

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 8th Liaison Meeting

Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, the Chairs of STECF DCF EWG's and the European Commission

FINAL REPORT

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Brussels, Belgium,
4th and 5th October 2011

The goal is to transform data into information
and information into insight.

Carla Fiorina
(*American Business Executive and
former CEO Hewlett Packard*)

Content

Summary and Main LM Recommendations	6
Introduction.....	15
Section 1 – Addressing TOR 1	18
Main outputs from the RCM's and specific recommendations to LM	
Section 2 – Addressing TOR 2.....	46
Horizontal Issues	
Regional Data Bases	
Feedback from Data End Users	
Surveys	
Participation of Economists in 2011 RCM's	
Section 3 – Addressing TOR 3.....	57
Outcome of First RCM Long Distance	
Section 4 – Addressing TOR 4.....	61
Workshops – review of list for 2011	
Proposals from the economists	
Section 5 – Addressing TOR 5.....	62
RCM's in 2012, Issues, Meeting schedule, TOR's and	
Infrastructure issues	
Section 6 – Addressing TOR 6.....	63
Proposed Studies in 2012	
Section 7 – Addressing TOR 7.....	73
JRC Website	
Road map for DCF post 2013	
References	75
Annex	76
1- List of 2011 RCM Recommendations	
2- LM Terms of Reference	
3 - LM Agenda.	
4 - LM Participants Details	
5 - LM Meeting Roadmap	
6 - DCF Layers	

Summary and Main LM Recommendations

The following are the key recommendations from the 8th Liaison meeting. Please read the report to get a full overview of all LM recommendations, particularly those presented in Section 1.

(1) The 8th Liaison Meeting (LM) between the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMEDS, the ICES representative, the chairs of STECF DCF EWG's and the European Commission was held at DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Brussels, Belgium from 4th to 5th October 2011.

(2) The LM discussed the role and added value of the LM in relation to the DCF framework. 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. A key issue that emerged is the short space of time between the last RCM and the LM (4 days). This does not allow for sufficient preparation of material for the LM. **LM recommends that there should be a gap of at least two weeks between the last RCM and the LM.**

(3) The 8th LM reviewed the recommendations from the 7th LM report and found that **all recommendations had been followed up or were incorporated into ongoing work within the DCF framework.**

(4) The LM noted that there was a great difference in the approach taken by the RCM chairs in terms of the level of detail presented in their reports to the LM. Some presentations of reports were long and detailed while others were short and more focused. The number of recommendations presented to the LM ranged from 29 to 3. Long presentations of RCM reports, with many recommendations, eat into the time available to the LM for discussion and reflection. Many recommendations presented were not key recommendations. In order to deliver an effective and efficient meeting, the **LM recommends that for future presentations of RCM reports, the chairs present no more than 5 key recommendations for consideration and discussion by the LM** (i.e. A total of 5 key recommendations X 5 RCM = 25 recommendations). The chairs should also give a short overview of the report raising any general issues for the LM. **The entire list of recommendations from each RCM report will be attached to future LM reports as an ANNEX to assist National Correspondents in compiling National Programmes and Annual Reports.**

(5) Regarding the governance of the RDB, the RCM's are considered to play a key-role in the implementation and overall steering of the RDB. The main reasons for this are that the RCM's will be the prime end-users of the data base. The interim steering group proposed to set up of a formal Steering Committee (SC) and that the SC should for practical reasons be relatively

small and with the participation of three members by region nominated by the RCMs, preferably with different expertise (e.g. strategy, user, data expert, database expert, developer). The indications from the different RCM's should be harmonised (and if necessary prioritised) by the LM and should be included in the agenda for the SC. The RCM's will be responsible for the content governance of the FishFrame and indicate priority areas for development, reports and data requirement. At the RCM NS&EA the issue concerning data confidentiality and data ownership when uploading data to the FishFrame was discussed. Some MS have concerns on this issue. Therefore, the LM 2011 recommends that the RDB SC prepare such a data policy document. **The LM 2011 recommends that the RDB SC, on its first official meeting discuss and propose a RDB data confidentiality and data ownership policy that all MS uploading their data must follow.**

(6) LM supports the proposed package of FISHFRAME workshops under the DCF meeting list as this is directly related to DCF data and analysis.

The training will be hosted by ICES and DTU Aqua will facilitate the training course. Two and possibly three workshops are needed, starting with the Baltic in February 2012, and then rolling out to the North Sea in May/June. A 3rd workshop could then be run for the Atlantic separately or they could decide to join with the North Sea meeting. One of the main aims of the workshop will be to ensure data is populated into the regional database so that the participants can concentrate on becoming familiar with the raising and hole filling procedures in Fishframe.

(7) The RCM NS&EA 2011 has proposed a roadmap for a data call for 2012 concerning 2010 and 2011 data in order to ensure all data are available to the RCMs in 2012. It has been agreed between the chair of the RCM Baltic, RCM NS&EA and the RCM NEA that the data call covers fisheries in these three regions. **LM supports this proposal and recommends that all MS respond to the data call in 2012.** MS will be requested to upload their data into FishFrame or make data available to the RCMs in the FishFrame format. This data call will include Commercial Landings(CL), Commercial Effort (CE) and Commercial Samples (CS) records for 2010 and 2011. Data call will be launched in February 2012 and with a deadline 4 months later.

(8) Under the 2011 EU–ICES MoU (Annex I, item4: Deliverables supporting the data Collection Framework) (see figure 2 below) ICES is requested to provided information on coverage and quality of collected DCF data. A specific table format was developed and used by ICES expert Groups in 2011. The information on the tables, commonly named as “data-table”, were completed by the EG that met until the beginning June 2011 and these data were inputted to a database at ICES. The database was forward to EC in the third week of June.

(9) LM notes the poor attendance and participation of economists in the RCM's. LM is aware that the role of economists in the RCM is to ensure the linkages between biological and economical data collection. However, LM considered that, according to the DCF, the need of regional coordination with regard to economic data is limited to the definition of homogeneous clustering methodology and to the proposals for "adjustments" of some effort variables. At a European level, much more work is needed to compare methodologies, suggest best practises, assess data quality and propose studies and workshops. **LM recommends the establishment of a economic planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF at European level (fleet economic data, aquaculture, processing sector).** The report of the PGECON should be reviewed by LM and presented at the EU meeting of national correspondents. **LM recommends that TORs for the first PGECON (first quarter of 2012) should to be drafted by the next STECF EWG 11-18. For the future, TORs will be suggested by LM and RCMs. LM recommends that the establishment of the PGECON in 2012 should be considered a pilot approach. LM 2012 will evaluate the results of this approach and will propose a routine framework to be established in the revised DCF.**

(10) The LM reviewed the list of eligible meetings for 2012, to be funded under the DCF. This meeting list will be sent to National Correspondents after this LM to assist MS in any revisions to their 2012 National Programmes.

(11) The LM reviewed the list of studies from the 2011 RCM's. The list of studies was supported by the LM and will be considered by the Commission for possible funding in 2012.

(12) Concerning Métier variables - Intercessional 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 strongly supports the proposed intersession work and recommends that relevant MS (via their National Correspondents) ensure follow-up of this work.

(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 supports this recommendation, as access to VMS and logbook data is critical.

(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 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 métiers at Level 6 is missing. This percentage should be discussed at the National Correspondents meeting in December 2011.

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

(16) Concerning Métier related variables: Regional agreements on framework for the analysis of landings abroad : In order to identify where bilateral agreements on sampling of foreign landings have to be set up, the a common understanding of thresholds for sampling need to be established. LM recommends that this issue is dealt with by STECF EWG 11-19, as different rules were proposed by RCM Baltic and RCM NA.

(17) Concerning Métier related variables: Recreational fisheries; MS are requested to submit the recreational fishery available data (total removals; any biological data) to the next meeting of WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL in 2012. ICES WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL are asked to consider the usefulness of inclusion the recreational fishery data into the stock assessment. If it is useful for certain stocks, WG should provide the list of necessary data needed from recreational fishery in the Baltic. LM supports this recommendation.

(18) Concerning Stock related variables: Inconsistencies in NP proposal tables - LM notes that the updated guidelines for NP proposals are currently under revision.

(19) Concerning Stock related variables: COST responsibility - In order to be able to develop COST, further ownership has to be established and as COST and FishFrame have same exchange format it would seem reasonable for FishFrame to incorporate the COST too and for ICES or another organisation to take the ownership LM recommend that a proposal to include COST tools into the RDB be considered by the RDB Steering Group (see section 2 of LM 2011 report).

(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 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.**

(21) Concerning Stock variables: Clarification of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EC - The text in Chapter III.B2.5.1 should refer to landings or quotas not only quotas, to make sure that shares in landings between MS can be calculated to cover the non TAC species. LM notes that the Commission clarified this issue by referring to landings.

(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 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 WK LIFE 2012 and reported back to the RCMs.**

(23) Concerning Transversal Variables - EWG 11-02 considers that duplication of Control Regulation (CR) data collection commitments in the DCF should be limited to the cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfill the data quality requirements of the DCF. The Expert Group 11-02 recommends including in the DCF commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level a formal system for cooperation between control authorities and the National programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF. **LM recommends regular meetings of staff involved in implementing the Control Regulation and DCF to avoid duplication of work as far as possible. In the longer term, the corresponding regulations will have to be brought in line in order to prevent duplication of data collection work.**

(24) Concerning Transversal variables - LM notes that there are inconsistencies between the DCF and other regulations with regard to duplication of data requirements. **LM recommends that the data collected**

under the Control Regulation should be available for DCF purposes. In the long term, the Control Regulation should be revised with regard to data requirements.

(25) Concerning DCF DCF Requirements - RCM NA recommends that the collection of otoliths of John Dory is continued but not proceed with age readings until an agreed standardized method is developed. **LM supports this recommendation and regards it relevant for the NS&EA region as well. LM recommends PGCCDBS provide guidance on this issue.**

(26) Concerning Feedback from assessment working groups – RCM NA recommends MS to describe in detail the methodology on the separation of the catches of the 2 *Lophius* species. This information should be available to the 2012 benchmark assessment. **LM recommends that the National Correspondents make this information available well before the Benchmark Workshop (WKFLAT) 2012, ideally during November 2011.**

(27) Concerning Stock variables - RCM NA recommends that STECF considers the collection of age information of sardine and anchovy in area VII for inclusion in the new DCF. **LM supports this recommendation.**

(28) Concerning Metier variables - Increase sampling in deep-water fisheries -RCM NA recommends MS to check in their NP proposal 2012 that sufficient coverage of deep-water fisheries on-board sampling is planned, in order to meet the EWG needs. **LM supports this recommendation.**

(29) Concerning Metier variables : Metier descriptions - MS to update metier descriptions already compiled by RCM NA 2010 and using the standard template complete descriptions for any new regionally ranked metiers identified. Updated and new files to be uploaded by Fishing Ground co-ordinators. **LM supports this recommendation and notes that it applies to all regions.**

(30) Concerning Metier and stock variables : Concurrent sampling - MS to fill in template on concurrent sampling and provide it to the chair of RCM NA for compilation and sending to the chair of STECF EWG 11-19 in advance of the December meeting. **LM supports this recommendation and notes that the deadline for submission of questionnaires should be 15 November 2011 in order to allow compilation of information before STECF EWG 11-19.**

(31) Concerning Metier variables : Availability of 2011-2013 National Programmes - RCM NA recommends DG MARE to place all final versions of the 2011-2013 NPs on the DCF website. **LM supports this**

recommendation, but notes that it should be the MS obligation to upload the latest version to the RCM SharePoint.

(32) Concerning Recreational fisheries: Best practice - RCM NA recommends MS to include recommendations and outcomes of PGRFS in the adjustment of their 2012 NP, if relevant. **LM supports this recommendation.**

(33) Concerning Recreational fisheries: Regional coordination - RCM NA recommends that any scope for regional coordination should be dealt with by the ICES Planning group on Recreational Fishery Surveys (PGRFS, renamed to WGRFS in 2012), and the PGRFS should advise the RCMs of any proposal for coordination. **LM supports this recommendation.**

(34) Concerning Stock variables : Quality issues - RCM NA recommends MS to complete properly the tables III.E.1 and III.E.2 **LM supports this recommendation.**

(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 supports this recommendation.**

(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 notes that this work is linked with the outcome of ICES WKPICS1.**

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

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

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

(40) Concerning Data needs for the provision of improved scientific advice in the areas of competence of the different RFMOs - The Group supports the establishment of a long distance experts group for the preparation of the forthcoming DCF which fully address the data needs in relation to ALL the RFMOs for which the EU is contracting party. **LM recommends that this issue be dealt with by an STECF EWG on the revision of the DCF, preferably during the first half of 2012. The data end-users have to be fully involved in this process. LM recommends that PGECON analyse the economic data needs.**

(41) Concerning Strengthening the links with RFMOs - The Group recognizes the need of strengthening the links between the DCF and some of the RFMOs for which the EU is contracting party in order to align requirements in terms of data format and structure as well as receiving feed back on data adequacy. **LM notes that the Commission will follow this recommendation in 2012.**

(42) Concerning Métier identification: description and naming convention - Information about fishing activity of Italian fleet in the CECAF area must be completed. **LM recommends to address this issue to the Italian National Correspondent as soon as possible.**

(43) Concerning Allocation of large pelagic species to one or various RCMs - This group recommends to coordinate the DCF related to the all stocks managed by RFMO's such ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC and WCPFC. This includes the four species: albacore, swordfish, bonito and bluefin that are included in RCM Med&BS This issue is urgent to be clarified by Commission. As this way of proceeding is not efficient for the RCM LDF. **The LM was informed by the Commission that they will resolve this problem during early 2012.**

(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 strongly support this approach and recommends that MS follow this recommendation.**

(45) Concerning Large pelagic issue: Workshop proposal concerning large pelagic sampling The two groups 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 recommends that STECF set up an EWG in 2012.**

(46) Concerning Large pelagic issue: East Atlantic Bluefin tuna and metier related data – Concerning the east bluefin stock (Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean sea), the RCM Med&BS recommend that the metier related data (i.e. length) collected by MS participating in RCM LDF (Portugal, France, Spain) should provided data to the PGMed, for a complete estimation of the relevant CVs of the bluefin. The analysis of the data should be discussed in both relevant RCMs (RCM Med&BS and RCM LDF). **LM notes that this should be part of a Data Call for PGMed. Non-compliance will be reported in Coverage Report.**

(47) Concerning Economic variables: European Database for economic data - The Group supports the creation of database for economic data and recommends to further investigating this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules. **LM supports the idea and COM will follow up the process.**

(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 recognises the observed differences in Data Calls and the Commission will follow-up.**

(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 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.**

(50) Concerning Regional data base – Reconsidering RCM Med&BS position on RDB - RCM Med&BS will carry out an analysis on the relevant perimeter to facilitate the implementation of a RDB, the MS works and to improve efficiency through a broader RDB for Mediterranean and Black Sea. **LM recommends that a representative of the RDB Steering Group attends the next PGMed and present the progress in RDBs in the Baltic, NA and NS&EA regions.**

Introduction

1.1. Background

The 8th Liaison Meeting between the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMEDS, the ICES representative, the chairs of STECF DCF EWG's and the European Commission was held at DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Brussels from 4th to 5th October 2011.

