaison Meeting to bring it up to date on the most recent developments regarding the DC-MAP.

#### Progress to Date:

Important steps were taken by the Council in June where they considered and agreed with the future direction of the DC-MAP. The first plenary vote was taken in mid September 2012. Work is quite advanced on amending the Commission proposal, and there is generally an expectation that all issues will be resolved to allow the EU Council and EU Parliament to adopt the Regulation in early 2013.

The Cypriot Presidency has been focusing on bring the EMFF up to speed and are preparing for the Council to vote on key aspects of the EMFF in October. The Parliament has given their initial views on a “general approach” for the EMFF but do not intend to give their first reading until possibly March 2013.

Embedded in the EMFF negotiations is the financial framework budget planning which has not yet been decided. It would appear that all heads of state and the Council are pushing for a decision by December on the overall budget allocation for the EMFF. This allocation will of course dictate what is funded under the EMFF.

In terms of the Data Collection, there is good support from the Council and the Parliament for what is proposed in the basic regulation, Article 37. This article outlines the data collection set – up and Member State obligations and the Council is ready to adopt the DC-MAP. Discussions are on – going regarding the scope and categories of data required under the DC-MAP and whether inland aquaculture should be included.

The idea of the DC-MAP providing stability for a seven year period is not designed to create inflexibility. Decisions need to be taken in consultation with Member States and end users to establish what is valid for the seven year period and what requires and element of flexibility.

The Operational Programmes (OP) are covered under Article 20 of the EMFF

The Annual Work Plans (AWP) are covered under Article 23 of the EMFF.

There are on – going discussions with Member States on how detailed the OP needs to be. However the general consensus regarding the AWP is that they should not be resubmitted except where major change is necessary. If no substantive changes need to be made it will be sufficient to e mail the Commission confirming this.

#### Financial Consequences of the DC-MAP :

A total of €358 million will be allocated for the EMFF programme. This will allow a breakdown of costs as follows:

65% funded by the EU

35% funded by the Member State

#### Consequences for Data Failures:

The philosophy regarding the levying of fines is that in the first instance, all attempts will be made to ensure that each MS has the capacity and skills available to them to successfully fulfil their obligations under the DC-MAP. The Commission will be conducting a review and then providing an opinion in

October regarding the current status of each Member State's ability to deliver on the DC-MAP. They will give an opinion on whether Ex - ante conditionality exists in each MS. Ex-ante conditionality seeks to ensure that the necessary preconditions for investments to flourish are in place. Four types of preconditions can be identified: (i) regulatory, (ii) strategic, (iii) infrastructural-planning and (iv) institutional. If the conclusion of this review is that improvement is required in one area or another, an action plan will be agreed. This action plan could include additional training, support for database development etc... and if necessary can be supported beyond the 65% finance threshold, in order to allow the Member State build up the necessary capacity. If however, the action plan is not implemented during the life time of the programme, this could form the basis for an interruption of payments or the Commission may stop payments altogether.

### **The Architecture of the DC-MAP:**

Formally not much has actually been actioned to date, however all indications are favorable and informal discussions have led DG MARE to believe that they can move forward in preparing the DC-MAP. The intension is to keep the momentum going by concentrating on the following:

- Beginning internal reflections on what an OP should look like. Consultations will be held with Member States in the New Year on this.
- The Commission will concentrate on a few chapters and will focus on putting details together regarding what is needed in the DC-MAP, what obligations remain on an annual cycle and what transfers to a seven year cycle. They will also look at what are the key obligations which will translate into the OP and what should come under the remits of the National v Regional programmes. The Commission is preparing a non – paper to feed into the planned discussion at the EWG 12-15 to be held the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2012.
- There will also need to be time to consider the approach to discards in the DC-MAP, depending on the general approach adopted by the Council and the Parliament.
- Time will also be focused on how to better incorporate Socio – Economic data requirements into the DC-MAP in order to ensure sufficient data is available to assess at the Member State and the EU level, how the fisheries and aquaculture sectors are developing. This data will also be needed to support other strands of EU policy.
- The evaluation of the DCF , which is being concluded by MRAG and will be presented in November, and will form the basis for identifying the potential overlaps/gaps/inconsistencies with other regulations (e.g. the control regulation and the MSFD).

### **Timelines:**

- The first draft of the DC-MAP is anticipated at the end of 2012/beginning of 2013.
- Negotiations on the DC-MAP should take place in March 2013.
- The Commission is moving forward with developing templates and guidelines for the submission of the OP's. Which all Member States will be asked to submit for the deadline of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2013. This submission will proceed even if it has to be in advance of the formal adoption of the EMFF. This is so as to not disrupt the natural cycle once the EMFF is adopted.
- If the EMFF is not adopted on time, provisions have been made to allow Member States to submit under the current DCF – there will not be a legal vacuum.



## 8.2 The Oostende Declaration – A reaction from the EU Commission.

The Oostende Declaration was initially proposed by the Regional Coordination meeting (RCM) RCM NS&EA (held in Oostende 3-7 September 2012) as a reflection on the need for a new philosophy and approach to data collection, in the DC-MAP. The principles of that new approach were described in a document named the “Oostende Declaration” which was then circulated for comment and support to other RCM’s. The RCM’s supported the spirit of the Oostende Declaration (apart from the RCM LDF and the RCM Med&BS which had taken place prior to the RCM NS&EA), and as a result the declaration was submitted to the Commission for its consideration. The text of the Oostende Declaration is provided in Annex 2.

*(In order to complete the input from all RCM’s, the Chairs of the RCM LDF and RCM Med&BS were requested by the LM to circulate the “Oostende Declaration” to the participants of the respective 2012 RCM’s meetings and to request their feedback. The conclusions from such feedback shall then be communicated to the Commission and the Chairs of other RCM’s)*

The Commission’s reaction to the Oostende Declaration was very positive and it would appear that all parties are aligned in their aspirations to ensure that the DC-MAP ensures greater end – user consultation and involvement, a more regionalized approach to sampling, and task sharing, with an expanded role for the RCM’, and critically, a move towards more statistically robust sampling schemes. There is also common ground on the appreciation of the importance of the Regional Data Base (RDB) as a tool to facilitate the move towards regionally coordinated sampling programmes.

There were very interesting discussions around the topic of a mid term review, which essentially would allow a step–wise transition for Member States to the new obligations in the DC-MAP. Many Member States will need to adapt their sampling programmes to take into account the principles of statistically sound sampling and this is not something that can be achieved over night. A step–wise transition period would also allow the RCM’s to adapt to their expanded role in coordinating regionally focused sampling programmes, and would allow for the planned and future developments of the RDB to take place in order to be ready for use in the context of the DC-MAP.

The Commission and the members of the Liaison Meeting highlighted that they are anxious to avoid the allocation of prescriptive values as measures of data quality as was done in the DCF (i.e. using cv targets alone as an indicator of data quality). The Commission advised that Member States should inform and educate their Permanent Representatives in the EU dealing with Fisheries on what desirable alternatives would be, and task them with a watch–dog role to prevent this.

## 9 2013 Workshops and eligible meetings

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A draft list of eligible meeting prepared by the European Commission was available to the LM. This list includes the meeting send by ICES, denoted as priority. Because of budget limitation, the ICES EG meetings not assigned with priority were not considered by the draft list prepared by the European Commission.

The LM was informed that the draft list was too extensive, when compared with previous years. Therefore, other EG meetings not directly related with scientific advice were removed, such as WGCEPH, WGCANGRON, and WGSIM.

Taking in to account that:

- i) Member States will might have a different setup of national programmes under the DC-MAP, which will need to be prepared already next years; and also
- ii) the prominent role of the RCMs in the new DC-MAP as suggested in the “Oostende declaration”, it was considered beneficial to plan in advance two RCMs meeting for next year. The proposal is provisional and might the adjusted if needed.

Meetings of the Steering Committee for the RDB-FishFrame and the RDB to be use in the Mediterranean and Black Sea were also considered relevant and include.

Three workshops on RDB-FishFrame were also planned to take place in 2013. These workshops are a key tool for the successful used of the RDB concerning the upload of the data and also data processing. The intensive use of RDB, secured by the workshop, enables the identification of further developments in the RDB, which consequently improve it functioning.

The LM was not in a position to remove other meetings from the draft proposal and highlighted that although it is assumed the participation is of two experts by Member States, most of the meeting will only involve very few, and therefore with a very few number of expert attending.

Because most of the assessment working group in ICES are ecoregion based, the ad-hoc rule of co-financing of two experts by Members States is not adequate as a support of the scientific advisory process. For ecoregion based expert group meeting, the rule should reflect the Members States involved, giving priority to experts with key responsibilities such as the chair and stock coordination / assessors.

To promote the ecosystem integrating at the assessment working groups, a few years ago ICES merged some EGs. Because the funds to attend meetings are related of the number of meeting and not with the numbers of tasks (e.g. stock to be assessed), the participation of some meetings was compromised.

The list of eligible meeting as agreed at the LM is available in Annex 3.

## 10 Study proposals 2013

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### 10.1 Considerations

The LM made a review of the projects that were proposed by the RCM's. The study proposals have been initiated by different groups such as the ICES PGCCDBS, survey planning groups and the various RCM's. The LM discussed the study proposals outlined in the following sections. However, LM is of the opinion that the review procedures for the studies not directly linked to coordination and planning of regional data collection should be reviewed by STECF as RCM's or the LM may no longer be the appropriate place for some of these proposals due to the lack of sufficient expertise.

Therefore, the LM 2012 has prioritized the study proposal listed in section X.1.2. The study proposal listed in section X.1.3 was found relevant but not prioritized. Finally, LM 2012 found some study proposals outside the scope of the studies (listed in section X.1.4).

### 10.2 Studies with the scope of improving the coordination of regional data collection

#### 1. Proposal for collaborative study contract on “Support design based regional data collection programmes”

##### *Objective of proposed study*

The Study will develop an operational framework for establishing and coordinating design-based sampling programmes at a regional scale for the most cost-effective delivery of fishery and biological data required by the revised DCF and any specific additional needs to support assessment and fishery management.

##### *Duration of project*

It is anticipated that the project would run for two years, and cover two periods of RCM and Liaison meetings to allow consultation and discussion of proposals.