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 (RCM) 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 EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its technical Decision 2008/949/EC specifying practical aspects for data collection, actions planned by MS in their national programme shall be presented according to the following regions:

- the Baltic Sea (ICES areas III b-d),
- the North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIId) and the Eastern Arctic (ICES areas I, II),
- the North Atlantic (ICES areas V-XIV and NAFO areas),
- 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 observe

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 both biologists and economists from each MS involved in the DCR programme (see later discussion on the role of economists in RCM's). 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 8th LM discussed the role and added value of the LM in relation to the DCF framework (see annex 6) . 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.

1.2. RCM Reports discussed at the 8th Liaison Meeting

During the 8th Liaison meeting, the following Draft RCM Reports were discussed (**NOTE: Not all draft reports were available to the meeting. Those not available were presented orally**) ;

- RCM Baltic Sea (RCM Baltic):
Venue: Charlottenlund, Denmark;
29th August to 2nd September 2011.
DRAFT Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Baltic Sea, 2011.
- RCM North Sea & East Arctic, (RCM NS&EA):
Venue: Hamburg, Germany

Dates: 26th September to 30th September 2011
DRAFT Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & East Arctic, 2011

- RCM North Atlantic (RCM NA):
Venue: La Rochelle, France;
Dates: 12th to 15th September 2011.
DRAFT Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for North East Atlantic area, 2009.
- RCM Mediterranean and Black Sea (RCM Med&BS):
Venue: Ljubljana, Slovenia.
Date: 10th to 13th May 2011
DRAFT Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea area, 2011
- RCM Long Distance Fisheries
Venue: Ljubljana, Slovenia
Date: 10th to 13th May 2011
DRAFT Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Long Distance Fisheries 2010

1.3. Participants at 8th Liaison Meeting

Paul Connolly (Chair STECF EWG)
Evelina Sabatella (Chair STECF EWG)
Ireneusz Wojcik (Chair RCM LDF)
Els Torreele (Chair RCM NS&EA)
Myrto Loannou (Co-Chair RCM Med & BS)
Francesca Gravino (Co-Chair RCM Med & BS)
Jorgen Dalskov (Chair RCM Baltic)
Beatriz Guijarro (Chair PGMED)
Christoph Stransky (Chair PGCCDBS)
Mike Armstrong (Incoming Chair PGCCDBS)

Cristina Morgado (ICES)
Herwig Ranner (EU Commission, DG MARES)
Amelie Knapp (EU Commission, DG MARES)

1.4. Terms of Reference and Meeting Agenda.

The terms of reference for the 8th Liaison meeting are given in Annex 1 of this report. The meeting agenda and meeting Roadmap are given in Annex 2 and Annex 3. The meeting Roadmap was used by the chair to keep the meeting focused on the TOR's and to ensure efficient and effective use of meeting time.

Section 1 – Addressing TOR 1

Main outputs from the RCM's and specific recommendations to LM

The chairs of the various RCM's presented a summary of their respective RCM reports together with the main recommendations that should be considered by the LM. The following section presents all the main recommendations considered by the LM. It should be noted that some recommendations do not contain any LM comments. The recommendations considered by the LM are numbered LM 1 to LM 63.

RCM Baltic	LM 1 to LM 18 (18 Recommendations Considered)
RCM NA	LM 19 to LM 47 (29 Recommendations Considered)
RCM NS &EA	LM 48 to LM 50 (3 Recommendations Considered)
RCM LDF	LM 51 to LM 56 (6 Recommendations Considered)
RCM Med & BS	LM 57 to LM 63 (7 Recommendations Considered)

The LM noted that there was a great difference in the approach taken by the RCM chairs in terms of the level of detail presented in their reports to the LM. Some presentations of reports were long and detailed while others were short and more focused. The number of recommendations presented to the LM ranged from 29 to 3. Long presentations of RCM reports, with many recommendations, eat into the time available to the LM for discussion and reflection. Many recommendations presented were not key recommendations.

In order to deliver an effective and efficient meeting, the **LM recommends that for future presentations of RCM reports, the chairs present no more than 5 key recommendations for consideration and discussion by the LM** (i.e. A total of 5 key recommendations X 5 RCM = 25 recommendations). The chairs should also give a short overview of the report raising any general issues for the LM.

LM recommends that the entire list of recommendations from each RCM report will be attached to future LM reports as an ANNEX to assist National Correspondents in compiling National Programmes and Annual Reports (See Annex 1).

Furthermore, not all draft reports were available to the meeting because the RCM's had only recently finished (RCM North Sea finished on 30th September four days prior to this LM). **There is a clear need to allow more time between the final RCM and the LM in order to allow sufficient preparation of report material for the LM.**

RCM Baltic - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LM

LM 1 - Métier variables: Intersessional work	
RCM Baltic 2011 recommendation	For the purpose to give the RCM the possibility to evaluate were task sharing in métier sampling could be achieved. Robust analytical methods should be tested to look for differences / similarities in exploration patterns (size and species distribution, spatial pattern) between countries within 1-2 métiers as a case study.
Follow-up actions needed	Intersessional work. Production of a short report prior of main conclusions.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Participants from Denmark and Sweden
Time frame (Deadline)	1 st July 2012.
LM 2011 comments	LM strongly supports the proposed intersession work and recommends that MS (via their National Correspondents) ensure follow-up of this work.

LM 2 - Métier variables: Tasks for the 2012 meeting	
RCM Baltic 2010 recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	RCM Chair to put in the agenda for the meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM chair and RCM participants
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM 2012
LM 2011 comments	LM 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 to the Nat. Correspondents meeting scheduled in December 2011. Second step, RCMs 2012 should analyse (logbook data and vessels under 10 m)

LM 3 - Sampling of Métier related variables including foreign landings : Requirement of on-line information on fleet behaviour	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	National institutes to get access to online logbook and VMS data
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS administrations
Time frame (Deadline)	As soon as possible
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that this recommendation is common to the NS&EA and NA regions as well. LM supports this recommendation strongly, as access to VMS and logbook data is critical.

LM 4 - Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS should upload all landing data into the Regional Data Base allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements. 2. The RCMs should each year perform an analysis on landings in foreign countries and conclude were bilateral agreements needed 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. 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.
Follow-up actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS to upload data into FishFrame 2. RCMs to check for the need for agreements and ICES/FishFrame respectively 3. MS to set up bilateral agreements
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS 2. RCM 2012 3. MS
Time frame	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annually. Deadline 1st of July 2012 2. Annually 3. Annually. Before deadline for compilation /amendment of NP
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that this recommendation is common to the NS&EA and NA regions as well. LM supports a formal data call (in collaboration with the Commission), noting that MS legally are not obliged to respond within 1 month.

LM 5 - Sampling of métier related variables: Making usage of the outcome of the Lot 2 project on VMS and logbook data	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	Workshop
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation and recommends that MS gain experience with the VMS tool during 2012, before reporting to a Workshop in 2013.

LM 6 - Métier related variables: Regional agreements on framework for the analysis of landings abroad	
RCM Baltic 2011 Agreement	<p>In order to identify where bilateral agreements on sampling of foreign landings have to be set up, the RCM Baltic agreed on a common understanding of thresholds for sampling. It was agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that 200 tonnes limit exemption rule (2010/93/EU B2.1.5) is applied also for foreign landings • that species where less than 5% of a member state's total landings are landed abroad are excluded (corresponding to the application of 1639/2001) • that if No. of samples according the old DCR (1639/2001 appendix XV) are 3 or less, there is no need for sampling of the landings by the landing country and can instead be sampled by the flag country. Also, in these cases no formal agreement needs to be set up. • that the analysis on when bilateral agreements are needed should be done annually by the RCM using landing data from the previous year.
Followed actions needed	Approval by the LM and secondly the Commission should be contacted for acceptance of this proposal
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chair of the RCM Baltic
LM 2011 comment	LM recommends that this issue is dealt with by STECF EWG 11-19, as different rules were proposed by RCM NA.

LM 7 Métier related variables: Recreational fisheries	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS is requested to submit the recreational fishery available data (total removals, any biological data) to the next meeting of WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL in 2012. 2. ICES WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL are asked to consider the usefulness of inclusion the recreational fishery data into the stock assessment. IF it is useful for certain stock WG should provide the list of necessary data needed from recreational fishery in the Baltic.
Follow-up actions needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS responsible scientists 2. Decide during corresponding ICES WG how to proceed
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS national correspondent for recreational fisheries 2. WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL stock assessment coordinators
Time frame (Deadline)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Before corresponding ICES WG meetings (March 2012 – WGBAST, April 2012 - WGBFAS, September 2012 - WGEEL) 2. March-September 2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation.

LM 8 - Stock related variables: Inconsistencies in NP proposal tables	
RCM Baltic 2010 & 2011 Recommendation	<p>To avoid inconsistencies and errors in the tables filled in by MS in their NP proposals, the following are recommended:</p> <p>Table III.E.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species list in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu) following the list established by FishFrame. - Area/Stock definition in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu), following the list established by FishFrame, see recommendation below. - MS should follow the guidelines and put in absolute figures for landings even if landings are below 200 tones. - MS should follow the guidelines and put in absolute figures for percentage even if the percentage is below 10%. <p>Table III.E.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species list in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu) following the list established by FishFrame - Area/Stock definition in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu) following the list established by FishFrame, see recommendation below. - Data sources in a fixed list (survey, sea sampling, market sampling etc).
Follow-up actions needed	Revision of the Guidelines and templates for future NP proposal
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	To be considered by the Commission and STECF while updating the guidelines
Time frame (Deadline)	To be considered in the next update of the guidelines
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that the updated guidelines for NP proposals are currently under revision

LM 9 - Stock related variables: data quality and deficiencies.	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	MS to look into discard sampling program according to WKACCU 2008 guidelines (12 aspects).
Follow-up actions needed	The Chair RCM and all the MS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chair RCM and all the MS
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM Baltic 2012

LM 10 - Stock related variables: Upload of cod (sd22-24) data to FishFrame	
RCM Baltic 2010 Recommendation	In order to be able to analyse the current sampling level of cod in the Baltic and suggest optimal sampling levels for future regional coordinated sampling, the data must be available in an agreed format and checked for errors. Data has to be uploaded in FishFrame
Follow-up actions needed	All MS should upload 2010 cod data into FishFrame before the end of October 2012. Data collected in 2010 Data on landing statistic on monthly and rectangle basis and all commercial sampling on sample basis should be uploaded.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Marie Storr-Paulsen (DEN), Katja Ringdahl (Sweden)
Time frame (Deadline)	To be presented preferably in RCM 2012 (Sept 2012)

LM 11 - Stock related variables: COST responsibility	
RCM Baltic 2010 Recommendation	In order to be able to develop COST further ownership has to be established and as COST and FishFrame have same exchange format it would seem reasonable for FishFrame to incorporate the COST tool. And for ICES or another organisation to take the ownership
Follow-up actions needed	ICES to analyse the possibility for a technical long term solution
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chairs of the RCMs and the RDB steering committee in cooperation with ICES.
Time frame (Deadline)	2012-2013
LM 2011 comments	LM recommend that a proposal to include COST tools into the RDB be considered by the RDB Steering Group (see section 2 of LM 2011 report).