*Budget: € 450,000*

##### *The need for the proposed study*

A design based sampling strategy is a prerequisite for transparency in the data collection-assessment-advice process since it allows for straightforward estimation processes, assessment of bias as well as variance associated with different estimates. In particular, it supports estimators that do not depend on complex models and assumptions about the underlying stochastic process of the catching operations of the fleet. It also enables the use of DCF data in the wider scientific/management community since data are collected in a transparent way following sound statistical procedures including documentation of sampling protocols and sampling designs.

Due to severe logistical constraints in sampling of fisheries, many national sampling programmes may in reality be more or less ad hoc based. Recent ICES workshops including WKPICS and WKMERGE have started to examine how sampling schemes can be adapted to deal with different types of logistical constraints without compromising the basic requirements of statistical design. Within these workshops it has become evident that countries need support to design and implement such statistically-sound sampling schemes.

Currently, the DCF Regional Coordination Meetings (RCMs) focus heavily on “task sharing” for métier and stock based sampling. It is foreseeable that in the new DCF, the role of RCMs may evolve more towards establishing and coordinating statistically-sound programmes of data collection to deliver the estimates for stocks and fleets required at the regional scale. This could include agreement of sampling

frames, allocation of sampling effort amongst Member States, documentation of sampling schemes, and review of achievements and data quality. To adopt this role, RCMs would require guidance and a system of support because the sampling problems already encountered by individual countries will remain at the regional scale. If true progress should be made towards regional data collection programmes, it is crucial that sufficient resources and expertise are available for Member States and RCMs to carry out the necessary tasks.

### *Study specifications*

The study will require setting up a core project team to work out principles for regional sampling designs, and to work closely with RCMs, ICES PGs, European Commission and Liaison meeting to review how the structure and operation of RCMs should be adapted to best serve the needs of the revised DCF. The project team will focus particularly on:

- Understanding the fleet-based and stock-based estimates that are required to support assessments and advice at a regional scale.
- Defining an operational framework for RCMs to coordinate annual or multi-annual regional sampling programmes to deliver the estimates.
- Identifying logistical constraints to national sampling schemes within a region, and proposing solutions for how these could be handled in regional sampling plans and within the component national strata (ref: WKMERGE; WKPICS1–3).
- Establishing procedures for optimising sampling schemes and allocation of sampling amongst Member States in relation to regional objectives and available resources.
- Identifying the procedures for estimation and sample raising at the regional scale.
- Developing Quality Indicators for regional datasets.
- Identifying developments needed in the Regional Databases to support regional sampling programmes.
- Propose future support systems to help RCMs implement and evaluate regional sampling programmes.
- 

### *RCM areas to be covered*

The project will initially scope out the problem across all DCF regions in consultation with RCMs, European Commission and PGs, but depending on resources may then focus on one or two regions as case studies.

### *Project tasks*

Subject to discussion with the European Commission, it is anticipated that a two-year Study would involve the following tasks:

Initial workshops and WebEx meetings with key RCM, ICES Planning Group and European Commission representatives, and invited external experts, to agree the basic principles of implementing and optimising a regional programme of sampling to deliver the required estimates.

Identification of the structure of a regional sampling programme allowing a fully coordinated international approach to delivering the required data and estimates, including documenting the characteristics of the fisheries and stocks to be sampled in each country, development of sampling frames, stratification schemes, sample selection procedures, optimal allocation of sampling effort amongst countries, estimation procedures and production of quality indicators.

Presentation of proposals to RCMs, ICES PGs, European Commission and Liaison Meeting, for discussion and further development.

Development of final proposals and report.

## 2 Proposal: Exploration and Development of new facilities in RDB-FishFrame 5.0

Duration: 18 months

Proposed budget: 450 000 Euros

Background:

The demands from the users to a regional Database is under constant change; in the first hand, because the users discover new possibilities in the use of the data as they get more familiar with the use of the database and secondly because the fish stock management and modeling environment changes and new data types become important. The first one mostly requires design of new output reports to tabulate new combination of the existing variables, while the second one quite often requires adding of new variables and processing functionality. Furthermore, RDB- FishFrame has now been introduced to additional regions. This has given rise to additional requests how data should be centrally processed due to new sampling stratifications practiced in the member states included compared to the existing. It is essential that a database reflects on new demands and not act as a straightjacket preventing new progressive initiatives. A constant development is therefore very important in order to keep the momentum.

The development will be outsourced to the extent that external expertise is necessary in order to follow the time schedule.

Development

The main fields for development in 2013-14 are identified by the RDB-Steering Committee and presented in no specific order of priority:

1. Development of additional tools for analysis and data tabulating to support regional coordination. (20% of total budget)

Outputs: Technical report, programming development

Development of output reports which provide:

- Overview of data status by region; data coverage;
- Support the planning of future regional based sampling schemes;
- Overview of potential areas for task sharing between member states.

2. Explore options and cost implications of implementing of external tools (i.e. COST) in the RDB-FishFrame. (35% of total budget)

Outputs: Technical report, Technical Workshop(s), programming development

Such analysis should include the following elements:

- An inventory to collate and examine the tools present but also tools missing
- What level of documentation/quality controls would be required of a tool to be accepted into the RDB?
- What exports should the RDB provide to other formats/tools?
- What changes need to be made to the COST format/coding to comply with the RDB?
- Is COST sufficiently documented (methods, quality controls etc.)?
- Which level of integrating should the RDB.-FishFrame provide to COST (just export to COST or an interface that allows users to manipulate RDB data using COST tools/functions)?
- Proof of concept of programmatic interface to RDB-FishFrame

3. Requirements and automatisisation of Data calls procedures. (20% of total Budget)

Outputs: Technical report, programming development

- What is formally required from the regional database to reply to data calls?

- What data calls can we respond to at present/future? (The present functionalities and documentations in the regional database need to be compared with most common data calls)
  - Alignment with FLUX developments
4. Development of more flexible structure to handle correct processing of design based sampling schemes to address regional differences in approach. (25% of total budget)

Outputs: Technical report, Technical meetings/workshops covering all regions

- What changes need to be made in the Exchange Formats in order to comply with design based sampling schemes?
  - Which additional processing functionality need to be developed in order to comply with design based sampling schemes?
5. Development of procedures to ensure confidentiality on individual vessel level for CL, CE and on value.

### **10.3 Studies with the scope of improving the quality of data collection**

The below study proposals have not been prioritized as these proposals have been suggested by expert groups. If the Commission would like to have an evaluation or prioritization the LM suggest that the STECF is contacted.

The LM has though some comments to the proposals.

#### **Suggested study on stock- and component related issues for the herring in the west of Scotland, west of Ireland, Irish Sea and North Sea.**

Duration: 24 months

Proposed budget: 300,000 €

Background:

The stock identity of herring west of the British Isles was reviewed by the EU-funded project WESTHER. This identified West of Scotland as an area where catches comprise a mixture of fish from adjacent areas similar to what previous studies shown to be the case for the North Sea and Skagerrak (Bekkevold, Ruzzante, Clausen, Bierman). Concerning the management for such areas with a mixture of stock components, those should be managed separately to afford maximum protection. Thus, to increase the knowledge of the magnitude and implication of the stock component mixing, it is advisable to incorporate splitting methodology of stock components in both catch and survey in all areas, where herring stocks mix.

In some areas (parts of the North Sea and Skagerrak, Kattegat) this has been implemented for more than 10 years (HAWG report, WKWATSUP report), however, the areas West of Scotland, West of Ireland and the Irish Sea has not yet started such procedures. It is known, that mixing of autumn, winter and spring spawners takes place in those areas (Brophy, WESTHER study) and multiple effects of this behaviour need to be considered, among others the potential ageing difficulties regarding counting of winter rings and ultimately influencing the catch-at-age data and survey numbers-at-age.

A study investigating the potential effect of the uncertainty in relation to the mixing of herring stock components and the related difficulties in estimating accurate biological parameters for those mixed stocks is highly warranted.

The main products of the study should aim at improving input to stock assessment on the relevant herring stocks. The products should provide guidance for optimal sampling as well as validation of stock ID of the different herring populations in the areas West of Scotland, West of Ireland and the

Irish Sea based on the outcomes from the EU funded studies HERGEN and WESTHER. A pre-requisite for operationalizing a standard procedure for stock-splitting is proper training of personnel, and a reasonable sampling scheme.

A training program should be established e.g. through and extension of the EC funded WebGr (Web services for support of Growth and Reproduction Studies) (<http://webgr.azti.es/ce/search/myce>). Main tasks to be undertaken by the contractor are the following:

- Validate the application of otolith morphology for stock ID by comparing spawning type with genetic and morphometric information on the individual level.
- Training of new readers and calibration of stock ID estimation between readers through exchange and, at a later stage, WebGr. Establish training programs based on validated material, which use a platform of wide spread open source software to enhance quality of data collection.
- Statistically analysis of stock dynamics in combination with fleet behaviour for construction of an optimal sampling scheme.
- Provide validated estimates of stock proportions in the mixed fishery for stock assessment for the major herring stocks at population level and a key to interpret existing data.

**LM comments: The proposed budget seems very high.**

### **Recommendation for a collaborative study in European anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius* and *Lophius budegassa*) and megrim (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*)**

#### **Objective:**

Improvement of the assessment and management of three important demersal stocks in western waters: Megrim (*L. whiffiagonis*) and White and Black anglerfish (*L. piscatorius* and *L. budegassa*) in VII and VIIIabd for accomplishing sound scientific advice. Based on reviewing data collected under DCF and industry related variables and parameters to be included in the assessment.

#### **Base line:**

ICES deployed a Benchmark in March 2012 to solve data and methodological problems detected in megrim and angler assessment. The result of an intensive work previous and during the ICES Benchmark did not accomplish the objectives of obtaining analytical assessment for these stocks and thus provide sound scientific advice.

#### **Main drawbacks detected in Megrim VIIb, c, e-k and VIIIa, b, d data and assessment during ICES Benchmark:**

1. Incorporate annual estimates of discards (France) to explain some possible recruitment, also to obtain consistent data along the series.
2. A complete revision and in depth analysis for checking changes detected in the data homogeneity of three time period identified: 1984-1989; 1990-1998 and 1999-2010.
4. The distribution of megrim stock does not include ICES Division VIIa and VIId. Further work is needed to assess the stock identity of megrims in this area.

#### **Main drawbacks detected in Anglerfish data and assessment during ICES Benchmark**

1. No clear evidence of the current stock or population definition. There is a lack of information concerning their biology, movements and possible migratory patterns. This information is fundamental to reduce uncertainties regarding stock boundary,

2. No accepted ages are used in the assessment since more growth studies are necessary for validation of growth estimates.
3. The incorporation of good discard estimates in order to have information about individuals less than 0.5 kg in weight.
4. Better maturity estimates are needed in order to have a good S/R relationship, it is clear that with the sampling level from DCF and using the data from surveys the information for larger females is not available.

**Draft list for possible objectives and action required based on data drawbacks.**

**Objective 1. Improvement of the discard data (Megrim and Anglerfish)**

1. Historical data (2000-2011): a. Data recovery; b. To contrast and analyse data with the industry
2. Onwards: a. Workshops with SWWRAC to explain the importance of obtaining discard data.

**Objective 2. Tuning fleets (Megrim and Anglerfish):** For both actions: data availability and results of the analysis will be contrasted with the industry.

1. Revision of the French trawling data series in Subarea VII and of the Basque “Baka” Otter trawl fleet to check for suitability in being included as new commercial abundance indices.

**Objective 3. Biological parameters (Anglerfish):**

1. **Reproductive parameters: a. Scientific work:** revision of the maturity ogives **b. Industry involvement:** All countries (France, Spain, UK and Ireland). Support in the collection of biological data. Development of a simple “on board sampling method”.
2. **Growth parameters (Anglerfish):** growth pattern estimated using the traditional standardized age estimation criterion based on illicia (Duarte *et al.*, 2002) was underestimated and that criterion was not accurate **A. Illicia and otoliths age readings comparison.** Strong discrepancies are found.
3. Further research of the true growth of white anglerfish by developing and using methodologies that allow validation. **a. Indirect growth validation** using the new *illicia* ageing criterion. **b. Direct growth validation** studies. The tagging–recapture of specimens of white anglerfish could be very useful to a further advance on growth validation,

**Objective 4. Other important parameters to be obtained:**

Scientist and SWWRAC will require from national administrations high resolution spatial data (VMSS/AIS). The importance of this objective is based on the actual situation of all data being transmitted electronically and the rapid disappearance of the hand-written logbooks. However, some administrations appear to be reluctant to provide of these data to scientist for assessment and management purposes.

**Objective 5. Exchange of knowledge with scientist assessing other Megrim and Anglerfish stocks.**

WS 1. Data deficiencies and methodological possibilities (identification of problems and proposal of solutions)

**Objective 6. Exploring alternative methodologies not fully dependent on resolving the biological issues (ageing and reproduction). Choosing the most suitable assessment models.**

Different model trials based on the results of WS 1.

WS 2. Comparison of resulting assessment for different stocks and methodologies looking for consistency in analysis and results.



**Justification of why a dedicated research project:**

No progress can be expected if no international commitment to work compromise for countries exploiting on data and methods to assess these stocks is obtained. However it appears unlikely that time between possible future Benchmarks and Working Groups would be enough for: i) solving data availability, ii) reviewing their quality, iii) new model trials and even iv) exchange of experiences between researches working in same species but different stocks. That is why it would be recommended that resources could be made available for a real improvement in the assessment of this stock. A pilot project is suggested for in a depth treatment of data analysis and improvement and model selection.

**Proposal of research team:** AZTI-tecnalia (Basque Country Spain); IEO (Spain); IFREMER (France); Marine Institute (Ireland); CEFAS (United Kingdom); Scottish assessment team; SWWRAC.

**Proposal of budget:** 500 000 €, 3 years duration.

**LM Comments:** Suggest that area IV, VI, VIII and IXa have to be included in this study.

**Suggested study on stock- and component related issues for the herring in the west of Scotland, west of Ireland, Irish Sea and North Sea.**

The stock identity of herring west of the British Isles was reviewed by the EU-funded project WESTHER. This identified West of Scotland as an area where catches comprise a mixture of fish from adjacent areas similar to what previous studies shown to be the case for the North Sea and Skagerrak (Bekkevold, Ruzzante, Clausen, Bierman). Concerning the management for such areas with a mixture of stock components, those should be managed separately to afford maximum protection. Thus, to increase the knowledge of the magnitude and implication of the stock component mixing, it is advisable to incorporate splitting methodology of stock components in both catch and survey in all areas, where herring stocks mix.

In some areas (parts of the North Sea and Skagerrak, Kattegat) this has been implemented for more than 10 years (HAWG report, WKWATSUP report), however, the areas West of Scotland, West of Ireland and the Irish Sea has not yet started such procedures. It is known, that mixing of autumn, winter and spring spawners takes place in those areas (Brophy, WESTHER study) and multiple effects of this behaviour need to be considered, among others the potential ageing difficulties regarding counting of winter rings and ultimately influencing the catch-at-age data and survey numbers-at-age.

A study investigating the potential effect of the uncertainty in relation to the mixing of herring stock components and the related difficulties in estimating accurate biological parameters for those mixed stocks is highly warranted.

The main products of the study should aim at improving input to stock assessment on the relevant herring stocks. The products should provide guidance for optimal sampling as well as validation of stock ID of the different herring populations in the areas West of Scotland, West of Ireland and the Irish Sea based on the outcomes from the EU funded studies HERGEN and WESTHER. A pre-requisite for operationalizing a standard procedure for stock-splitting is proper training of personnel, and a reasonable sampling scheme.

A training program should be established e.g. through and extension of the EC funded WebGr (Web services for support of Growth and Reproduction Studies) (<http://webgr.azti.es/ce/search/myce>). Main tasks to be undertaken by the contractor are the following:

- Validate the application of otolith morphology for stock ID by comparing spawning type with genetic and morphometric information on the individual level.
- Training of new readers and calibration of stock ID estimation between readers through exchange and, at a later stage, WebGr. Establish training programs based

- on validated material, which use a platform of wide spread open source software to enhance quality of data collection.
- Statistically analysis of stock dynamics in combination with fleet behaviour for construction of an optimal sampling scheme.
- Provide validated estimates of stock proportions in the mixed fishery for stock assessment for the major herring stocks at population level and a key to interpret existing data.

Total budget for the Study is estimated to be max 300,000 € and the study will run for 24 months.

**LM comments:** There are concerns about the feasibility of this study, given the results of earlier work in this area on this subject. Moreover, the LM question whether an improvement for stock assessment based on this study.

**Inter-calibration exercise by the MEDIAS research vessels and to investigate the possibility to include in this study Croatian research vessel as well, that probably in near future will be a vessel involved in the MEDIAS.**

Objectives: The MEDIAS project aims to join and harmonize the five ongoing acoustic surveys in the Mediterranean Sea and should give information for management decisions and provide input to assessment for stocks which are managed internationally.

The MEDIAS survey is a multi-vessel survey that target mainly sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) Mediterranean stocks and each research vessel covers most part of the distribution area of sardine and anchovy. In order to obtain comparable results and be able to produce one single estimate of target species abundance it is necessary to inspect and calibrate any possible differences in the respective research vessels measurement capabilities.

An important step towards the progress of the harmonization of the MEDIAS survey is to carry out an inter-calibration between the research vessels used by the different Institutes (Ifremer, France; IEO, Spain; CNR, Italy; HCMR, Greece) in order to test the overall performance of the acoustic and hauling equipment of the vessels in the field. It could be considerate the possibility to include in this study a Croatian research vessel as well, that probably in near future will be a vessel involved in the MEDIAS acoustic surveys.

These inter-ship comparisons is necessary to be done in a suitable area with known small pelagic fish aggregation characteristics, having substantial quantities of fish in layers and dispersed aggregations of varying density. Results of each research vessel will be analyzed, compared and evaluated for the selected area in terms of echointegration of the water column (fish density) and/or concerning the bottom echointegration.

Duration: 20 months.

Cost: € 500.000

**LM comments:** Suggest to be reviewed by STECF as the LM did not have the expertise to review the need for this study.

## Standardization of the target strength vs. length equations for sardine and anchovy in the Mediterranean sea by the MEDIAS

The MEDIAS project aims are to standardize and harmonize among countries the acoustic biomass evaluation in the Mediterranean Sea and should give information for management decisions and provide input to assessment for stocks which are managed internationally.

One of the most important variability source among different research group working on acoustic biomass evaluation target strength vs length relationship for sardine and anchovy. The MEDIAS survey target mainly sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) Mediterranean stocks covers most part of the distribution area of sardine and anchovy. In order to obtain comparable results and be able to produce one single estimate of target species abundance it is necessary to use the same target strength vs. length equation for each species. Unfortunately not enough data are present in literature to select the best value for all surveyed areas, and every group use its preferred equation based on literature or in situ measurement (or both).

An important step towards the progress of the harmonization of the MEDIAS survey is to carry out a joint TS measurement experiment, by the different Institutes (Ifremer, France; IEO, Spain; CNR, Italy; HCMR, Greece) in order to test all the possible hypothesis about the variability of TS estimation and to finally adopt the same equations.

Duration: 18 months.

Cost: € 250,000

**LM comments:** Suggest to be reviewed by STECF as the LM did not have the expertise to review the need for this study.

## 10.4 Studies with the scope outside of the studies

### Towards Cephalopod assessment

#### Objective

ICES' WGCEPH has reviewed DCF in the last 3 years (see WGCEPH REPORT 2010, 2011 & 2012) and concluded that apparently DCF is not delivering the information that is/would be needed to assess cephalopod stocks. There is still a need to keep evaluating DCF effectiveness in cephalopod sampling with management purposes as well as to define the minimum required level of sampling for determining stock status to achieve species, and so fisheries, sustainability.

#### Baseline:

Cephalopods are exploited resources. Directed cephalopod fisheries, especially small-scale fisheries, are increasingly important and it is necessary to have in place a functional system of data collection and stock evaluation that would be adequate to support management (and thus which takes into account unique features of cephalopod biology).

The new CFP points out the importance of artisanal fisheries in relation to social, economic and environmental issues and the need for regional and dedicated (differentiated) management approaches. Cephalopods are part of important artisanal and industrial fisheries as target and by-catch species. These natural resources are an alternative and complementary to the traditional TAC and Quotas species and consequently some fleets can derive their fishing effort, diversifying its activity, towards them. Cephalopods are known as top predator species, having an important role in the ecosystem. Thus, just under adequate sampling schemes and levels, scientist would be able to deliver assessment and management. It appears clear that just under dedicated funding (e.g. CRESH Interreg Project) sampling and assessment exercises and first management advice could be carried out.