LM 12 - Stock related variables: task sharing of age reading of species caught in BITS survey, eel, and salmonids.	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	RCM Baltic requests WGBIFS to clarify the BITS flatfish species to be sampled (maturity, otoliths, sex, etc.).
Follow-up actions needed	Clarification needed in the BITS manual, with numbers by species to be sampled
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	WGBIFS
Time frame (Deadline)	WGBIFS 2012

LM 13 - Stock related variables: task sharing of age reading of flatfish species caught in BITS survey, eel, and salmon.	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<p>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 recommends the following MS to investigate their capability to read relevant age samples of interested MS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Germany: plaice (2) Denmark: plaice, dab and sole (3) Poland: flounder and turbot (4) Sweden: eel and salmon (5) Finland: salmon <p>The suggested coordination should be discussed, agreed and decided by the National Correspondents so the first agreements could be established before December 2011.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Discussion and agreements to be taken place among National Correspondents
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Participants of RCM Baltic 2011 from the MS listed above to report back the Chair of RCM Baltic. EFARO
Time frame (Deadline)	October 1 st 2011
LM 2011 comments	<p>LM strongly supports this approach and recommends that ICES PGCCDBS provides guidance on harmonisation and documentation of the sampling, storage and age reading methods used.</p> <p>LM encourages other RCMs to use a similar approach.</p>

LM 14 - Stock related variables: stomach sampling	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	Regarding EA and MSFD, RCM Baltic suggests WGBIFS and WGBFAS to address more consideration to stomach sampling
Follow-up actions needed	Feedback from WGBIFS and WGBFAS if they consider stomach sampling relevant
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Chairs of WGBIFS and WGBFAS
Time frame (Deadline)	WGBIFS and WGBFAS 2012

LM 15 - Stock variables: clarification of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EC	
RCM Baltic Recommendations	<p>1. In order to avoid that some stocks are not sampled by any MS the exemption rules (III.B2.5.1.(b) in Decision 2010/93/EU should be clarified in the next regulation.</p> <p>2. The text in Chapter III.B2.5.1 should refer to <u>landings</u> or quotas not only quotas, to make sure that shares in landings between MS can be calculated to cover the non TAC species.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Revision of the Guidelines and templates for future NP proposal
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	To be considered by the Commission and STECF while updating the guidelines
Time frame (Deadline)	To be considered in the next update of the guidelines
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that the Commission clarified this issue by referring to <u>landings</u> .

LM 16 - Stock variables: stocks with low landings	
RCM Baltic Recommendations	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.
Follow-up actions needed	Feedback from LM, ICES and STECF
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Chair for RCM Baltic
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM 2012
LM 2011 comments	LM 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 17 - Transversal variables	
STECF EWG 11-04 recommendation	EWG 11-04 considers that duplication of Control Regulation (CR) data collection commitments in the DCF should be limited to the cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfill the data quality requirements of the DCF. The Expert Group 11-04 recommends including in the DCF commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level a formal system for cooperation between control authorities and the National programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF.
Follow-up actions needed	Creation of cooperative system
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
RCM Baltic 2011 comment	RCM agrees that duplicate time series should be avoided whenever possible. RCM agrees as well, that there is a need for cooperation. Such cooperation should be arranged on a national level and harmonized in RCM.
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends regular meetings of staff involved in implementing the Control Regulation and DCF to avoid duplication of work as far as possible. In the longer term, the corresponding regulations will have to be brought in line in order to prevent duplication of data collection work.

LM 18 - Transversal variables	
RCM Baltic 2011 recommendation	<p>Variables Hours fished and soaking time should be added to Control Regulation and logbook as mandatory. After that, variable Fishing time might be withdrawn from CR or defined as hours fished for active gears and soaking time for passive gears.</p> <p>Variables Number of hooks and lines, Number of pots and traps, number of rigs should be defined more clearly in Control regulation and after that a reference from DCF to Control regulation should be added.</p> <p>Concerning number and height of nets , a more comprehensive approach is available in Control regulation namely length, height and mesh size of the nets. This should be included in DCF by a reference to Control regulation</p> <p>Use of selective devices should be mandatory reported in the logbook.</p> <p>Number of fishing operations should be included for all active gears in DCF (now only purse seine)</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<p>Logbooks should be developed and updated so that the data needed can be obtained via logbooks.</p> <p>In the short term some of improvements may be reached nationally, as member states may change the optional fields of logbook as mandatory. Updating of DCF is also needed.</p> <p>In mid-term, legislative updates are needed</p>
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>In short term: NCs with national control authorities (formal cooperation between DCF and CR-people)</p> <p>For the legislation process: Liaison meeting > STECF > Commission</p>
Time frame (Deadline)	ASAP
LM 2011 comments	<p>LM notes that there are inconsistencies between the DCF and other regulations with regard to duplication of data requirements.</p> <p>LM recommends that the data collected under the Control Regulation should be available for DCF purposes.</p> <p>In the long term, the Control Regulation should be revised with regard to data requirements.</p>

RCM NA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LM

LM 19 - DCF Requirements	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends that the collection of otoliths of John Dory is continued but not proceed with age readings until an agreed standardized method is developed.
Follow-up actions needed	All MS having catches of John Dory to collect otoliths
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	None
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation and regards it relevant for the NS&EA region as well. LM recommends that PGCCDBS provides guidance on

LM 20 - Feedback from assessment working groups	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to describe in detail the methodology on the separation of the catches of the 2 <i>Lophius</i> species. This information should be available to the 2012 benchmark assessment.
Follow-up actions needed	Prepare a document to be forwarded to the WGHMM <i>Lophius</i> stock coordinators.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS having catches of <i>Lophius</i> in the Atlantic and having not provided this information to the ICES assessment Working group in 2011.
Time frame (Deadline)	End of 2011
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends that the National Correspondents make this information available well before the Benchmark Workshop (WKFLAT) 2012, ideally during November 2011.

LM 21 - Stock variables	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends that STECF considers the collection of age information of sardine and anchovy in area VII for inclusion in the new DCF.
Follow-up actions needed	STECF to include this point when discussing modifications of the current DCF for the period 2014 onward
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation

LM 22 - Metier variables : Increase sampling in deep-water fisheries	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to check in their NP proposal 2012 that sufficient coverage of deep-water fisheries on-board sampling is planned, in order to meet the EWG needs.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to check and consider increasing the sampling coverage of deep-water fisheries in their amendment of 2012 NP proposal.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation.

LM 23 - Metier variables : Metier descriptions	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	MS to update metier descriptions already compiled by RCM NA 2010 and using the standard template complete descriptions for any new regionally ranked metiers identified. Updated and new files to be uploaded by Fishing Ground co-ordinators.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to complete metier descriptions
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM NA 2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation and notes that it applies to all regions.

LM 24 - Metier and stock variables : Concurrent sampling	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	MS to fill in template on concurrent sampling and provide it to the chair of RCM NA for compilation and sending to the chair of STECF EWG 11-19 in advance of the December meeting
Follow-up actions needed	MS to fill the template Chair of RCM NA to compile all questionnaires and sent them to the chair of STECF EWG 11-19
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS, chair of RCM NA
Time frame (Deadline)	November 31 2011
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation and notes that the deadline for submission of questionnaires should be 15 November 2011 in order to allow compilation of information before STECF EWG 11-19.

LM 25 - Metier variables : Merging metier	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends RCM participants to contact relevant staff within their institute to attend the ICES WKPICS1 meeting on practical implementation of statistical sound catch sampling programmes
Follow-up actions needed	Identify experts for attending WKPICS1
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM NA participants
Time frame (Deadline)	November 2011

LM 26 - Metier variables : Availability of 2011-2013 National Programmes	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends DG MARE to place all final versions of the 2011-2013 NPs on the DCF website.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and JRC to arrange uploading of the documents on the DCF public website
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	As soon as possible
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation, but notes that it should be the MS obligation to upload the latest version to the RCM SharePoint.

LM 27 - Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS should make sure that their landings abroad are included in the Regional Database upload allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements. The RCMs should perform an annual 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. Standard output algorithms to enable analysis of compiled data should be included in the RDB.
Follow-up actions	MS to make sure landings abroad data are included into the RDB
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	Annually. Deadline 1 st of July 2012.
LM 2011 comments	See RCM Baltic

LM 28 - Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	<p>In order to identify where bilateral agreements on sampling of foreign landings have to be set up, the RCM NA proposes a common understanding of thresholds for sampling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ where less than 5% of a member state's total landings, sampling of landings abroad are excluded (corresponding to the application of 1639/2001), given that the other 95% of the landings are sufficiently sampled by the landing countries for the relevant métier(s) ▪ the analysis on when bilateral agreements are needed, should be done annually by the RCM using landing data from the previous year
Follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF to reflect on this m
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends that this issue is dealt with by STECF EWG 11-19, as different rules were proposed by RCM Baltic.

LM 29 - Sampling of métier related variables: Making use of the outcome of the Lot 2 project on VMS and logbook data	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<p>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.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Organisation of workshop
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation and recommends that MS gain experience with the VMS tools during 2012, before reporting to a workshop in 2013.

LM 30 - Recreational fisheries: Best practice.	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to include recommendations and outcomes of PGRFS in the adjustment of their 2012 NP, if relevant..
Follow-up actions needed	Revising MS NP proposals 2012.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS.
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation

LM 31 - Recreational fisheries: Regional coordination.	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends that any scope for regional coordination should be dealt with by the ICES Planning group on Recreational Fishery Surveys (PGRFS), and the PGRFS should advise the RCMs of any proposal for coordination.
Follow-up actions needed	Discussion in the future PGRFS meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES and PGRFS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation

LM 32 - Recreational fisheries: Regional coordination.	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends DG MARE to include PGRFS under the eligible list of meetings
Follow-up actions needed	STECF to comment on this, and DG MARE to take appropriate action
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF and DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2011
LM 2011 comments	Done (see LM 2011 report section 4 on the list of eligible meetings 2012)

LM 33 - Stock variables : Quality issues	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to complete properly the tables III.E.1 and III.E.2
Follow-up actions needed	MS to review their tables of the NP Proposal 2011-2013
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation.

LM 34 - Stock variables : Quality issues	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and STECF to review biological parameters by stock in view of the future DCF.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM supports this recommendation.

LM 35 - Stock variables : Sampling intensities	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends an inter sessional study on combining the biological data in FishFrame, and estimating the biological parameters at the stock level. Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) was listed as a candidate due to the number of MS having sampling obligations.
Follow-up actions needed	MS having blue whiting samples
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Coordinator to be found by chair of RCM NA
Time frame (Deadline)	May 2012

LM 36 - Stock variables : Sampling intensities	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	In view of the large bandwidth of sampling intensities between the stocks (from very low to extremely high), RCM NA recommends ICES PGCCDBS to reflect on statistical issues related to optimal numbers to sample and minimal requirement under which sampling may only be a waste of time and resource.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES PGCCDBS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

LM 37 - Stock variables : Task-sharing for ageing	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends ICES PGCCDBS to discuss the statistical and methodological procedures which would enable sharing international information on biological parameters.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES PGCCDBS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

LM 38 - Stock variables : Regional collection	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends all MS to have a careful look at the tables in annex VII, in order to identify stocks for which a bilateral agreement would improve the sampling scheme.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to identify bilateral agreement, contact NC and propose such agreement in their NP proposal for 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011

LM 39 - Quality issues : data collection protocols	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES PGCCDBS for guidance and STECF for drafting future NP proposal guidelines
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that this work is linked with the outcome of ICES WKPICS1.

LM 40 - Quality issues : Quality control	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	Echoing on the 7 th LM (2010) recommendation, RCM NA recommends the setting of a sharepoint facility to serve the RCM needs and as a repository for all agreed references.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and JRC to agree on a procedure
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, STECF, JRC
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

LM 41 - Quality issues : Stock variables	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	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
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and STECF during discussion of the future DCF
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that this information will be included in the RDB in future, once filled with MS data.

LM 42 - Metier variables : Regional ranking / RDB	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends that all MS investigate data loaded to RDB under metier 'No_logbook' and replace with the agreed code given in section 3.1 and request the RDB steering group to endorse these as the only permitted entries within the fields defined.
Follow-up actions needed	Resubmit data into the regional database after correction
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	July 2012
LM 2011 comments	See RCM Baltic recommendation

LM 43 - Metier variables : Regional ranking/ RDB	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommended the use of the standard code MIS_MIS_0_0_0 to replace 'No_Matrix' for fisheries not specified in Annex IV of the Commission Decision.
Follow-up actions needed	Resubmit data into the regional database after correction
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	July 2012
LM 2011 comments	See RCM Baltic recommendation

LM 44 - Metier variables : Regional ranking	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends STECF to investigate more closely the methods used by MS to deal with <10m transversal variables
Follow-up actions needed	Review NP proposals
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF EWG 11-18
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2011
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends that STECF EWG 11-18 discusses this issue and adds a corresponding ToR.

LM 45 - Quality issues : internal RCM work	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends that a module be implemented in the RDB containing information provided now in the DCF set of Excel tables, such as sampling plan and realised, achieved precision, etc...
Follow-up actions needed	Steering Committee of the RDB to include meta-information in the design of the RDB.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF
Timeframe (Deadline)	October 2011

LM 46 - Quality issues : COST follow-up	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends a follow-up of the COST project to ensure a maintenance of the statistical tool and improve the current settings, including user-friendly interface and a connexion to a Regional database.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE to investigate ways for financing such a project
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that the inclusion of COST tools in the RDB is planned.

LM 47 - Surveys	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	The RCM NA recommends that the inclusion of surveys on to the DCF list of potential surveys and the modification of survey designs be considered by STECF
Follow-up actions needed	STECF to evaluate these surveys for inclusion on to the DCF list of eligible surveys
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Chair of STECF EWG 11-19
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2011

RCM NS&EA - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LM

LM 48 - Quality issues: use of FishFrame as regional database	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendation	The RCM NS&EA recommends that that all MS respond to the data call in 2012 from the chair of RCM NS&EA and load their data to FishFrame or make it available in the FishFrame format. This data call will include Commercial Landings(CL), Commercail Effort (CE) and Commerical Samples (CS) records for 2010 and 2011.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to have responded to the data call. If issues persist then ICES to inform the chair of RCM NS&EA
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS and chair of RCM NS&EA
Time frame (Deadline)	Data call in February 2012 and then deadline 4 months later
LM 2011 comment	See RCM Baltic recommendations.