**Main tasks**

- i) Determine the required level of sampling for main cephalopod species in ICES waters
- ii) Determination of the species catch composition is necessary.
- iii) Biological and fisheries parameters will be collected at the necessary level of sampling and at the right period of the year and frequency: monitor length composition and biological variables on finer time basis (every week or month). Extra sampling could be done based on the seasonality of the landings and discards with a concentration during times when cephalopod catches are highest;
- iv) Dedicated revision of historical data series in order to have access to up-to-date data on cephalopod landings, directed effort, discards, and survey catch data.
- v) Monitoring of fishery trends remains basic to ensure that these fisheries remain sustainable.
- vi) Summarize already collected biological parameters of the most important commercial cephalopod species exploited by commercial and artisanal gears and set the basis for assessment
- vii) Exploration of alternative assessment methods based on cephalopods data already available.
- viii) Review data limited stock assessment methods adequate to cephalopods.
- ix) Recommendation of assessment methods for, if needed, future cephalopods management advice.

**Justification of why a dedicated research pilot project:**

No progress can be expected if no international commitment to work compromise for countries exploiting on data and methods to assess cephalopods is obtained. However it appears unlikely that without any dedicated specific funding the following issues could be solved: i) species identification, ii) adequated sampling level iii) data availability iv) reviewing their quality, v) identification of assessment models and even iv) exchange of experiences between researches working in cephalopods. That is why it would be recommended that resources could be made available for a real improvement in the knowledge and assessment of cephalopod. A pilot project is suggested for in a depth treatment of sampling levels, data analysis and improvement and model selection.

Proposal of research team: AZTI-tecnalia (Basque Country Spain); CSIC (Vigo, Spain), IEO (Spain); IFREMER (France); IPIMAR (Portugal).

Proposal of budget: 350 000 €, 3 years duration.

**LM comments:** LM concluded that, at present, advice for cephalopods is not requested.

**Development of a software application to routinely assess the English Channel cuttlefish stock. Out of the scope of the studies**

Starting date : 15 October 2012

Ending date : 14 October 2013

*Context and justification*

Cuttlefish is a key resource but is not managed

The English Channel cuttlefish is one of the three main exploited species (both in weight and commercial value) for French and UK fishermen in the English Channel. The English Channel cuttlefish (like all European Cephalopods) is not among the stocks managed at the European level within the Common Fishery Policy. This is due to the lack of tools enabling routine assessment and exploitation diagnostic even if academic research works have already provided opportunities for assessment exercises. The use of a 2 stage biomass model has provided useful results on short lifespan species. A two stage biomass model for the English Channel cuttlefish has therefore been developed in the framework of a research project. In addition, the two stage biomass model enables to estimate an exploitation rate (percentage of caught biomass in a fishing season) in compliance with the WGCEPH 2012 recommendation, ToR "d": "Conduct (...) assessments of the main cephalopod species in the ICES area through examination of the above trends in relative exploitation rates (i.e., catch/survey biomass)". Results obtained will be soon published in a peer reviewed journal.

### *Objective*

The main objective of this complementary work is now to develop a software application using the statistic software R and based on the research model developed but routinely usable and using the last available data. This tool will then be provided to the ICES working group experts concerned in order to provide an annual diagnostic of the resource status. The developed application will include data integration procedures necessary for indicator update (French and UK fishery statistics and Ifremer and Cefas survey data). This will be done in harmony with existing procedures (COST project and ICES working group data-call).

The opportunity to regularly follow the fishing pressure level exerted on the resource is also of interest for other ICES working groups (WGNEW), managers involved in the North-Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (NWW-RAC) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

### *Scientific supervision and collaboration*

Scientific supervision will be carried out by Pr Jean-Paul Robin (University of Caen), specialist of exploited Cephalopod population dynamic in the north-eastern Atlantic.

A collaboration with Dr Georg Engelhard, senior researcher at Cefas will be implemented. We will thus have an access to Cefas landing and survey data. In addition, Georg Engelhard can provide his expertise on the 2 stage biomass model which he has already worked on.

A collaboration with Joël Vigneau (Ifremer Port-en-Bessin) will be implemented. We will thus have an access to the French landing and survey data via Ifremer. Joël Vigneau would also provide his expertise as a member of several ICES working group and coordinator of the COST project.

**LM comments:** LM concludes that this proposal mainly encompasses the development of a software tool around already developed and published methodology. Furthermore, cuttlefish is not a MoU species.

## **10.5 PGECON Studies**

PGECON recommended the European Commission to launch the following studies already requested by previous DCF workshops and STECF meetings:

- Study to propose methodologies for estimation of intangible assets in EU fisheries.
- Study to disaggregate economic variables at metier and/or geographical areas

- Study to Standardize Quality Reporting and Propose Methods in the case of Non-Probability Sample Survey (NPSS).
- Feasibility study on the collection of raw materials in the fish processing sector

In addition, PGECON considered essential to finalize the Glossary of the economic terms used in the DCF as already proposed by EWG 11-18. The glossary, as well as the results of the previous studies would be necessary also for the revision of the DCF.

### **Study to propose methodologies for estimation of intangible assets in EU fisheries.**

#### **Background**

Implementation of the CFP in the various MS has led to an introduction of various types of rights (licenses, ITQs, etc.). Some of these rights are freely tradable; others can be only transferred together with the vessel to which they are attached. Still other rights are officially not transferable, but in reality they too can be transferred. In many countries the value of these intangible assets approaches or even exceeds the value of the tangible assets and it plays an important role in operational decision of fishing companies.

In the near future, it has also to be considered that the proposed Basic Regulation for reform of the Common Fishery Policy (COM(2011),425) introduces a system of transferable fishing concessions that should constitute a major driver for fleet capacity adjustment.

However, until present, capital valuation in fisheries focused primarily on the vessel and its equipment. Methodology for estimation of the capital value developed within the EC study No. FISH/2005/03 allows to estimate the value of tangible assets. In case that intangibles are part of the asset value, the suggested method requires to separate them from the tangibles so that the determined value per capacity unit refers exclusively to physical assets.

However, attaching value to the intangible assets faces several conceptual as well as practical problems:

- In theory value of total assets could be determined as net present value of the future stream of benefits. This value then should be split into tangible and intangible assets. One unique approach to this division does not exist.
- When intangibles are freely tradable, observation of their prices in the market is often difficult
- because the number of transactions is small and they are not recorded.
- When the intangibles are attached to vessel, direct observation of the price is impossible. The value has to be estimated.
- In many cases, the fishing companies have not yet acquired any intangibles, but simply hold the
- rights which they have received free of charge from the government, when they were introduced. In that case it is not clear if these rights should be valued as an asset, increasing substantially the total asset value of the company, or not.
- It is also not clear if the rights should be depreciated. Are they permanent or temporary? On what value should the depreciation be imputed and at which rate?
- The value of the fishing rights may fluctuate strongly with the economic performance of the fisheries concerned. This would lead to strong fluctuation of the asset value, depreciation costs and possibly profitability of capital.

For all the above considerations, evaluation of intangible assets is a difficult exercise. The EC study No. FISH/2005/03 proposed to apply the approach established by FADN, i.e. tradable intangibles should be valued at current market price (or a multi year average), independently of the question whether they

have or have not been acquired or whether they are or are not linked to specific tangible (e.g. vessel). However, price information on intangibles is scarce and estimations of their value when linked to tangibles are far from simple. Further research in valuation of intangible will be essential, as their value probably exceeds the value of tangible assets in many fisheries. In addition, estimation of intangible assets is required by the DCF and common methodologies should be defined.

#### Terms of References of the study

- define a methodology for estimation of the value of different types of rights (license, quota, transferable and non-transferable, etc...)
- define a methodology to separate the intangible part of capital (quota, license, etc...) from the overall capital value when this value is not directly observable;
- investigate on factors determining changes in values of intangible assets.
- ensure a coverage as large as possible so to address all the possible type of fishing rights present at EU level.

Duration of the study: 10 months

**LM Comments: Missing budget estimate - to be addressed by PGECON in 2013**

#### Study to disaggregate economic variables at metier and/or geographical areas

##### Terms of References of the study

??Determination of cost structures within disaggregated units (e.g. metiers): Thus far, cost structures of operations of the same vessel in different fisheries (e.g. metiers) are regarded constant. This is not necessarily realistic, particularly when both passive and active gear operations are compared. The study should provide a method to break down cost structures with respect to the fishing activity performed. The method should as much as possible operate with data that are already available.

Procedures to derive proper correlations of variable cost data with transversal and capacity data to be applied for specific disaggregation tasks (having specific requirements of spatial, temporal or activity-related resolution): The outcome of this point should be a tool, requiring only standard software, which allows for modelling correlations, including an indication of the reliability of the result. The end user should then be able to calculate correlations using data which is by default available (e.g. through the DCF or the logbook regulation). The end user should also be able to assess the robustness of the estimated correlation. The method should be applicable to all DCF segments, allowing the end user to disaggregate variable cost data.

??Validation procedure: A method should be provided to enable MS to validate the results of the disaggregation procedure. Specifically for the purpose of validation more disaggregated input might be required, e.g. daily cost data.

Duration of the study: 12 months

**LM Comments: Missing budget estimate - to be addressed by PGECON in 2013**

#### General terms of reference for the study to harmonise quality reporting and propose methodology in the case of non-probability sample survey

##### Background

The DCF, in the section concerning the economic data of the fleet, requires MS to include in their annual report information on the quality (accuracy and precision) of estimates. In case of non-probability sampling, the European Statistical System (ESS) suggests assuming probability sampling even in the case of non-probability sampling in order to be able to use the CV, but the value of this measure is questionable. Other methods to get some indication of the precision of the estimate include e.g. non-parametric tests and regression modelling, but, even in these cases, it is not clear which outputs could be used in the quality report to give information on the quality of the estimates.

Another common problem affecting the quality of economic data concerns the non-response that is likely to introduce a bias and increases the sampling error. Assessment of the impact of non-response is important in all the different types of data collection (probability sampling, non-probability sampling and census).

Considering that non-probability sampling and low response rates are rather common in the collection of economic data of the fleets, and also considering that there is very little published information on these questions, a study has been recommended by SGECA 09-02. The results of this study should be then taken into account by MS when presenting quality indicators in the 2011 technical report on activities performed in 2010.

#### Terms of References of the study

- Investigate examples of the assessment of the quality of non-probability sampling strategies applied in other sectors which could be adapted to fisheries
- Propose a suitable methodology for the estimation of economic variables in case of non-probability sampling
- Propose indicators for the assessment of the quality of estimates of economic variables in the case of non-probability sampling
- Propose a common format for the presentation of these methodologies in the NP and in the TR in order to harmonise quality reporting
- Propose methods to evaluate the impact of non-response in case of non-probability sampling and also in case of probability sampling and census with low response rates
- Perform a comparative impact on data quality of different sampling strategies (e.g. is sampling preferable to census with low response rate? When a response rate should be considered too low with respect to the reliability of final estimates?).

Duration of the study: 4 months

**LM Comments: Missing budget estimate - to be addressed by PGECON in 2013**

#### **Feasibility study on the collection of raw materials in the fish processing sector**

“Raw materials” is an important indicator, because it can provide a link between the fishing fleet and processing sector.

However, on the SGECA-06-01 it was decided not to collect it anymore due to the difficulties in its collection and the possible use of EUROSTAT’s PRODCOM data to estimate backwards the volume of raw materials:

*“The participants explained their difficulties in collection raw material and its equivalent in fresh weight. Two difficulties were highlighted: As fish and intermediate fish products are used as input, the*



*conversion of product weight into live weight using a great variety of conversion factors creates an extremely high burden and it can be questioned whether such an effort is justified. On the other hand it is very difficult to avoid the problem of double counting without having sufficient information on origin of inputs and the destination of intermediate inputs because of “middle men”.*

*On the other hand, raw material use is seen as a key indicator to link the fishery sector and its management policies with the processing industry. Therefore, the group proposes that member countries use industrial commodity statistics (such as the standardised and EC wide harmonised PRODCOM classification) and derive “backward” raw material use applying suitable conversion factors. Since the quality of output statistics differs among member states, member states should not be limited to the “backward” approach but can apply alternative estimation procedures. The group recommends that additional national surveys to find a suitable procedure to estimate raw material use be carried out including its origin. Alternatively, Member States have to ensure that PRODCOM based fish processing statistics are of an appropriate quality to carry out such an estimation procedure.”*

SGECA 10-03, also reflected the difficulties in collecting “raw materials” data, but highlighted the importance of this indicator:

*“In terms of data coverage, SGECA 10-03 observed that parameters more difficulties to be submitted have been raw materials per species, products price and capacity utilization. SGECA observed that these parameters have been excluded from the DCF with the 2008 revision, because of the difficulties in their estimation. SGECA considered that quality of these data is also difficult to assess, therefore, it recommended not to use them in the analysis.*

*SGECA 10-03 also observed that the exclusion of the variable “raw materials per species” affects the general utility of the inclusion of the processing sectors in the DCF because the link with the catch sector cannot be evaluated anymore. However, SGECA 10-03 was aware of the complexity of the issue that should take into account also the origin of raw materials (imported or not, marine species or inland, etc.).”*

SGECA 10-04, as SGECA 10-03 did, recommends launching a study. Because it has not been tried to use PRODCOM data, since the quality of the PRODCOM data for some Member States is largely questioned. Thus, the study should analyse the feasibility to collect data on “Raw materials” and eventually indicate appropriate methodologies.

### **Missing budget estimate - to addressed by PGECON in 2013**

#### **The compilation of the glossary: economic terms**

The compilation of the economic terms used in the DCF has been requested by different working groups and RCMs. EWG 11-18 considered that the glossary is an essential tool to improve harmonization of economic data collection among MS. It would also improve the data collection procedures as clear definitions of variables and a common understanding is the starting point of any survey.

Definitions of the economic terms used in the DCF are reported in different reports and sometimes they are not consistent. The compilation of an “official” glossary would therefore constitute a reference and would avoid never ending discussions in expert working groups. EWG 11-18 discussed that the glossary should be addressed primarily to the data collectors and to the users of the results.

EWG 11-18 suggests the following principles for the compilation of the glossary:

1. Definitions from SBS (Structural Business Statistics, EU Reg. 250/20092) are to be considered as the “primary” definitions. If no definition is found in SBS, then definitions from a few other statistical sources can be used, i.e. ESA (European System of Accounts). It is important to use as few sources as possible to be sure that the definitions are consistent. This approach will give the possibility to compare the results between sectors.
2. The glossary shall include the variables from DCF, capital concepts and statistical concepts.
3. Concerning the statistical terms, STECF WGs on review of economic data (SGECA 09-02, SGECA 10-03, EWG 11-18) and guidelines for AR and NP should be used as starting background documents.
4. Glossary should include for each variable a text for the variable, measure unit, the SBS number (or the number from other source) and an explanatory text.
5. The glossary should not be included in tables.
6. A second level of glossary can give separate explanations for the sectors more needed for the specific requirements of the data collection.
7. The glossary shall start with a preface explaining the principles for the definitions in the DCF and the glossary, i.e. use of definitions from other statistical sources with SBS as primary to be sure the definitions are consistent.
8. The glossary should be published on the DCF web site.
9. It should be possible to update the glossary but the responsibility should be given to an appointed group or steering committee.

## **11 RCMs 2013 issues**

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### **11.1 RCM 2013 Terms of Reference**

Pending the development of the new DCMAP, LM considers that the current situation is too premature to decide on the 2013 ToRs for the RCMs. The ToRs shall be set in cooperation with the members of the Liaison Meeting early 2013.

Items to consider for the 2013 ToRs are:

- Harmonisation of national programs at a regional level based on the DCMAP while addressing the needs of the end-users
- Provide guidance on e.g. development needs, time-frame for uploads to the RDB-SC
- Evaluation sampling programs in terms of best sampling practice by MS
- Evaluate the implementation of the communication with the end-user

### **11.2 Election of new chairs**

While taking into account EU Regulation 665/2008 Article 4.2, LM endorsed the proposals for the new chairs by RCM NS&EA, RCM NA, RCM Baltic and RCM Med&BS. The appointed chairs are:

- Constantin Stroie, Romania (RCM Med&BS)
- Frans van Beek, The Netherlands (RCM NS&EA)
- Jorgen Dalskov, Denmark (RCM Baltic, re-elected)
- Kelle Moreau, Belgium (RCM NA)

The new chairs are appointed for a 2-year term. LM welcomes the new chairs and looks forward to cooperate with them.

### **11.3 2013 Schedule, venue and data call**

Again, pending the development of the new DCMAP, LM prefers to keep the opportunity open to structure the 2013 RCMs in accordance with the current needs at that time, while taking into account the needs as specified under the then established DCMAP. E.g. RCMs need to have the option to meet more than once in 2013 when needed and to carry out intersessional work. Also, the RCMs set-up itself in terms of proposed participants as well as regional coverage might need to be modified to ensure DCMAP needs are sufficiently addressed.

As a first suggestion, LM suggests that the 2013 RCMs are held as early as May/June to prepare the ground for proper drafting of the 2014 National Programs.

The proposed venues for the first RCM meetings in 2013 are:

- RCM Baltic: Tallin (Estonia)
- RCM LDF: Northern Europe
- RCM Med&BS: Romania
- RCM NA: Sukkarieta (Spain)
- RCM NS&EA: Vigo (Spain)

In order to facilitate the RCM work, a data call shall be launched, either by the Commission or RCMs themselves as end-user, well in advance of the meeting. The timing of the call shall allow preparatory analysis to be done prior to the RCM to avoid time-consuming data processing at the RCMs.

## 12 AOB

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### 12.1 JRC Website and repository

The RCMs had true SharePoint facilities at its disposal provided by the ICES-Secretariat. As expected, these Sharepoints eased the work of the RCMs by providing a central place for storage of documents, presentations and the exchange of files. The RCM NS&EA expressed the wish to continue the SharePoints as facilitated for by ICES and RCM NS&EA thanks ICES for the efficient implementation of the sharepoints.

Outside the SharePoints, there is a need for a central depository where all legal documents (e.g. regulations and decisions), reports (e.g. RCM, LM, EWG reports, STECF Reports) and guidelines can be found. The JRC website provides the basis for such a depository, but this repository still lacks up-to-date information.

For example: there is a full list of National Correspondents with contact details available on the DCF website, <http://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.htm>, “Contact information for Member State national correspondents “ but this is not the most recent and updated list.

### 12.2 Recommendation database

ICES secretariat has set up a recommendations database on the RCM Share Point for all areas. It is accessible by all RCM members in read-only format and the RCMchairs have read/write access. All recommendations, as well all strategic comments and suggestion, are available in the recommendations database, providing the possibility of tracking all. The history of the recommendations will also be kept in the database allowing the RCMs to keep track of the history of recommendations as well as strategic comments and reflections.