LM 49 - Quality issues: sampling summary information	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends ICES makes the full list of NC contacts available to all WGs as part of its standard information pack.
Follow-up actions needed	None
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES
Time frame (Deadline)	Immediately

LM 50 - Stock Variables: Studies on shared international age–length keys	
RCM NS & EA 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to review their sampling for ages and construction of ALKs (if used). Commission to frame collection regulations so as to encourage best statistical practice.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, Commission
Time frame (Deadline)	To be considered for the new DCF
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that this issue will be discussed further in the light of a revised DCF.

RCM LDF - RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LM

LM 51 - Data needs for the provision of improved scientific advice in the areas of competence of the different RFMOs	
RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation	The Group supports the establishment of a long distance experts group for the preparation of the forthcoming DCF which fully address the data needs in relation to ALL the RFMOs for which the EU is contracting party.
Follow-up actions needed	Experts meeting to be convened well before the adoption of the future multiannual programme
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE & concerned MS
LM comment	LM recommends that this issue be dealt with by an STECF EWG on the revision of the DCF, preferably during the first half of 2012. The data end-users have to be fully involved in this process. LM recommends that PGECON analyse the economic data needs.

LM 52 - Strengthening the links with RFMOs	
RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation	The Group recognizes the need of strengthening the links between the DCF and some of the RFMOs for which the EU is contracting party in order to align requirements in terms of data format and structure as well as receiving feed back on data adequacy.
Follow-up actions needed	Better communication between different DG MARE services and relevant RFMOs
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE units B1 and C3
LM comment	LM notes that the Commission will follow this recommendation in 2012

LM 53 - Métier identification: description and naming convention	
RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	Information about fishing activity of Italian fleet in the CECAF area must be completed.
Follow-up actions needed	Description or full templates (used in 2010) to be prepared by Italy.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Italy
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the next LM.
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends to address this issue to the Italian National Correspondent as soon as possible.

LM 54 - Métier identification: description and naming convention	
RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	The NP of Italy contains text information on a fishery in CECAF area including commitment to sampling, but it is not reflected in the relevant tables.
Follow-up actions needed	The Italian NP required to be modified.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Italy
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the 31 October 2011.
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends to address this issue to the Italian National Correspondent as soon as possible.

LM 55 - Métier variables: Data availability at RCM	
RCM LDF 2010 Recommendation	Availability of catch, effort, and related data split by MS at Sharepoint, at RCM-meetings, and distributed prior to RCM
Follow-up actions needed	EC will have to compile the data-sets that are transmitted to SPRFMO, into accessible formats for MS, scientists prior to RCM
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Administrators at CION
Time frame (Deadline)	Quarter prior to meeting of RCM LDF
LM 2011 comments	See general section on intersession work.

LM 56 - Allocation of large pelagic species to one or various RCMs.	
RCM LDF 2011 Large Pelagics Sub-group Recommendation	This group recommends to coordinate the DCF related to the all stocks managed by RFMO's such ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC and WCPFC. This includes the four species: albacore, swordfish, bonito and bluefin that are included in RCM Med&BS. This issue is urgent to be clarified by Commission. As this way of proceeding is not efficient for the RCM LDF.
Follow-up actions needed	Scheduled a meeting as soon as possible
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE; RCM LDF; RCM MED&BS; MS
Time frame (Deadline)	Next Liaison Meeting in 2011.
LM 2011 comments	The LM was informed by the Commission that this problem will be solved during early 2012.

RCM Med &BS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LM

LM 57 - Metier related variables: Large pelagic sampling	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCMMed&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, RCMMed&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).
Follow –up actions needed	Member states to review their National Programs in accordance of the PGMed results
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, LIAISON, PGMed, RCMMed&BS, DGMARE
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012 and review of the NP in autumn
LM 2011 comments	LM strongly support this approach and recommends that MS follow this recommendation.

LM 58 - Large pelagic issue: Workshop proposal concerning large pelagic sampling	
RCM MED&BS 2011 and RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation	The two groups 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.
Follow –up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE; Liaison meeting; RCM LDF; RCMMED&BS; ICCAT; MS
Time frame (Deadline)	
LM 2011 comments	LM recommends that STECF set up an EWG in 2012.

LM 59 - Large pelagic issue: East Atlantic Bluefin tuna and metier related data	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	Concerning the east bluefin stock (Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean sea), the RCMMed&BS recommend that the metier related data (i.e. length) collected by MS participating in RCM LDF (Portugal, France, Spain) should provided data to the PGMed, for a complete estimation of the relevant CVs of the bluefin. The analysis of the data should be discussed in both relevant RCMs (RCMMed&BS and RCM LDF).
Follow –up actions needed	Transmission of data to PGMed chair
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS (France, Spain) ; RCM LDF; RCMMed&BS; PGMed chair; Liaison Meeting.
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the 2012 PGMed meeting
LM 2011 comments	LM notes that this should be part of a Data Call for PGMed. Non-compliance will be reported in Coverage Report.

LM 60 - Economic variables: European Database for economic data	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	The Group supports the creation of database for economic data and recommends to further investigating this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules.
Follow –up actions needed	Other RCMs should consider above-mentioned proposal.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM; LIAISON; DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	
LM 2011 comments	LM supports the idea and COM will follow up the process.

LM 61 - Economic variables: Data calls	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	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 and the
Follow –up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	LIAISON; DG MARE, MS, JRC
Time frame (Deadline)	
LM 2011 comments	LM recognises the observed differences in Data Calls and the Commission will follow-up.

LM 62 - Review feedback from data end users: Data presentation	
RCMMED&BS 2011	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 <u>6 months following the reference year of the collection of data</u> ; this time period should be respected by the data calls and the end users.
Follow –up actions needed	MS modify national programmes accordingly
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, JRC, SGMED, DG MARE, Liaison Meeting; RCMMED&BS
LM 2011 comments	LM 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 63 - Regional data base – Reconsidering RCMMed&BS position on RDB	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	<p>MSs participated to RCMMed&BS 2011 (except Spain) in view of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the general trend of DCF to improve the use of data collected under the DCF; ii) the improvements to facilitate extraction of validated datasets under common formats by implementing RDB; iii) the LM, SGRN and STECF recommendations pushing MS to collaborate for implementing such data bases at least at RCM level; iv) the possible changes in stocks assessment (i.e. a better knowledge on stocks boundaries for the Mediterranean species); v) the increasing GFCM requirements, especially with annual Task 1 data calls; vi) the future DCF requirements, <p>have reconsidered their position on the usefulness and adequacy of a Mediterranean RDB not only reduced to large pelagic issues and surveys. RCMMed&BS will carry out an analysis on the relevant perimeter to facilitate the implementation of a RDB, the MS works and to improve efficiency through a broader RDB for Mediterranean and Black Sea.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Liaison meeting, SGRN, STECF, RCMMed&BS, MS,
Time frame (Deadline)	2012
LM 2011 comment	LM recommends that a representative of the RDB Steering Group attends the next PGMed and present the progress in RDBs in the Baltic, NA and NS&EA regions.

Section 2 – Addressing TOR 2

Horizontal Issues

Regional Data Bases

Review of Surveys

Participation of Economists on RCM's in 2010

1 Regional Data Bases

Based on recommendations from the RCM Baltic, RCM NS&EA and RCM NEA in 2010 the 7th Liaison meeting (Anon 2010a) recommended an interim steering group for a regional database (RDB) for data collected in the Data Collection Framework (DCF) be established and to met in the beginning of 2011. The interim steering committee generated a proposal and a road map on how the framework around a RDB could be organised and how the database itself could be implemented, managed, developed and used (Anon 2010b). The RCM Baltic, RCM NS&EA and some of the RCM NEA MSs decided to use the regional data base "FishFrame" www.fishframe.org that has been developed by DTU Aqua, Denmark.

For the governance of the RDB the RCM's are considered to play a key-role in the implementation and overall steering of the RDB. The main reasons for this are that the RCM's will be the prime end-users of the data base. The interim steering group proposed to set up of a formal Steering Committee (SC) and that the SC should for practical reasons be relatively small and with the participation of three members by region nominated by the RCMs, preferably with different expertise (e.g. strategy, user, data expert, database expert, developer). At least one of their nominees should attend the regular RCM meeting. The SC should also include a representative of ICES that will be the host of the FishFrame. If non-EU countries express interest to participate in a RDB this would be very welcome and participation of these countries in the SC should be allowed.

The RCMs have proposed the following members of the RDB-SC (highlighted areas indicate names to be selected at future date)			
RCM Baltic	Katja Ringdahl, Sweden	Henrik Degel, Denmark	Jørgen Dalskov, Denmark
RCM NS&EA	Sieto Verver, Netherlands	Richard Ayers, UK-England	Els Torreele, Belgium
RCM NEA	Alastair Pout, UK-Scotland	NN, Ireland	NN, Portugal
ICES	Neil Holdsworth	NN	

The SC should be responsible for strategic planning, operational and technical issues and should also provide feed-back to the RCM's. The participation in the SC meetings should reflect the issues to be discussed e.g. strategic discussions or specific technical issues and could thereby, if necessary, vary.

The RCM's will be responsible for the content governance of the FishFrame and indicate priority areas for development, reports and data requirement. The indications from the different RCM's should be harmonised (and if necessary prioritised) by the Liaison meeting and should be included in the agenda for the SC. Tasks and responsibilities for the proposed Steering Committee, the RCM's and the Liaison Meeting are shown in figure 1.

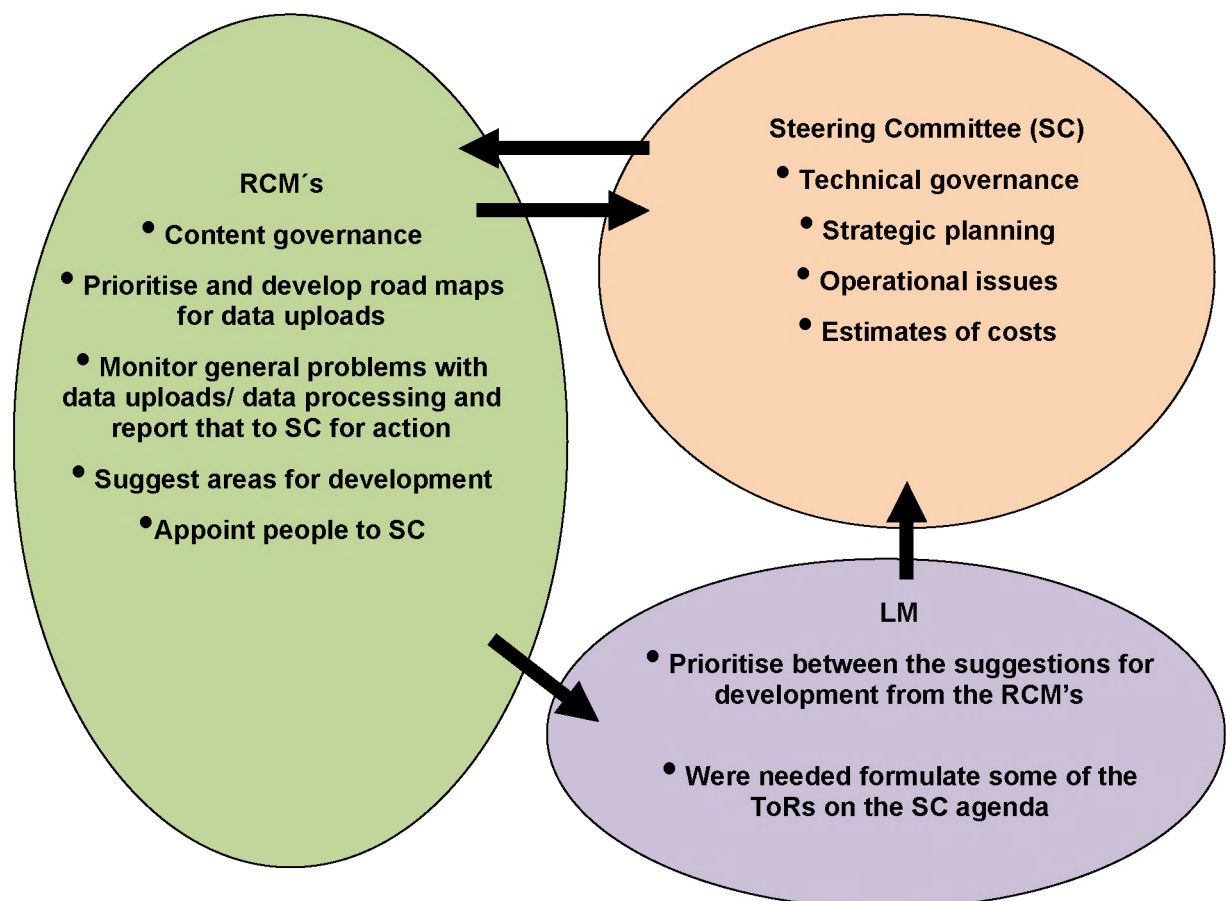


Figure 1 showing tasks and responsibilities for the proposed Steering Committee, the RCM's and the Liaison Meeting in the management of the RDB.

As mentioned the ICES has accepted to host FishFrame from January 2012 and the cost implications are presently discussed between the ICES and the Commission services.