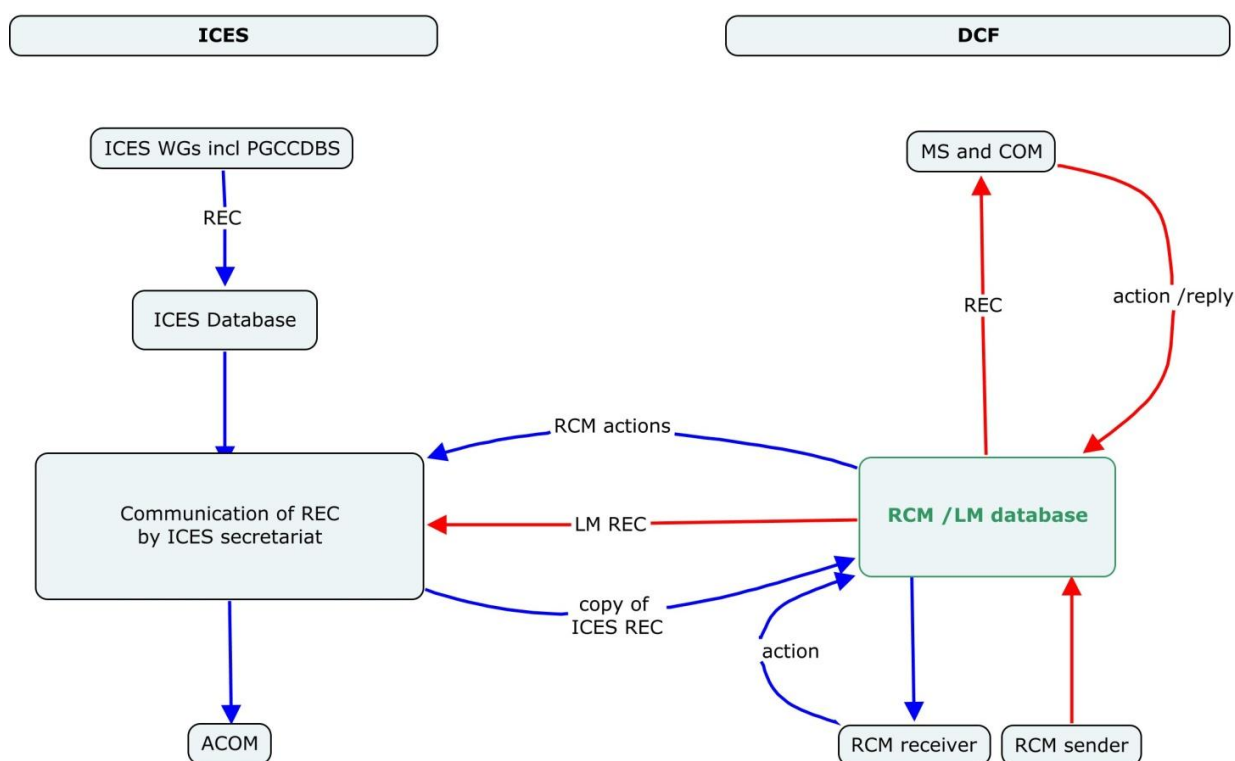
Recommendations which were considered as recommendations, are in this database distinguished as real recommendations (R) whereas those which actually are not real recommendations are marked as strategic comments and suggestions (SC). Of the recommendations, the RCMs, PGECON and PGCCDBS have listed **only 5 key recommendations**. This resulted in a much more efficient and traceable overview of the recommendations.

The chairs of the RCMs, the PGCCDBS and PGECON also gave a short overview of the report raising any general issues for the LM.

**The list of recommendations from each RCM report, with LM comments, is provided in Section 3.2 of this report.**

RCM chairs are requested to complete the RCM recommendation database with all recommendations, suggestions and reflections.

The diagram presented below shows the functionality of the recommendations databases.



#### Explanation of the flow diagram above.

ICES recommendations (incl. PGCCDBS) which are sent out to RCMs are kept in the ICES recommendations database.

A copy of the recommendations addressed to the RCMs are uploaded to the RCM recommendations database from where they are forwarded to the relevant individual RCMs.

These recommendations are considered, discussed and accepted or rejected and the result/actions are re-sent to the RCM Rec.database. ICES secretariat picks up the actions and communicate this further to the relevant ICES groups.

When the RCM is the 'sender', the recommendations of all RCMs are centralized in the RCM database.

From there they are sent to the Liaison meeting where they are endorsed and forwarded to bodies such as ICES Groups, PGCCDBS, MS, STECF etc.

The considered replies and suggested actions are then sent back to the RCM database, from where they can be picked up by the individual RCM.

### **12.3 Derogation database**

It was recommended by the RCMNS&EA2012 to review the summaries of the derogations reached during the RCMS 2011, to provide a final list of current derogations.

From these lists the Liaison Meeting could review the derogations and where appropriate put forward a list of derogations that could be approved across all RCM's.

To keep track and have a transparent system of the approved derogations, a derogation database, similar to the one set up for the recommendations, could be an efficient solution.

It was scheduled for the RCM Chairs to provide an updated lists of the derogations to the Liaison Meeting for consideration. However, due to the lack of sufficient time left, this was not possible to achieve. The setting up and coordination of a derogation database should be available on the DCF-JRC website.

## 13 Annexes

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### 13.1 Annex 1 - Agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> LM

**9<sup>th</sup> Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the Chair of ICES  
PGCCDBS, the Chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, the Chairs of STECF  
EWG and PGECON and the European Commission**

24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Room 00/53 (24/9-25/9)/ 05/SDR (26/9),  
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,  
Rue Joseph II 99, Brussels, Belgium

#### AGENDA

#### **Monday 24th September 2012 (Start 12.00 – Finish 18.00)**

- 12.00 Introduction and Welcome
  - Comments of the Commission
  - Meeting Logistics and Information
  - Addressing our Terms of Reference – Adoption of the Agenda
  - Format and Content of Meeting Report
  - Appointment of Rapporteurs
- 12.30 Review of 8<sup>th</sup> Liaison Meeting Report
  - Have Action Points Been Followed up?
  - Any outstanding issues?
- 14.30 Coffee
- 15.00 Addressing TOR 1 – Outputs from RCM Meetings
  - Presentation of Main Recommendations by RCM Chairs
    - RCM North Atlantic
    - RCM Baltic Sea
    - RCM North Sea and East Arctic
    - RCM Mediterranean and Black Sea
    - RCM Long Distance Fisheries
  - Specific Recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Liaison Meeting
  - Specify the follow up process
- 17.00 Addressing TOR 2 – PGECON
  - Outcomes and recommendations from the first meeting in 2012
- 17.45 Summing up Day 1
  - Are we addressing our TOR's?
  - Outstanding Issues from Day 1
  - Plan for Day 2

## Report Status

18.00 Close Day 1

### **Tuesday 25th September 2012 (Start 9.30 – Finish 18.00pm)**

09.30 Review of where we are - Proposed Work for Day 2

09.45 Addressing TOR 3 – Horizontal Issues

- Regional databases:
  - Overview of use of the Regional Databases for RCMs in 2012, including the RCM data call, and problems identified
  - Outcomes of the Regional Database Workshops and position of the RCMs
  - Changes for the future – any recommendations from the LM?
- Feedback from data end users :
  - *Implications of the evaluation of Annual Reports 2011 (data transmission checks)*
  - *Ways forward:*

*Further standardization of feedback from ICES (clear guidance needed from ICES to identify data transmission failures)/ possible adjustments to the data transmission evaluation process (pre-screening of data transmission reports by STECF EWG, preliminary evaluation of list of apparent data transmission failures by NCs)*

11.30 Coffee

11.50 Addressing TOR 7 – Studies

- Studies 2013

12.30 Addressing TOR 4 - Workshops

- Review of list 2013 (eligible meetings)
- Proposals from the economists

13.00 LUNCH

14.00 Addressing TOR 5 & 6:

- ToR 5 - RCMs 2013 issues: schedule, TOR's, infrastructure issues
- ToR 6 - DC MAP 2014-2010
  - Future role of RCMs
  - Advice on the appropriate process to deal with by-catch and discards issues

16.30 Coffee

16. 50 Addressing TOR 5 & 6 (continued)

17.45 Summing up Day 2



Are we addressing our TOR's ?  
Outstanding Issues from Day 2  
Plan for Day 3  
Report Status

18.00 Close Day 2

**Wednesday 5th October 2011 (Start 9.30 – Finish 13.00)**

09.30 Review of where we are - Proposed Work for Day 3

09.45 Addressing TOR 8 - AOB

- JRC Website/central repository for DCF files (AR, NPs)
- Recommendations database – ICES and DG MARE to create a list for STECF recommendations – discussion on content/ structure
- Derogations database - Database of derogations by Member State to be created by DG MARE – discussion on content/ structure
- The template for the AR and the AR evaluation

11.30 Coffee

11.50 Reports from Rapporteurs

Discussion

- Key outputs from 9<sup>th</sup> Liaison Meeting
- Our Recommendations
- Discussions on Outstanding Issues
- Completion of Report – Task Allocation and Timelines
- Closing Comments of Commission
  - Have we addressed our TOR's?
  - Summing Up

13.00 Close of Meeting

## **13.2 Annex 2 – the Ostende Declaration.**

### **Position of RCM's on the new EU DC-MAP, "Oostende Declaration 2012"**

#### **1. Vision**

End users will receive relevant, high quality data collected through an efficient regional basis.

#### **2. Mission**

Data collectors will use statistically sound sampling schemes and operate under the guidance of Regional Coordination Groups, in which end-user priorities are agreed and the coordination of data Collection takes place to meet those priorities.

#### **3. Commercial Fisheries Sampling**

##### **○ Introduction**

The revised DCF (EC no. 199/2008) envisaged a data collection scheme that provided detailed, highly resolved data for many métiers and fish species. That vision failed to materialize due to the absence of achievable and clear objectives and the high financial and logistical costs involved in highly disaggregated quota-based sampling schemes.

Steps were taken during the mid-term of that programme to reinterpret as well the demands of the framework as those actions led to the development of a number of expert working groups which more clearly defined the statistical requirements under-pinning the sampling of commercial fisheries data (e.g., WKACCU, WKPRECISE, WKMERGE, WKPICS). The latter developments also enabled a clearer picture to the development of the means by which regional coordination could be enhanced.

This position to a data collection programme builds on the experience of the current framework, to present a statistically-robust programme appropriate to more effectively coordinated regional data collection and with the priorities in line with the end-users needs.

One of the primary goals of the data collection is to produce robust and transparent estimates of the catch of vessels operating in regional fisheries. These catch estimates are used by expert groups to estimate fisheries induced mortality for fishery-based management.