At the RCM NS&EA it was discussed that the issue concerning data confidentiality and data ownership when uploading data to the FishFrame should be dealt with. Some MSs have concerns on this issue. Therefore, the LM 2011 recommends that the RDB SC is preparing such a data policy document.

Regional data base: Data confidentiality and data ownership	
LM 2011 recommendation	The LM 2011 recommends that the RDB SC on its first official meeting discuss and propose a RDB data confidentiality and data ownership policy that all MS uploading their data have to follow
Follow-up actions needed	RDB-SC Chair to put in the agenda for the meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RDB-SC chair to report to the RCM chairs, and RCM participants and the National Correspondents.
Time frame (Deadline)	RDB-SC meeting in primo 2012

Update on progress of the FishFrame (Status by September 2011)

Steering group

The interim steering committee met in February 2011 and kick started the process of establishing the regional database. The RCM's are in the process of nominating 3 representatives from each region to participate in the Regional Fisheries Database Steering Committee (RDB-SC). It is expected that this group will meet in early winter 2011 and a chair will be appointed.

Migration of FishFrame

The FishFrame platform (DTU Aqua, Denmark) has been adopted as the Regional Fisheries Database. The FishFrame platform is scheduled to be migrated to the ICES Secretariat in December 2011 to establish the regional database. The ICES Secretariat will be responsible for the maintenance and hosting of the system, however in the first 2 years of operation a migration plan and budget has been drawn up that will include resources from DTU to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer. DTU have confirmed that the source code for the FishFrame software is open source, which means the

programme can be used and developed with the provision that DTU are acknowledged as the authors of the original code.

Documentation for the functions and procedures in FishFrame v5.0 will be finalised by DTU Aqua by December 2011. At the same time, bug fixing will be carried out based on the experiences of the testing of data uploading and this will also be completed by December 2011.

Development of FishFrame

It is evident that development of the FishFrame platform will be necessary to ensure it meets the needs of a requirement for a regional fisheries database.

Specifically the Regional database steering group will need to take a view on whether the COST tool is incorporated into the development of FishFrame or kept as a separate software tool. As a guide, it is estimated by DTU that the incorporation of COST into FishFrame would take 12 man-months in effort of programmer. This to be considered in long-term and not for the next year and furthermore, to be considered in the EU – ICES Memorandum of Understanding.

Workshops

It is proposed to include a package of workshops under the DCF meeting list as this is directly related to DCF data and analysis. Terms of reference for the workshops will be drafted by DTU Aqua/ICES for discussion at the Liaison Meeting 4-5 October. The training will be hosted by ICES and DTU Aqua will facilitate the training course. 2 or possibly 3 workshops are needed, starting with the Baltic in February 2012, and then rolling out to the North Sea in May/June. A 3rd workshop could then be run for the Atlantic separately or they could decide to join with the North Sea meeting. One of the main aims of the workshop will be to ensure data is populated into the regional database so that the participants can concentrate on becoming familiar with the raising and hole filling procedures in Fishframe.

Calendar of next milestones

October 2011	November 2011	December 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012	May/June 2012
Regional Database Steering group established	1 st Meeting of the Steering group and election of chair	Delivery of FishFrame documentation	Setup of system at ICES	Testing and finalisation of System at ICES	Baltic region workshop	North Sea and Atlantic region workshops

Outcome of the 2011 RCM's use of FishFrame

Prior to the RCM's for the Baltic, the North Sea and Eastern Arctic, and the North Eastern Atlantic an official Data Call was launched.

The Data Call was launched ultimo June 2011 and was as the following:

DATA CALL:

MS are requested to upload 2010 national landings and effort data at DCF level 6 data into FishFrame before August 19, 2011. The aim of this data call is twofold:

- To gain experience in uploading data to FishFrame and to discuss these experiences at the RCM's
- To facilitate trial analyses for regional sampling strategies at the upcoming RCM's.

Please upload the data into FishFrame prior to the deadline. The FishFrame format specifications, upload facilities and contact details are available at www.fishframe.org. You can request a password for the website through the contact form available.

Experience gained from uploading to Regional Database (FishFrame v5)

In the RCM NS&EA 2011 report a detailed description of the feedback from the data uploaders and the management of the FishFrame. Most of the "problems" encountered are minor and decisions on e.g. whether a variable should be mandatory or optional have to be dealt with by the Steering Committee.

Feedback from the Baltic RCM.

The RCM Baltic used FishFrame to rank the metiers. For the RCM Baltic 2011 only used effort (Days at Sea) and landings for 2010, since this was ask for in the data call before the meeting. Nearly all MS have uploaded effort (Days at sea) and landings per metier (level 6) before the meeting. One MS uploaded data on level 5. The outcome of the ranking of metier based on data in FishFrame was compared with the ranking based on the national programs 2011-2013. It was expected that the outcome of the two ranking methods would be different between the 2010 data uploaded to FishFrame and the data in the NP, since they are based on different years. Some of the differences are due to renaming of metiers, and possible reallocation.

<i>Relevant MS within the RCM Baltic Region (ICES IIIb,c,d)</i>
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden
<i>MS that uploaded data</i>
Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Feedback from the NS&EA RCM

<i>Relevant MS within the RCM NS&EA (ICES I, II, IIIa, VI, VIIId, XIV)</i>
Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK
<i>MS that uploaded data</i>
Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and UK

Feedback from the NEA RCM

Also for the RCM NEA a data call has been launched in order to prepare the ground of a regional ranking and also to gain experience in uploading data into a regional database. At the start of the RCM, France, Spain and Portugal had not uploaded their data into the test regional database, which had severe consequences in RCM ability to discuss gaps and discrepancies in the sampling programmes. In terms of experience, the countries having uploaded their data could provide a well appreciated feed-back.

Further the RCM NA considered it desirable to implement a module in the RDB containing meta information on proposed (NP) and realised (AR) sampling intensities. Presently this information is provided in the standard Excel tables attached to the national NP's and AR's.

<i>Relevant MS within the RCM NEA Region (ICES V–XIII)</i>
Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and UK
<i>MS that uploaded data</i>
Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and UK

Roadmap for the data calls before the RCM's in 2012

The RCM NS&EA 2011 has proposed a roadmap for a data call for 2012 concerning 2010 and 2011 data in order to ensure all data are available to the RCMs in 2012. It has been agreed between the chair of the RCM Baltic, RCM NS&EA and the RCM NEA that the data call covers fisheries in these three regions. This proposal is supported by the LM and that all MS respond to the data call in 2012. MS will be requested to upload their data into FishFrame or make data available to the RCMs in the FishFrame format. This data call will include Commercial Landings(CL), Commercial Effort (CE) and Commercial Samples (CS) records for 2010 and 2011. Data call will be launched in February 2012 and with a deadline 4 months later.

2 Feedback from the data end-users

Under the 2011 EU–ICES MoU (Annex I, item4: Deliverables supporting the data Collection Framework) (see figure 2 below) ICES is requested to provided information on coverage and quality of collected DCF data. A specific format was requested to be used.

4. Deliverables supporting the Data Collection Framework

ICES will support the implementation of the Data Collection Framework by facilitating planning expert group meetings in support of data collection.

In addition, ICES will assist the EU by implementing Data Collection community web-sites supporting exchange of information between scientific experts involved in the preparation for, the work during and the follow-up after Regional Coordination Meetings related to the Data Collection Framework.

ICES will communicate to the EU any problems encountered regarding access to data, data quality and completeness of data. This shall in particular apply to data collected through the Data Collection Framework (DCF) established by Commission Regulation (EC) N° 199/2008 of 25 February 2008).

ICES will provide information on coverage and quality of collected DCF data which are of relevant use for the advisory deliverables according to the following format established by DG Mare:

Country:												
Landings						Discards					Tuning fleet data	
Stock	Age	Length	Weight	Maturity	Sex ratio	Age	Length	Weight	Maturity	Sex ratio	Commercial fleets	Surveys at Sea

In the framework of community projects ICES will also provide feedback on the data that has been requested through other actions supported by the European Union. This feedback needs to be simplified in order to ensure that the verification by DG Mare is effective and coherent.

Figure 2. Extract of 2011 EU-ICES MoU on deliverables supporting the data Collection Framework (Annex I).

All assessment working groups delivering new advice this year were requested to fill the table specified in Figure 2, in a stock basis. In most of the cases, this information was provided by the stock coordinators and a quality check was done by other EGs members and ICES Secretariat.

For each the following options were available:

- A. **Not relevant.**
- B. **Data relevant but not available to ICES.**
- C. **Data available to ICES but not used in assessment.**
- C 1. **Data available but time series too short.**

- C 2. **Data available but** not relevant in the model we use for assessment for the time being
- C 3. **Data are available** from this country **but** since other countries do not submit it we cannot use it.
- C 4. **Data are available but** they have insufficient representativity or quality for us to use them.
- D. **Data available** and **used** in assessment

The information on the tables, commonly named as “data-table”, available from the ICES EGs which have met until beginning of June, were stored in a database. The database was forward to EC in the third week of June.

Issues raised by the EGs during this year, about this information

Almost all EU Members states, if not all, have received in the beginning of 2011 a letter from the EC with remark of fulfilment of 2009 data transmission to ICES. Therefore, most of the stock coordinators were aware of the implications of the information available on the “Data Tables”, which implied a more consistent approach between stocks of the same EGs when filling the “data tables”.

The stock coordinators are not aware about the sampling programmes, sampling derogations and bilateral agreements on sampling proposed by the RCMs and endorsed by SGRN. Therefore the information on the table only respects to the data received from a given country, without taken in to account if this data was planned or not to be sampled under the DCF national programmes. Stock coordinators made and extensive use of the “*Comments*” field available in the “data tables”, to explain decision made when opting for a given option.

Based on recommendations from the ICES EGs this year other options will be included on next year's feedback, namely **E- No sampling due to minor landings in the fishery**. The option **B – Relevant but not available to ICES** will also be split into two sub-categories : **B1 - data available but not provided to ICES** and **B2 - data relevant but not collected**.

Currently “data tables” are mainly used by EC for checking Members States fulfilment on DCF data transmission. This information is also used concerning the quality aspects on the available data.

Feedback from the Mediterranean RCM and end users

In the Mediterranean, stock assessments are carried out under two different umbrellas. For one side, there is a STECF Expert Working Group (formerly

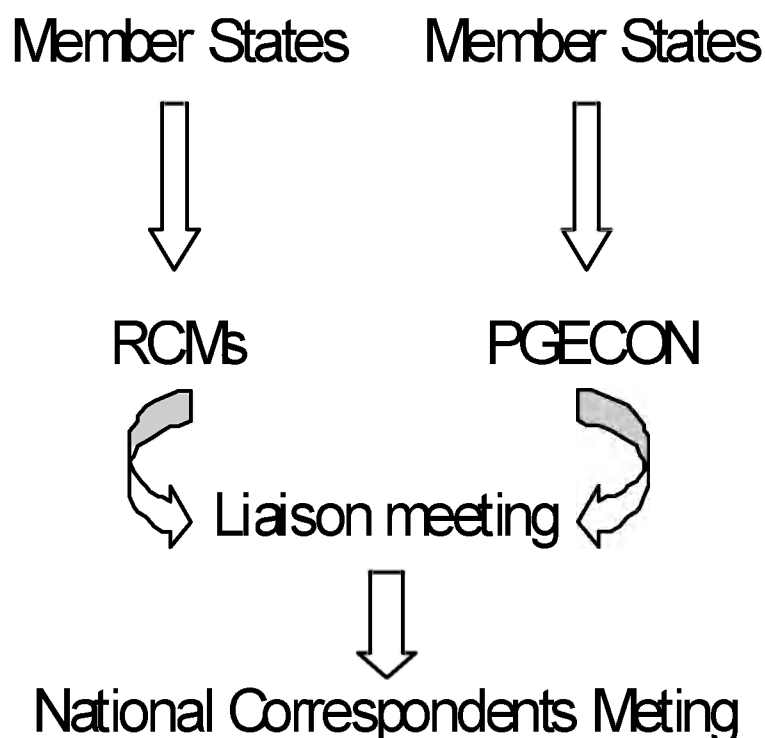
called SGMED), composed by independent experts invited by the EU, where both demersal and small pelagic stocks are assessed, using data obtained from the Data Calls launched by the EU-JRC. On the other hand, there are two Working Groups on Stock Assessment (one on small pelagic and one on demersals) under the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean), where experts from all Mediterranean countries (including both EU and non-EU countries) present and discuss their assessments carried out using data collected in the DCF and/or other projects. In the first case, the feedback from these end users should be similar to those proposed for ICES but in the second case there is not a clear feedback to be proposed.

3 Future involvement of economist at the RCMs

Participation of economists is effective and well established only in RCM Med&BS where 5 economists attended in 2011. Only two economists attended RCM Baltic while no economists attended RCM NA and RCM NS&EA. LM considered that the poor participation by economists is due to limited commitment of economists in the RCM agenda and to the small number of economists that in some cases should attend up to 3 different RCM every year.

LM is aware of the role of economists in the RCM to ensure the linkages between biological and economical data collection. However, LM considered that, according to the DCF, the need of regional coordination with regard to economic data is limited to the definition of homogeneous clustering methodology and to the proposals for “adjustments” of some effort variables. But, at European level, much more work would be needed to compare methodologies, suggest best practises, assess data quality and propose studies and workshops.

Therefore, LM recommends establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF at European level (fleet economic data, aquaculture, processing sector). The report of the PGECON should be reviewed by LM and presented at the EU meeting of national correspondents.



PGECON will also identify tasks that need a regional coordination. In this case, chairs of RCMS will include these tasks in RCM TORs. Participation of economists in RCM will then be much more effective as RCM agenda will actually include the discussion of economic actions that need to be coordinated at regional level.

LM recommends that TORs for the first PGECON (first quarter of 2012) should to be drafted by the next STECF EWG 11-18. In the future, TORs will be suggested by LM and RCMs.

TORs for PGECON should include any coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF. Other more strategic and general topics - like guidelines for AR and NP, data quality indicators, requirements for the future DCF, reviewing feedback from data end users - should remain under the remits of STECF.

LM recommends that the establishment of the PGECON in 2012 should to be considered as a pilot approach. LM will evaluate the results of this approach and will propose a routine framework to be established in the revised DCF.

Economists issues: Future involvement of economist at the RCMs	
LM 2011 recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LM recommends establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF at European level (fleet economic data, aquaculture, processing sector). 2. LM recommends that TORs for the first PGECON (first quarter of 2012) should to be drafted by the next STECF EWG 11-18. 3. LM recommends that the establishment of the PGECON in 2012 should to be considered as a pilot approach
Follow-up actions needed	The STECF EWG 11-18 to follow up this recommendation in cooperation with the Commission.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chair of the STECF EWG 11-18 and the Commission.
Time frame (Deadline)	PGECON to report back to the 2012 RCMs and the LM.

References

- Anon 2010a: Report of the 7th Liaison Meeting, Ostend, Belgium, 3-4 June 2010
- Anon 2010b: Report from the interim Steering Group for Regional Databases, Copenhagen 1-2 February 2011

SURVEYS

The LM decided not to have a discussion on surveys at the meeting. The Commission were of the view that the survey issue will form part of the wider discussions that will take place in 2012 on the new DCF.

Section 3 – Addressing TOR 3

Outcome of the RCM Long Distance Fisheries

The first RCM on Long Distance Fisheries (RCMLDF) took place in 2010 and the 7th LM had a term of reference devoted to the RCMLDF. This was to ensure this RCM were making good progress. The 8LM also considered the RCMLDF as a separate TOR.

The following text represents a brief overview of the issues addressed by RCMLDF. The final report should be consulted.

Participants and Agenda

Three main groups of fisheries were the subject of this meeting: Fisheries in the CECAF area, Large pelagic fisheries in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans and Chilean jack mackerel fishery in the SPRFMO (South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) area. The ToR for the three subgroups were established jointly by the Commission and the chairpersons taking into account what was achieved in the 2010 RCM and in line with the recommendations issued by the group (see Annex 3). Given that some of them were of horizontal nature it was agreed to address them in plenary while other ToR had a very specific nature and were discussed at subgroup level. The meeting was attended by 15 scientists from 7 Member states (ES, FR, IT, LV, LIT, PL, and NL). Following the discussions held in the RCMs for the Mediterranean/Black Seas and in the RCMLDF in 2010 concerning the sampling of large pelagic species under the ICCAT convention area, it was recommended to hold the annual meeting for these two RCMs back to back in order to further discuss on a common session how to coordinate the collection of data for these two species in the areas of competence of both RCMs.

Review of the outputs of the First RCM-LDF 2010 (Madrid, March 2010) and of the 7th Liaison meeting (Ostend, June 2010)

The work of the RCMLDF in 2010 was mostly devoted to clarify the profile of the concerned fisheries, so that basic terms of reference were addressed such as allocation fishing grounds per MS, current state and prospects for coordination, inventory of fisheries/ naming conventions and identification of métiers. From the discussions held in this meeting three main recommendations were raised as follows:

- **Métier variables: Fishing activities and sampling coverage** All MS involved in industrial small pelagic fishery in “From Morocco to Guinea Bissau” fishing ground were recommended to ensure adequate sampling coverage for the landings and discards. To this end all MS involved in fishery had to sign an agreement to share tasks. The Netherlands agreed to propose a draft text for such agreement and it has been further developed during this meeting.
- **Allocation of large pelagic species to one or various RCMs** Ensure that the Regional Co-ordination Meetings (RCMs) move into the same

direction. To this end in the previous year's meeting it was considered necessary the assistance from the Liaison Meeting (LM) to have clearer views on allocation of large pelagic species to one or various RCMs.

- **Métier identification for Large Pelagic: Codification and naming convention.** Review the table produced during the 2010 meeting and make a proposal about how to identify and codify these métiers for the next meeting.

The dynamics of the DCF required that these recommendations were discussed and further refined during the LM 2010. Unfortunately no representative of the RCMLDF attended the LM. This absence made impossible the revision of the outcomes of the LM report.

Economic variables

The RCM reviewed of the outputs of SGECA 10/03, in particular regarding the economic data collected in relation to the DCF, harmonisation of sampling strategies, how to collect the information across different Member states and the demonstration of experiences carried out by MS on this subject. This aimed at addressing for the first time the issue of the collection of economic data for the different fleets involved in the long distance fisheries. Currently the collection of economic variables is organised by supra-region so that only two supra-regions (Baltic/North Sea/Atlantic and Mediterranean/ Black Sea) coordinate their data collection for economic variables. It was therefore necessary to address the issue of the collection of this data in other regions. This ToR was however **subject to the participation of economists in the RCMLDF**. Unfortunately only one economist attended the meeting, so that it was not possible to address the issue specifically for long distance fisheries. Instead this economist was invited to joint the discussion on the same matters that was held in the RCM for the Mediterranean and Black Sea and to report on recommendations that could be transposed to the scope of the RCMLDF. In particular two of these recommendations concerned the creation of a Planning group for economic issues and the establishment of a common database for economic variables.

Inventory of data needs for the provision of improved scientific advice in the areas of competence of the different RFMOs

Although this matter was originally planned for discussion at sub-group level, it was considered useful to hold the discussion at the RCM level. For guidance purposes, the group discussed a document produced by DG MARE-B1 which summarises the data reporting obligations to RFMOs and that was sent to MS recently. The main goal of the exercise was to identify to which extent the provisions of the current DCF are specific enough to satisfy the different data requirements of the RFMOs. The approach agreed by the participants was to consider only the scientific information which corresponds to the field of application of the DCF. For instance information requirements regarding species other than fish (e.g. turtles, seabirds, cetaceans, etc.) were

considered not eligible for this analysis, even though they may be recorded as by-catch by the observers on board.

It has to be noticed that CECAF issues are the subject of treatment in the framework of the Fisheries Partnership Agreements between the EU and the different African countries and therefore are not included in the document mentioned above. In any case, in the opinion of the scientists participating in the meeting, the DCF fully satisfies the requirement of the CECAF assessment Working Groups. Actually DCF comprises the collection of metier related variables for fleets operating in the area and the biological information for the main species such as small pelagics (sardine, anchovy, sardinella, mackerel and horse mackerel) and demersal species such as crustaceans, cephalopods and hake.

With regard to the remaining RFMOs under the competence of this RCM (e.g. IOTC, ICCAT, IATTC, SPRFMO), the end users requirement appear satisfied by the provisions of the DCF except in the case of SPRFMO for which the RFMO requirements go well beyond what is covered by the DCF. Against this background the group considers that for the future period of implementation of the DCF, the RFMOs information requirements should be closely analysed before the content of the EU multiannual programme is agreed, so that the forthcoming DCF fully consider these data requirements. In this context some participants felt sceptical regarding the utility of applying the metier approach for long distance fisheries while the RFMOs do not require this information. As a result of this discussion, the RCM recommended that during the period of preparation of the technical aspects of the future DCF an experts' meeting is convened that takes into consideration the elements above.

Review feed back from data users: current state of play ; How can we further involve RFMOs in the process of the DCF? How can we define the relevant meetings for which EU scientist's participation should be co-financed by the DCF?

The issue of data transmission to end users (RFMOs), and how we can better involve them in the process of the DCF was also considered a matter of common interest. The identification of relevant stock assessment meetings of interest for the different fisheries was also considered as a point for discussion in order to ensure that the participation of EU scientists in these meetings can be co-financed as provided by Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 665/2008.

For the time being the only RFMO which is fully familiar with DCF developments and provides regular feedback on data transmission is ICCAT. It seems necessary that relationships with other RFMOs are strengthened so that a regular feed back system is established. This will require a two fold effort: on the one hand improved information and communication between DGMARE and these RFMOs with regards to DCF issues is to be achieved, on the other hand scientists participating in scientific meetings of these RFMOs should inform where necessary of the main axes of the DCF and their utility for the purposes of scientific advice.

Presentation of the main outcomes of the different subgroups (chairperson). Place and date of the 3rd Meeting of the Long Distance RCM

The outcomes of the different groups were presented by the chairpersons and discussed with the participants and the Commission representative the last day of the meeting. A complete report for each one of this subgroups in particular with regards to Terms of reference 2, 4, 7 and 8 is presented in section 3 of this report.

Although not included in the terms of reference, the Commission representative suggested that, given that the three subgroups are now well on track it is time to decide on a chairperson that could take in charge the three subgroups as from the 2012 meeting instead of working with three co-chairs. One of the participants in the meeting, Mr Ireneusz Wojcik was proposed by several of the participants but he requested some time to reflect on it. No other candidate was identified.

The LM was very pleased with the progress made by the RCMLDF. **The LM recommends that future discussions on the RCMLDF should be included in the discussions with the other RCM's and that there is now no need for a separate TOR in future LM meetings.**

Section 4 – Addressing TOR 4

Proposed Workshops and Expert Groups for 2012 including Proposals from the economists

The group discussed and developed a list of eligible meetings (Workshops and Expert groups) for 2012. The list was discussed with the Commission and a first draft list of eligible DCF meetings was agreed.

This list will be sent to National Correspondents by the Commission to help in planning for 2012.

The draft list of eligible meetings for 2012 will evolve and change over the coming months and has not been included in this report.

Section 5 – Addressing TOR 5

RCM's in 2011, Meeting Schedules, TOR's and Infrastructure Issues

The LM agreed that the various RCM's would meet in late 2012 and the following provisional venues and dates were agreed.

(1) RCM Baltic Sea

Late September 2012, Gdynia, Poland.

(2) RCM North Sea and East Arctic

Late August 2012, Ostende, Belgium.

(3) RCM North East Atlantic Area

Early September, 2012. Galway Ireland.

(4) RCM Mediterranean and Black Sea

Mid May 2012, Malaga Spain.

(5) RCM Long Distance Fisheries

To Be Confirmed,

(6) 9th Liaison Meeting

Early October 2012, TO BE CONFIRMED

There should be sufficient time between the last RCM meeting and the 9th LM to ensure the draft RCM report is available to the LM meeting.

Infrastructure Issues

In the limited time available, there was no detailed discussion on infrastructure issues. However, the LM noted that the ICES sharepoint site was very useful tool for the work of the RCM's and the LM. RCM draft reports and previous LM Reports were available and greatly helped the meeting.

Section 6 – Addressing TOR 6

Proposed Studies in 2012

A total of 9 proposed studies were presented to the LM by the various RCM chairs. The details of the proposed studies are presented in this section. The LM supports these studies which will now be considered by the Commission for action. Specific LM comments are given at the end of some of the studies.

6.1 Proposed Studies from RCM LDF 2011

TAGGING

Tropical tunas (Bigeye, Yellowfin, Skipjack) Atlantic ocean

ICCAT is proceeding with a large-scale tagging program in 2011 and beyond. Following the structure of the very successful project run in the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Program (AOTTP) is proposed for a duration of five years and a total cost close to 11,400,000 Euros (including three baitboats chartering, the recruitment of a specific tagging team, and the associated costs related to tagging operations such as tags, rewards, publicity, etc.). The technical objective of this program is the tagging of 150,000 fish of the three main tropical tuna species at different sizes with conventional tags and 300 fishes with archival tags. Funding of this project is searched.

Albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) North Atlantic stock

In 2010, the ICCAT Committee has recommended initiating and focusing on an albacore research program for North Atlantic albacore. Research on North Atlantic albacore depends on available funds supported annually by Contracting Parties individually involved in the albacore fisheries. The research plan will be focused on main research biology, ecology, fisheries data and management advice during a four-year period. The requested funds to develop this research plan have been estimated at a cost of 4.3 million euros. One of the priorities is beginning with the electronic tagging to study the behavior of albacore in relation to the habitat. The Committee endorses the proposed research plan in this document and recommends funding be initiated in 2011 or as soon as possible.

The requested funds to initiate the studies on the habitat and migration of albacore by using electronic tagging methods have been estimated at a cost of 1 million euros for the tagging activities. More details of the economic plan are provided in the Albacore 2011 Work (ICCAT Commission Report Nov 2010).

TROPICAL TUNA PURSE-SEINE ELECTRONIC MONITORING

A feasibility study on tuna purse seine catch and by catch estimation using electronic monitoring (EM) is recommended. This study is particularly relevant

for Indian Ocean where DCF observers programs are stopped or severely reduced since 2009 due to piracy development but will be relevant for all regions. Objectives of this study would be to i) identify technologies and methods of implementing automatic collection of data equivalent to present observer and port sampling programs, ii) to compare data collected by EM with those collected through observer program, logbooks and port sampling and iii) evaluate operational constraints. The budget required for this study is evaluated at 100-150 K€ supported at 100 % by DCF studies budget line.

6.2 Proposed Studies from the RCM Baltic 2011

Tagging program for validation of Baltic Sea cod age estimation and migration rates (Proposed title)

Brief description of the study

The assessment of the Baltic Cod stocks is becoming increasingly difficult. The well-known inconsistencies in age determination of the Eastern stock persist despite a wide range of efforts. Two main factors contribute to further complicate the management of the two stocks, i.e. the increasing age determination problems in the Western stock as well as the considerable, however not yet quantified migration rates between the two stocks. These inconsistencies result in poor quality of the catch-at-age composition, the abundance indices obtained from surveys at sea and possibly local depletion of the Western stock.