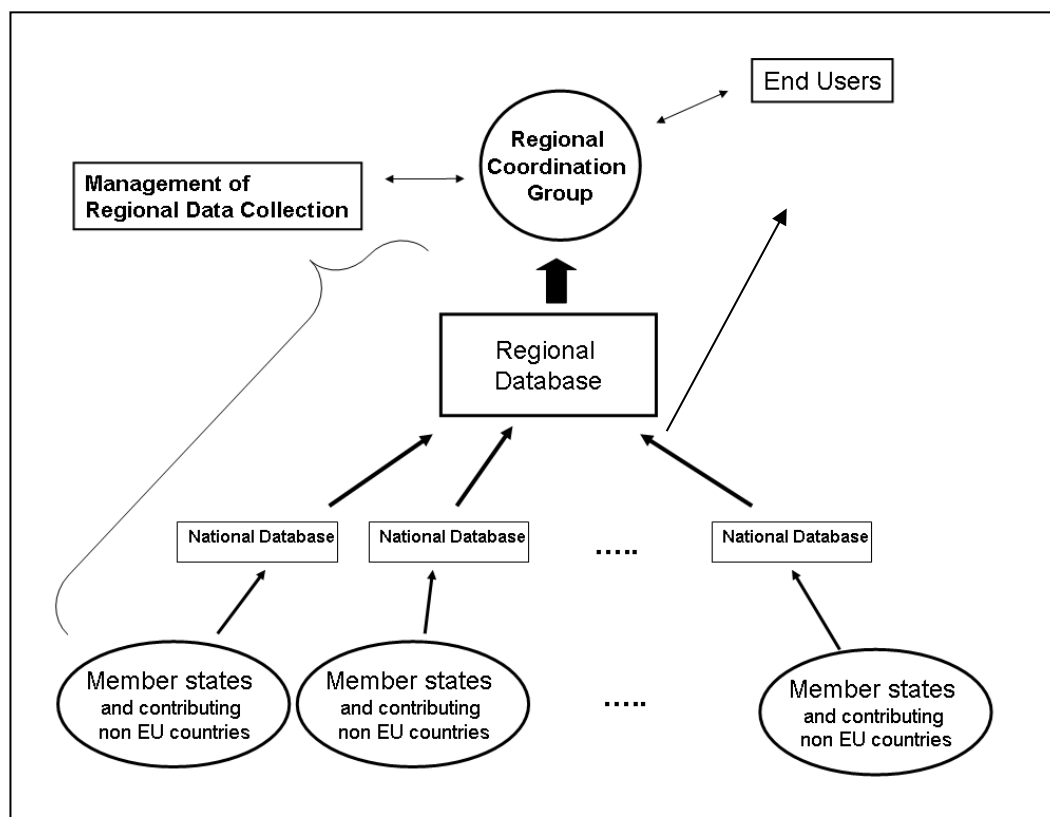
In designing sampling schemes it is most important to define the required output of the sampling and what it is used for. It is envisaged that information will continue to be needed to provide advice by both stock and fishery. ICES is now providing advice for about 200 stocks and will continue to do so in the future. Many of these stocks have presently limited data. It will not be possible, also in the future, to provide detailed information which allows analytical assessment for all stocks. Thus, priorities have to be set and data requirements need to be specified in consultation with the end users.

This position on the new DC-MAP will require a shift in perception of what is achievable and in the approach to be taken in sampling methodologies. Métiers were defined to characterize fishing operations after they had taken place and cannot be used as sampling strata because setting target sample

sizes for métiers violates the principles of probability-based sampling. However, the métier concept has a value for classifying fishing trips into groups with similar fishing pattern. Landings and effort data will be available by métier. Biological samples can be assigned to métiers, providing information from the main métiers where sufficient and relevant data exists. However it must be realized that biological information will not be available for all métiers, which is also the case in the present situation.

#### ○ Framework

Key features of the proposed framework are illustrated in Figure xx.



#### ● Member States and non-EU countries

Member States will be obliged to design sampling schemes in accordance with best practice guidelines to fit within the overall regional sampling programme.

They will need to adjust sampling programme in accord with priorities agreed by the regional coordination group.

They will regularly update and populate the regional database.

They will ensure appropriate data capture to fully populate mandatory fields in common data exchange formats.

They will provide capacity for national data collection priorities, and ensure DC-MAP co-financed regional data collection.

Non-EU countries are encouraged to take actively part to regional co-operation and where possibly harmonize both sampling practices and data products.

- **National Databases**

These comprise the primary storage platforms to hold an individual nation's master data set used to populate the regional database and ensuring appropriate quality standards.

- **Regional Database**

This is a prerequisite for the planning and coordination of regional sampling programmes and is populated from national master data sets.

It is the regional repository for sampled data and comprises as well the data used to examine a Member State's performance against its annual work plan..

In order to meet the foreseeable future requirements of the regional coordination group, present development needs are currently the subject of a study proposal (small scale studies in support of the CFP).

Subsequent to such further development, the RDB will provide the possibility to incorporate estimation processes for data aggregation, as required by end-user, and will provide a repository for processed data (as processed either internally within the regional database or through external systems).

- **Regional Coordination Group**

Regional coordination is a continuous process, not just an annual meeting. This process should lead into the elaboration of guidelines and decisions to ensure that adequate data are collected through coordinated national work plans. This is to enable regional assessments for stocks, fisheries and marine ecosystems in accord with transparent objectives and agreed priorities and to oversee sampling methodology and data flow

The regional coordination group requires participation by a membership that has the authority to consent to the decisions made by the group.

The group needs to have a broad expertise including statisticians, data processors, national data collection coordinators and may be other expertise.

#### **End-user negotiation**

- A cost-effective and efficient regional coordination process requires that end-users are able to prioritize their data requirements between objectives and within available resources.
- The regional coordination group provides the forum for communication between National Correspondents, the European Commission and other end-users regarding the establishment of regional priorities.

- **Timeline**

Expert working groups are still developing best practice guidelines, which will form the basis for development of the statistically sound sampling programs. However, it is unlikely that all countries will be able to implement statistically sound sampling schemes by 2014. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a challenging timeline for the programme to be fully implemented and the recommendation is that Member States and databases should be fully compliant with the programme in time for the mid-term review of the 2014-2020 EMFF.

This will require that all member states should take part in the workshops and study groups developing statistically sound approaches to sampling (e.g., WKPICS2, WKPICS3 and SGPIDS).

Also, there is a need to develop regionally standardized observer practices, training programmes, manuals and other guidelines.

In addition, national and regional database infrastructure needs to be further developed according to the identified needs and requirements.

#### **4. National Operational Programmes (OP), National Annual Work Plans and Reporting**

These are much broader than the topic of commercial fisheries sampling; nevertheless, specific features relevant to commercial fisheries sampling can be outlined.

##### **○ Commercial fisheries sampling**

The current framework's origins that assume quota sampling have resulted in a highly detailed, target-orientated set of tables to be constructed and populated for both the annual programmes and, as out-turn values, in the annual reports. This is inappropriate for probability-based statistically sound sampling schemes.

##### **● National Annual Work Plan**

- The detailed tables in the current national programmes are replaced by a detailed description of the national catch sampling scheme for landings and discards, which comprise the national component of an agreed regional sampling scheme. This will include a description of how probabilistic selection takes place in the various components and stages of the scheme. This could be included in the seven year operational programme and simply referred to in the annual work plan.
- A detailed section demonstrates that the national component really does comprise a set of robust statistical methods in accordance with established best practice guidelines (or is working towards it in the period leading up to the EMFF mid-term review).
- A section will define the scale of the sampling programme in terms of the number of port/market/factory sampling trips to be undertaken and, for example, a statement of the expected number of fishing voyages (or appropriate sampling units as defined in the description of the national catch sampling scheme) to be sampled per trip, the number of voyages (and days at sea) to be sampled by observers aboard fishing vessels and the frequency of self-sampling (where implemented).
- An annual schedule to upload data to the regional database, including fixed dead-lines for final uploads, and to ensure the timely provision of processed data as required for the stock and fishery-based assessments carried out by expert working groups.

- **Annual report**

This will comprise a set of performance metrics relative to expectations provided in the annual work plan and quantitative summaries of the achieved samples, the provision of quality indicators and a clear description of the data provided to the regional database.

Standard reports derived from the regional database should be used as a basis for the annual reports.

### **13.3 Annex 3 - Draft list of potential eligible meetings for 2013**

| Meetings and Workshops*   | Duration of the meeting (days) | Maximum number of participants eligible per MS (excluding chairs) |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>1/Data collection: National and EU coordination</b>  |                                |   |
| National co-ordination  | 2                              | NA  |
| National Correspondents Meeting 2013-01   | 1                              | 2   |
| National Correspondents Meeting 2013-02   | 1                              | 2   |
| National Correspondents Meeting 2012-03   | 1                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| <b>2/ Data collection: Regional co-ordination</b>   |                                |   |
| RCM for the Baltic - May/ June  | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the Baltic - September?   | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the North sea - May/ June   | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the North sea - September?  | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the North Atlantic - May/ June  | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the North Atlantic - September?   | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the Mediterranean & Black Sea - May/ June   | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the Mediterranean & Black Sea - September?  | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the Long Distance Fisheries - May/ June   | 4                              | 3   |
| RCM for the Long Distance Fisheries - September?  | 4                              | 3   |
| 10th Liaison Meeting (Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, chair of PGECON, chairs of RDB steering groups, GFCM representative, the Chairs of STECF-EWG and the European Commission) | 2                              | n/a   |
| Regional database training workshop - 2013-1  | 4                              | 2   |
| Regional database training workshop - 2013-2  | 4                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| Regional database training workshop - 2013-3  | 4                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| Regional database steering group meeting - Mediterranean  | 3                              | n/a   |
| Regional database steering group meeting - Baltic/N. Atlantic/N. Sea & E. Arctic - 1  | 3                              | n/a   |
| Regional database steering group meeting - Baltic/N. Atlantic/N. Sea & E. Arctic - 2  | 2                              | n/a   |
| Planning Group for Economists [PGECON]  | 5                              | 2   |
| Economists workshop - 1   | 5                              | 2   |
| Economists workshop - 2   | 5                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| <b>3/ ICES &amp; other Planning Groups or Workshops related to the Data Collection Framework</b>  |                                |   |
| Planning Group on Commercial Catches, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS)(Belfast, 18-22 February, 2013)   | 5                              | 2   |
| PGMed   | 5                              | 2   |
| Workshop on age validation studies of Gadoids (WKA VSG) (Mallorca, 6–10 May, 2013)  | 5                              | 2   |
| Workshop on Micro increment daily growth in European Anchovy and Sardine (WKMIAS) (Mazara del Vallo, Sicily 21–25 October, 2013)  | 5                              | 2   |
| Workshop of National Age Readings Coordinators (WKNARC) (Horta, Portugal, 13–17 May, 2013)  | 5                              | 2   |
| Workshop on the Age Reading of Blue whiting (WKARBLUE) (Bergen, 10–14 June, 2013)   | 5                              | 2   |
| Workshop on practical implementation of statistical sound catch sampling programmes (WKPICS3) (ICES HQ, November 2013)  | 5                              | 2   |
| Study Group on Practical Implementation of Discard Sampling Plans (SGPIDS) (Lysekil, Sweden, 24–28 June, 2013)  | 5                              | 2   |
| Workshop on Age Estimation Methods of Deep Water Species (WKAMDEEP) (Esportes, Spain, dates to be established)  | 5                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| <b>4/ RFMOs</b>   |                                |   |
| <b>GFCM</b>   |                                |   |
| GFCM Meeting of SAC Subcommittee on Economic and Social Sciences (SCESS)  | 3                              | 2   |
| GFCM Meeting of SAC Subcommittee on Statistics and Information (SCSI)   | 3                              | 2   |
| GFCM Meeting of SAC Subcommittee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)   | 3                              | 2   |
| GFCM Meeting of SAC Subcommittee on Marine Environment and Ecosystems (SCMEE)   | 3                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| Working group on stock assessment of small pelagics in the Mediterranean  | 6                              | 2   |
| Working group on stock assessment of demersal species and elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean  | 6                              | 2   |
| Working group on stocks assessment of small pelagic and demersal species in the Black Sea   | 6                              | 2   |
| Ad hoc WG on bio-ecological features, data collection and information system, and implementing issues for the Black Sea.  | 5                              | 2   |
| Working Group on Bio-economic Analysis-Models used in the GFCM  | 4                              | 2   |
| Working Group on Selectivity and Fishing Technology   | 3                              | 2   |
| Meeting of Permanent Working Group on Stock Assessment Methodology on: Time Series Analysis   | 5                              | 2   |
| Working group for finalising the new TASK1 & 2 data submission framework  | 5                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| <b>Other RFMOs ? (CECAF/SPRFMO - RCM LDF)</b>   |                                |   |
|   |                                |   |
| <b>NAFO</b>   |                                |   |
| NAFO Scientific Council June meeting and Standing Committees  | 14                             | 2   |
| NAFO Scientific Council September meeting and Standing Committees   | 5                              | 2   |
| NAFO WG on Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management  | 11                             | 2   |
| Joint NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment WG (NIPAG)  | 8                              | 2   |
|   |                                |   |
| <b>ICCAT</b>  |                                |   |
| Species Group Meeting   | 5                              | 2   |
| 2013 Bluefin tuna Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean  | 3-4                            | 1   |
| 2013 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and statistics   | 3-4                            | 1   |
| 2013 Stock Assessment Bigeye  | 3-4                            | 1   |