The objective of this study is to validate age structure and migration rates with a large-scale tagging program including all Baltic cod stock components. This is agreed by the age reading experts to be the best option to improve the quality of the assessment and the scientific advice for the two cod stocks.

Background

The age of Baltic cod is at present determined by the traditional method of annual ring interpretation. It is well known that this method is not an optimal method for the Eastern Baltic cod stock since no clear annual rings are deposited. Severe inconsistencies in age readings between readers and institutes have existed since the beginning of age determination. A wide range of less subjective methods have been evaluated. Even though some attempts do look promising, it is impossible to implement these without proper validation with an appropriate “known-age” sample.

For unknown reasons, this problem now also seems to extend well into the Western Baltic cod stock. This may be the result of changes in environmental conditions, but it may also be related to the migrations across management area boundaries observed by genetic analyses and tagging studies. The extent of these migrations is unknown, but preliminary observations indicate that they may be extensive.

External marking of fish is a cost efficient method that is used worldwide to evaluate migration patterns, growth and mortality rates and validate otolith structures in a wide range of species, including cod. Coupling this external marking with chemical marking of the otolith in a release/recapture program provides the most reliable method to validate fish age and at the same time quantify the extent of migrations.

Terms of reference

The study will be based on the preliminary results that have been achieved within the EU Call for Tender DECODE: Improved methodology for Baltic COD age Estimation (FISH/2006/15; Studies and Pilot Projects for carrying out the common fisheries policy), the EU-funded R&D project CODYSSEY: Cod spatial dynamics and vertical movements in European waters and implications for fishery management (QLRT-2001-00813) and the ICES Study Group on Ageing Issues in Baltic Cod (ICES SGABC) and the ICES Working Group on Baltic Fisheries Assessment (ICES WGBFAS) with spin off into the ICES Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group (ICES WGBIFS) and the ICES Study Group on Multispecies Assessment in the Baltic (ICES SGMAB)

The main product would be to carry out a tagging program with external and internal marking of the fish, comprising all stock components within the Baltic Sea. The main tasks to be undertaken by the contractor are the following:

1. Conceive optimal design of the tagging program to cover all stock components
2. Carry out the tagging program
3. Analysis of results (age validation and migration pattern delineation)

Timetable and Final Report

The duration of the study shall not exceed eighteen months from the signature of the contract. An interim report of the study should be made available after nine months of the signature of the contract and a final report should be made available within one month of the termination of the project.

Budget

The maximum budget allocated for this study is € 500.000 covering all expenses, including personnel, transport, charter of vessel, consumables and overheads.

Estimated allocation of resources in percent of total:

Charter of vessel	22
Consumables	5
Reward	11
Travel	14
Personel	48

6.3 Proposed Studies from RCM NA 2011

Study on the Portuguese trammel net fishery

Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 43/2009 regulates the use of gillnets in ICES zones IIIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIb, VIIbcjk, VIII, IX, X, XII. According the rule in force, Community vessels shall not deploy gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets at any position where the charted depth is greater than 200 m in the above mentioned areas.

However, point 9.4 clearly stipulates the derogations for the use of gillnets and entangling nets down to 600 meters, targeting hake and anglerfish respectively which extends the area of activity to the area where they normally fish. Moreover, point 9.12 of the same annex stipulates that the Commission may decide, after consulting the STECF, to exclude certain fisheries, in ICES Zones VIII, IX, X, from application of points 9.1 to 9.11, 'where information provided by Member States shows that those fisheries result in a very low level of shark by-catches and of discards'.

The Portuguese government has submitted additional information in relation to their request of 03.04.2009 to the Commission requesting an extension of the current derogations on the use of gillnets and entangling nets, as laid down in point 9.4 of Annex III (Part A) of Regulation (EC) No 43/2009, to trammel nets. STECF considered the Portuguese data on deep water sharks, including gulper sharks, submitted and notes that no data on other sharks were submitted. STECF concludes that, owing to the lack of discard information and the lack of information on other sharks, the composition of sharks in the catches of the Portuguese trammel net fleet fishing in Division IX cannot be reliably quantified.

STECF considered that it was unable to judge whether the use of trammel nets in waters less than 600m depth targeting anglerfish in area IX comply with the condition set out in point 9.12 of annex III of Regulation (EC) No 43/2009 that they must result in a very low level of shark by-catches and of discards.

To accomplish the objective "evaluation the fishing activities on shark populations in Subarea IX" it is necessary to increase the sampling effort on board of the observer program that is actually undertaken by Portugal under the DCF on the trammel net fleet. A Pilot study is thus proposed to fulfil the data requirements to reach that objective for a period of three years.

Objectives:

- 1 - Characterization of the fisheries and of the fleets that use trammel nets between the 200m and 600m isobaths: number and characterization of the vessels, seasonal and spatial distribution of the fisheries.
- 2 - Characterization of the catches by species: variation in space and time.
- 3 - Estimation of fishing effort and its distribution in space and time.
- 4 - Estimation of the impact of these fisheries on sharks: definition of estimators and estimation of the catches of each shark species by

these fleets.

RCM NA Comments : RCM NA recommends Portugal to include the study in their NP proposal 2012 as a pilot study, with the objectives of setting up a routine sampling programme for this fishery.

Tagging Study in North Atlantic – WGCSE stocks

PGCCDBS recommends that RCM NA should develop a Study Proposal for tagging in the light of uncertainties in unaccounted mortality and in stock structure of several WGCSE stocks in the assessment (ref. WGCSE 2010).

Study on Harmonized methodology of age estimation Procedures

Most of European fish stocks are assessed using age-based models. In this context, the quality of these data plays a vital role in management of fish resources. Errors in age estimation can be caused by accuracy and/or precision issues (Campana, 2001) and they have to be detected and quantified. Accuracy refers to the closeness between measurements and their true value. Precision is defined as the variability in the age readings. Within and between age reading laboratories there will inevitably be disagreements between age readers.

The European Commission supported the development of a European Fish Ageing Network with two Concerted Actions, i.e. EFAN (European Fish Aging Network) and TACADAR (Towards Accreditation and Certification of Age Determination of Aquatic Resources) from 1997 to 2006. The overall theme of both CAs was to harmonize the fish age estimation, mostly carried out by interpreting calcified structures.

Since 2006, the ICES Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS) organizes each year of calibration exercises and workshops on calcified structures to estimate precision and relative/absolute bias in the age estimations from readers based in different ageing laboratories.

In 2007, the PGCCDBS meeting decided to produce the first international age length key (ALK) for the sole in the Eastern English Channel (ICES area VIIId) in 2008. In the future, the international ALK should develop requiring the harmonization of the age estimation procedures.

Proposal

The objective for this proposal is to develop a harmonized methodology and quality assurance process for age estimation procedures for a small region among countries before trying to achieve general harmonization of these procedures for all ICES areas. First we need to identify the region and

common species/stocks to be used in this trial harmonization. The techniques for each step from sampling of the calcified pieces to the storage/archiving need to be described and compared per country and per species/stocks. Common tools for quality indication and assurance need to be developed for each step of the age estimation procedure. The most qualitative procedures will then be used for optimisation and harmonisation of the protocols (methods of preparation, material etc.) per species/stock and among species/stocks. This will then result in a single harmonised quality control mechanism and the development of guidelines for good techniques and good operating procedures. According to these harmonized protocols, we will also need to develop a uniform training for new age readers (per species/stock). These new sets of harmonised protocols will give more strength for accreditation processes and will strengthen already accredited labs.

This study was presented during the Regional Coordination Meeting for the North Atlantic (RCM NA) 2010, during the ICES Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS) 2011 meeting and at the ICES Workshop of National Age Reading Co-ordinators (WKNARC), which is supporting the idea of this study provided that a small number of case studies are being conducted.

6.4 Proposed Studies from RCM Med&BS 2011

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 echo-integration of the water column (fish density) and/or concerning the bottom echo-integration.

Duration: 20 months.

Cost: 500.000,00 Euros.

Study on Elasmobranchs population state at Mediterranean and Black Sea scale.

Objectives: Most European countries and Italy are collecting data on elasmobranchs within the MEDITS and GRUND survey programmes. Coordinated analyses of such data would give us a broad spatial and temporal perspective of elasmobranchs distribution in the Mediterranean Sea over the past almost thirty years of surveys.

Large sharks and rays are among the most vulnerable commercially exploited marine species to fishing exploitation. In the Mediterranean Sea many elasmobranch populations would have undergone strong declines. However, a description of the evolution of their population abundance is still lacking in the basin. This precludes the possibility for the scientific community to give any rationale and comprehensive suggestion for an effective management and conservation.

Given the peculiar population dynamics of elasmobranchs, the recognising of a baseline of pristine abundance for these populations is extremely useful for a full understanding of the patterns of response to fishing pressure. Quite often the changes in community assets are not recognised because of the shortness of available time series, and therefore most conclusions coming from analyses performed with limited datasets are merely artefacts due to the limited observation windows they rely on.

For a rationale management of sharks, skates and rays, it is very important to perform an historical assessment of their abundance at basin scale, relating it to the present situation, and to the whole available time series.

Following the experience of the EU project FISH/2004/03-31 on rays, we propose an analysis that can be divided into several phases. The first step should be to build an archive for raw data. In this sense we will be able to analyse the state of the art and produce a list of the species that include also information on catch rates, abundance, depths, etc. This will enable, once the information has been standardized, to define and analyse the time series and geographical distribution

Following steps could be to utilize a variety of statistical methods in order to extract more information as possible from these data: we would detect the changes in abundance of demersal elasmobranch species that have undergone in the last 20 years, determine the areas where each species is more determinant and, in some cases if data are adequate, even apply assessment models.

Duration: 24 months.
Cost 50.000,00

6.5 Proposed Studies from the RCM NS&EA 2011

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.

Optimising sampling and data for herring stock ID and spawning stock estimation (Proposed title) - **Proposal for Call for Tender**

Brief description of the study

Management and scientific advice on fisheries of herring (*Clupea harengus*) in the North Sea and Baltic Sea require consideration of stock complexes including components differing in distribution, migration and spawning patterns. The mixing of stocks in these areas challenges monitoring, and acquisition of accurate data for stock assessment. This involves stock ID differentiated from otolith characteristic, e.g. time of hatch related to spawning season, and maturity data for estimation of spawning stock size. Otolith-based analyses used in stock discrimination show spawning-time fidelity for e.g. North Sea autumn spawning herring and western Baltic spring spawning herring, whereas several analyses indicate that other East Atlantic herring stocks exhibit switching, where e.g. individual herring west of Scotland as well as Atlanto-Scandic herring hatched in one season may spawn in another. Maturity data used in assessment are generally based on judgements of maturity from gross morphology of gonads using visual criteria. This maturity staging often differs among laboratories causing invalidity of data and omission of their utilisation in assessments. However, accurate designation of specimens to populations is possible by a combination of otolith microstructure, otolith shape and fish meristic characters, and maturity stages of individual specimens judged by visual inspection can be unambiguously validated by histological analysis using microscopic structures as criteria for maturity determination. Integration of these methodologies in monitoring for data quality assurance can promote an accurate determination of spawning stock size of the individual herring populations, validate the different stock components and thereby provide information important to management of stocks.

The objective of this study is to use this inter-disciplinary approach to verify stock discrimination from otolith hatching estimation and validate histologically maturation patterns of the larger herring stocks in the North Sea, Kattegat-Skagerrak and the Baltic Sea. An output in this study will be a recommendation on the optimal sampling time for maturity estimation for the

different stock components thereby enhancing sampling and quality of data for stock assessment and management.

Background

Atlantic herring population dynamics are complex, and different stocks often display variation in life history and spawning season as well as genetic structuring. Recent studies combining otolith information and histologically verified maturation patterns indicates reproductive plasticity in timing of spawning of some stock components in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea with either switching of spawning time or a high frequency of skip of spawning in some herring stocks.

At present herring sampling and determination of maturity take place in a variety of ways including visual staging of gonads in frozen fish, visual judgement of gonad maturity in fresh fish at sea, histology on preserved gonads, but without accompanying otolith analysis. The maturity scales used for this purpose are often ambiguous, not histologically verified and not standardized among institutes. This leads to maturity data of variable quality, which are generally not utilised for regular updating of maturity ogives. The maturity ogive currently employed for Central Baltic herring assessment has not been regulated since 2001, which also is the case for Western Baltic herring, while North Sea autumn spawning herring assessment uses estimated maturity ogives from the most recent North Sea Acoustic cruise only, underutilising available stock representative data.

In fact, all member states are obliged to sample maturity data for herring according to the commission decision (2008/949/EF). However, no guidance exists for optimising the sampling frame (survey, commercial fleet, harbour samples) that accounts for the relative distribution pattern of the stocks and the mixing of stocks in the same feeding areas. Consequently the member states sample data used for stock ID and maturity in a variety of ways. A clear guidance to the member states, coordinated by the RCM, on optimisation of sampling time and efforts in general for the various herring stock components will facilitate coordination of task sharing between member states and ensure that input data for stock assessments will reach the required quality and sampling programs will be more cost effective.