|  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| <b>IOTC</b>  |     |   |
| Working Party on Tropical Tuna (WPTT)/ Working Party on Methods  | 8   | 1 |
| <b>Working party on Ecosystems and Bycatch (WPEB)/Working party on billfish</b>  | ?   | ? |
| Working Party on Data Collection and Statistics (WPDCS)/Scientific Committee 16 <sup>th</sup> Session  | 8   | 1 |
|  |     |   |
| <b>5/ Planning Groups on surveys at sea</b>  |     |   |
| Working Group of International Pelagic Surveys (WGIPS) (venue and dates no established yet)  | 5   | 2 |
| Working Group on Integrating Surveys for the Ecosystem Approach (WGISUR) (Lisbon, Portugal, 15–17 January 2013)  | 3   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group (WGBIFS)(Tartu, Estonia, 21–25 March 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
| International Bottom Trawl Survey Working Group (IBTSWG) (Lisbon (Portugal), from 8-12 April 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
| Study Group on Calibration of Acoustic Instruments in Fisheries Science (SGCal) (Pasaia, Spain, 20 April 2013)   | 1   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| The Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology (WGFAST)(Pasaia, Spain, from 16–19 April 2013)   | 4   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Study Group on Standards in Ichthyoplankton Surveys (SGSIPS) (venue and dates no established yet)  | 5   | 2 |
| Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys (WGBEAM)(Ancona, Italy, 23–26 April 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Working Group on North-east Atlantic continental slope surveys (WGNEACS) (venue and dates no established yet)  | 5   | 2 |
| Working Group on Improving use of Survey Data for Assessment and Advice (WGISDAA) (Dublin, Ireland, 19–21 March 2013)  | 3   | 2 |
| Working Group on Redfish Surveys (WGRS) (ICES HQ, Copenhagen, January/July/September 2013)   | 7   | 2 |
| Workshop on the identification of clupeoid larvae (WKIDCL) (Hamburg, 2-6 September 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
| Workshop on DATRAS data Review Priorities and checking Procedures (WKDRP), venue and dates to be confirmed   | 3   | 2 |
| Study Group on Nephrops Surveys (SGNEPS)(Barcelona or Lisbon, November 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
| Workshop of SSGESST expert groups chairs (WKSChairs) (Bergen, January 2013)  | 2   | 2 |
| Working Group 2 on North Sea Cod and Plaice Egg Surveys in the North Sea (WGEGBS2) (Bergen, 8–10 October 2013)   | 3   | 2 |
| Working Group on Acoustic and Egg Surveys for Sardine and Anchovy in ICES Areas VIII and IX (WGACEGG) (venue and dates not established yet)  | 3-5 | 2 |
| Working Group on Atlantic Fish Larvae and Eggs Surveys (WGALES) (San Sebastian, Spain, dates no established yet)   | 5   | 2 |
| Coordination meeting for MEDITS (Mediterranean Demersal Trawl Surveys) Working Group   | 5   | 2 |
| Coordination meeting for MEDIAS (Pan Mediterranean Survey for Small Pelagics)  | 2   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| <b>6/ Support to Scientific Advice - ICES</b>  |     |   |
| Annual Meeting of Advisory Working Group Chairs (WGCHAIRS) (ICES HQ, 29-31 January, 2013)  | 3   | 2 |
| Arctic Fisheries Working Group (AFWG) (ICES HQ, 18-24 April, 2013)   |     | 2 |
| Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG) (ICES HQ, 14-21 March, 2013)  | 8   | 2 |
| North-Western Working Group (NWWG) (ICES HQ, 25 April -2 May, 2013)  | 8   | 2 |
| Baltic Salmon and Trout Assessment Working Group (WGBAST)(Tallinn, 3 - 12 April, 2013)   | 10  | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) (ICES HQ, 3-12 April, 2013)   | 10  | 2 |
| Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS) (ICES HQ, 8-15 April, 2013)   | 8   | 2 |
| Working Group on the Assessment of Hake Monk and Megrim (WGHMM)  | 7   | 2 |
| Working Group on the Assessment of Celtic Seas Stocks (WGCSE) (ICES HQ, 8-17 May, 2013)  | 10  | 2 |
| Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) (ICES HQ, 24-30 April, 2013)  | 10  | 2 |
| Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (WGWIDE) (ICES HQ, August, 2012)  | 7   | 2 |
| Working Group on Southern Horse Mackerel, Anchovy and Sardine (WGHANSA) (Horta, Azores, 21-26 June, 2013)  | 6   | 2 |
| Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP) (ICES HQ, 14-20 March, 2013)  | 7   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Joint EIFAC/ICES Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) (venue are dates not established yet)   | 7   | 2 |
| Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF) (venue and dates not established yet)  | 7   | 2 |
| Working Group on Assessment of New MoU Species (WGNEW) (ICES HQ, 18-22 March, 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
| Working Group on Mixed Fisheries Advice for the North Sea(WGMIXFISH) (ICES HQ, 21-24 May and 5 days in August, 2013)   | 10  | 2 |
| Working Group on Recreational Fisheries Surveys (WGRFS) (Esporales, 22-26 April, 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
| Working Group on the Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities (WGECCO) (ICES HQ, 1-8 May, 2013)   | 8   | 2 |
| Workshop of DCF indicators (WKIND) (ICES HQ, 21-25 October, 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
| ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC) (venue not established yet, 11-15 March, 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
| Third Data Deficiency Coordination meeting with the RACs (WKDDRAC3) (ICES HQ, dates not established yet) - by invitation   | 2-3 | 2 |
| Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks (WKPELA) (venue not established yet, 4-8 February 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Benchmark Workshop on Nephrops (WKPNP) (ICES HQ, 25 February - 1 March, 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
| Benchmark Workshop on Western Waters Roundfish (WKROUND) (Aberdeen, 4-8 February, 2013)  | 8   | 2 |
| Benchmark Workshop on Greenland halibut (WKHAB) (venue not established yet, October 2013)  | 8   | 2 |
| Benchmark Workshop on sprat stocks (WKSPRAT)(ICES HQ, 11-14 February, 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
| Benchmark Workshop on Baltic Sea multispecies (WKBALT)(ICES HQ, 4-8 February, 2013)  | 5   | 2 |
| <b>Working Group on Crangon fisheries and life history (WGCRAN) (ICES HQ, 3–7 June, 2013)</b>  | 5   | 2 |
| <b>Working Group on Cephalopod Fisheries and Life History (WGCEPH)(Caen, France, June, 2013)</b>   | 5   | 2 |
| <b>Stock Identification Methods Working Group (SIMWG) (Hamburg, Germany, 17–21 June, 2013)</b>   | 5   | 2 |
| Study Group on VMS data, its storage, access and tools for analysis (SGVMS) (venue and dates not established yet)  | 3   | 2 |
| Workshop on the Development of Quantitative Assessment Methodologies based on LIFE history traits, exploitation characteristics, and other key parameters for data limited stocks (WKLIFE3) (ICES HQ, 7-11 October 2013) | 5   | 2 |
| Workshop to consider reference points for all stocks (WKMSYREF) (ICES HQ, 23-25 January, 2013)   | 5   | 2 |
| Working Group on Multispecies Assessment Methods (WGSAM) (venue and dates not established yet)   | 5   | 2 |
| Workshop on guidelines for management strategy evaluations (WKGME) (ICES HQ, January 2013)   | 3   | 2 |
| Workshop on indicators for multiannual advice (WKMULTI) (venue and dates not established yet)  | 3-5 | 2 |
|  |     |   |
| Workshop on data data compilation for the 2014 benchmarks 1  | 3   | 2 |
| Workshop on data data compilation for the 2014 benchmarks 2  | 3   | 2 |
| Workshop on data data compilation for the 2014 benchmarks 3  | 3   | 2 |
| Workshop on data data compilation for the 2014 benchmarks 4  | 3   | 2 |
| Workshop on data data compilation for the 2014 benchmarks 5  | 3   | 2 |