Terms of reference

The main products of the study should aim at improving input to stock assessment that makes predictions of fishing opportunities robust in relation to existing or developing management plans. The products should provide guidance for optimal sampling as well as validation of stock ID and maturity data of different herring populations in the North Sea, Kattegat-Skagerrak and the Baltic Sea based on an integrated interdisciplinary approach. The study should facilitate an efficient planning for optimal sampling coverage of the dominant herring stocks in these areas in relation to estimation of stock ID and spawning stock size for the separate stocks. A training program should be established e.g. through an 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 histological maturity determination at the individual level.
- Provide histologically validated maturity estimates for stock assessment for the major herring stocks at population level and a key to interpret existing data.
- Based on these results design an optimised sampling program of the herring stocks in relation to biological parameters including maturity, spawning stock ID in the North Sea, Kattegat- Skagerrak and the Baltic Sea, predominantly based on existing scientific surveys.
- Establish training programs based on validated material, which use a platform of wide spread open source software to enhance quality of data collection on herring growth and reproduction.

Timetable and Final Report

The duration of the study shall not exceed 18 months from the signature of the contract. An interim report of the study should be made available after 12 months of the signature of the contract and a final report should be made available within one month of the termination of the project.

Budget

The maximum budget allocated for this study is € 400.000 covering all expenses, including personnel, sampling, laboratory consumables and overheads.

Estimated allocation of resources in percent of total:

Consumables	12
Travel	15
Personel	73

Section 7 – Addressing TOR 7

JRC Website

Roadmap for DCF post 2013

LM participants were generally critical that reference material needed for the production of the DCF Annual Report, National Programmes and other DCF reports were not available on the DCF website (<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu>). At EWG 11-08, the JRC presented a short overview of the website. This presentation indicated that most information was available on the website but it was difficult to find. EWG 11-18 have made recommendations as to how to make more user friendly.

Please note that highlighted text is to make the proposals easier to follow.

It is important that users of the website can easily find and access important information related to the DCF. The following information should be easy to find;

- Annual Economic Report
- National Programmes
- Annual (Technical) Reports
- Guidelines
- RCM reports
- Liaison reports
- DCF Legislation
- Data Calls
- Data Uploads
- Addresses
- Recommendations
- (Metier descriptions)
- Information on DCF related Meetings
- Information on Regional Data Base
- DCF surveys

EWG11-08 proposed that there should be a restructuring of the tab 'reports' in the present DCF website in the following way:

- Annual Economic Report and Guidelines
- National Programmes and Guidelines
- Annual Reports and Guidelines
- Other Guidelines
- RCM reports
- Liaison reports
- Workshop reports
- Pilot Studies reports
- (Other reports)

The information for 'DCF legislation', 'Data Calls' and 'Data Uploads' is presently easy to find through the existing tabs on the home page. No changes are proposed.

The 'Addresses' of National Correspondent' could be included in a new tab called 'Contacts' on the home page. In this tab also addresses of institutes participating in the DCF and national and Commission contact persons could be included.

Lists of or links to relevant 'Recommendations' could be included on the same place of the guidelines. We both need them for producing the National Programmes and Annual Reports.

'Metier descriptions' on a national basis could be included in the existing tab 'Definitions' under the item 'Fishing Activity – Metier'.

Information on 'Meetings' could be dealt with in the same way as under the STECF website. Each meeting would get a page with information on date and venue of the meeting and links to the documents relevant to the meeting.

The structure of the 'Regional Data Base' (RDB) web pages should be developed when the RDB's are operational.

It may also be helpful to have an updated list on the website with standardised descriptions of the 'DCF surveys'. Such a list is not only informative but would also provide a basis for regular evaluation of the surveys. It may also be useful for the RCM's to have their own websites which should be linked to the DCF website. This could be further discussed at the RCM and Liaison.

DCF in Post 2013

The Commission informed participants that the consultation process for the DCF post 2013 will start in the coming months and that issues raised by the RCM's and SGRN/EWG's relating to problems with the current framework and proposed improvements will be particularly important for this process. MS will be consulted through meetings of experts and National Correspondents, using meetings that are already scheduled (EWG, November 2011; national Correspondents Meeting, December 2011) and dedicated meetings on this topic in 2012.

Key References

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Baltic Sea, 2011. Charlottelund, Denmark. 29th August to 2nd September.

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & East Arctic, 2011. Hamburg, Germany. 26th to 30th September 2011.

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for North East Atlantic area, 2011. La Rochelle, France. 12th to 15th September 2011.

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black Sea area, 2011. Ljubljana, Slovenia. 10th to 13th May 2011.

Report of the Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Long Distance Fisheries 2011. Ljubljana, Slovenia. 10th to 13th May 2011.

Report of the 2nd Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the Chair of SGRN and the European Commission Brussels, 6-7 February 2006, 37 pp.

Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a Community Framework for the collection, management and use of data in fisheries sector for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.

Commission Decision (EC) No 2008/949/EC of 2008 adopting a multi annual Community programme pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.

Report of the 6th Regional Coordination Meeting for the Mediterranean and Black seas (RCM Med & BS) 2009 Venice, Italy, 13 to 16 October 2009, 155 pp.

Report of the 5th Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, the Chair of SGRN and the European Commission, Brussels, 26-27 February 2009, 42 pp.

Report of the 6th Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the Chair of SGRN, Hamburg, Germany, December 2009.

ANNEX 1

A Compilation of all the Recommendations from the 2011 RCM Meetings

I - Summary of Recommendations from the 2011 North Sea and Eastern Arctic RCM

RCMNS&EA_SV_01: Stock variables: investigate opportunities for task sharing age reading	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	The RCM NS&EA recommends that the task sharing species are investigating by MS participating in current age reading programs and decide whether task sharing is desirable or possible for the future.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to investigate each task sharing opportunity with specific MS taking responsibility for each species and report for the chair of RCM NS&EA
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Each MS noted in column labelled "Leading countries" to liaise with MS without expertise for that species.
Time frame (Deadline)	1 December 2011

RCMNS&EA_SV_02: Stock variables: completion of the maturity sampling table	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	The RCM NS&EA recommends that all assessment and expert groups complete the last two columns of the overview on maturity sampling within Annex X5 https://groupnet.ices.dk/RCM2011/NSEA/Report%202011/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fRCM2011%2fNSEA%2fReport%202011%2fSub%2dgroup%5fstocks&FolderCTID=%2f60E18095A%2dADBD%2d4434%2d9957%2d27EB9F504EE3%7d and to check all other data columns. This table will be available on SharePoint for update.
Follow-up actions needed	Check that assessment and expert groups have updated the table and report back to RCM NS&EA 2012.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES and all ICES assessment and expert groups
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM NS&EA 2012

RCMNS&EA_QA_01: Quality issues: use of FishFrame as regional database	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	The RCM NS&EA recommends that that all MS respond to the data call in 2012 from the chair of RCM NS&EA and load their data to FishFrame or make it available in the FishFrame format. This data call will include Commercial Landings (CL), Commercial Effort (CE) and Commercial Samples (CS) records for 2010 and 2011.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to have responded to the data call. If issues persist then ICES to inform the chair of RCM NS&EA
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS and chair of RCM NS&EA
Time frame (Deadline)	Data call in February 2012 and then deadline 4 months later

RCMNS&EA_QA_02: Quality issues: sampling summary information	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	RCM NS&EA recommends ICES to use the list of NC contacts available to all WGs. The list is on the DCF website https://datacollection.irc.ec.europa.eu/documents?p_p_id=20&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=maximized&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=1&_20_struts_action=%2Fdocument_library%2Fview&_20_folderId=20944..
Follow-up actions needed	None
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES
Time frame (Deadline)	Immediately

RCMNS&EA_QA_03: Quality issues: data raising methods	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	RCM NS&EA recommends that each MS should send a representative to WKPICS to discuss data collection and the methods used to raise this data for assessment use and that WKPICS adds this to its ToR.
Follow-up actions needed	MS participates in WKPICS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	End of WKPICS 2011

RCMNS&EA_SV_03: Stock Variables: Studies on shared international age–length keys	
RCM NS & EA 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to review their sampling for ages and construction of ALKs (if used). Commission to frame collection regulations so as to encourage best statistical practice.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, Commission
Time frame (Deadline)	To be considered for the new DCF

RCMNS&EA_SV_04: Metier and stock variables: Concurrent sampling	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA is of the opinion that the sampling methods for obtaining catch compositions be reviewed before the implementation of the new DCF.
Follow-up actions needed	SGRN / Commission
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	SGRN / Commission
Time Frame (deadline)	To be included in the new Decision (end 2012)

RCMNS&EA_M_01: Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	<p>MS should make sure that their landings abroad are included in their FishFrame upload allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements.</p> <p>The RCMs should perform an annual 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. Standard output algorithms to enable analysis of compiled data should be included in FishFrame.</p> <p>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.</p>
Follow-up actions	MS to make sure landings abroad data are included into FishFrame
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame	Annually. Deadline 1 st of July 2012.

RCMNS&EA_M_02: Metier and stock variables : Metier descriptions	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendation	MS to fill update metier descriptions already compiled by RCM NS&EA 2010 and using the standard template complete descriptions for any new metiers identified. Updated and new files to be uploaded by Fishing Ground co-ordinators.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM NS & EA 2012

RCMNS&EA_M_03: Métier related variables: Regional agreements on framework for the analysis of landings abroad	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendation	<p>In order to identify were bilateral agreements on sampling of foreign landings have to be set up, the RCM NS&EA agreed on a common understanding of thresholds for sampling. It was agreed</p> <p>should MS landings be less than 200 tonnes (incl. landings in MS) there should be no sampling requirement, this should not be applied to stocks where there is a low TAC</p> <p>RCM should analyse the landings of MS and, were suitable, resolve sampling of landings abroad and obtain agreements at the RCM If this is not possible a bilateral agreement should be implemented between the MS concerned</p> <p>that the analysis on sampling agreements are needed, should be done annually by the RCM using landing data from the previous year.</p> <p>the agreement has to include descriptions on how the data should be collected and who is responsible to process the data</p>
Followed actions needed	Commission should be contacted for acceptance of this proposal
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chair of the RCM NS&EA

RCMNS&EA_SUR_01: Surveys:	
RCM NS&EA 2010 Recommendation	RCM NS&EA recommends including the coordination meeting of the International Flemish Cap Survey (NAFO Div 3M) in the DCF eligible meetings. The objectives are to guarantee a good logistics of the survey and maximize the use in due time of survey data in the production of research documents to be presented during the NAFO Scientific Council June meeting.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG-MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	1 st January 2012

RCMNS&EA_TV_01: Transversal variables	
STECF EWG 11-02 recommendation	<p>EWG 11-02 considers that duplication of Control Regulation No. 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 (CR) data collection commitments and the commitments according to the DCF should be limited to the cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfill the data quality requirements of the DCF.</p> <p>The Expert Group 11-02 recommends that overlap in the CR and the DCF should be avoided. Data collected under the CR should not be included in the DCF unless it is to be expected that the quality of the data collected under the CR does not fulfil the quality requirements of the DCF. STECF further recommends including in the new DCF commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level, a system to encourage cooperation between control authorities and the National Programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Establishment of a system to encourage cooperation between control authorities and the National Programmes of the DCF.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	National correspondent, Member States authorities and the National DCF organization.
Time frame (Deadline)	As soon as possible
RCM NS&EA 2011 comment	RCM agrees that duplicate time series should be avoided whenever possible. RCM agrees as well, that there is a need for cooperation. Such cooperation should be arranged on a national level and harmonized in RCM.

RCMNS&EA_TV_02: Transversal variables	
RCM NS&EA 2011 recommendation	<p>As some of the transversal variables to be collected according to the DCF are collected according to the Control Regulation N0. 404/2011 and these variables the not always are defined equally according to the two regulations the RCM NS&EA 2011 recommends:</p> <p>Variables Hours fished and soaking time should be added to Control Regulation 404/2011 (CR) and be included in the logbook as mandatory variables.</p> <p>The variable Fishing time might be excluded as this information is not used unless fishing authorities need this information.</p> <p>Variables Number of hooks and lines, Number of pots and traps, number of rigs should be defined more clearly in Control Regulation and for the purpose of the DCF reference to the CR could just be made.</p> <p>Concerning Number and height of nets, a more comprehensive approach is available in Control Regulation namely length, height and mesh size of the nets. This should be included in DCF by a reference to Control Regulation</p> <p>Use of selective devices should be mandatory reported in the logbook.</p> <p>Number of fishing operations should be included for all active gears in DCF (now only purse seine)</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Logbooks should be further developed and updated in order making it possible for the fishers to record information needed for both the CR and the DCF. In the short term some of improvements may be reached nationally, as member states may change the optional fields of logbook as mandatory. Updating of DCF is also needed. In midterm, legislative updates are needed
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>In short term: NCs are requested to report back to the national control authorities on this issue and report back to the RCM NS&EA meeting in 2012</p> <p>For the legislation process: Liaison meeting > STECF > the EU Commission</p>
Time frame (Deadline)	ASAP

RCMNS&EA_QA_04: Quality Issues: Quality indicators ACCU score card	
RCM NS & EA 2011 Recommendation	Experience be gained in assessing quality indicators on stocks Using the WKACCU score card.
Follow-up actions needed	<p>WKACCU score cards to assess bias in the sampling of stock will be completed for OTB_MCD in area IIIa, OTB_DEF for haddock in area IV and cod in NAFO Division 3M.</p> <p>Completed scorecards to be collated.</p>
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Scotland (Alastair Pout) to collate submissions of all MS (link to share point)
Time frame (Deadline)	1st August 2012.

II - Summary of Recommendations from the 2011 Mediterranean and Black Sea RCM

Stock related variables: Large pelagic sampling	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS 2011 recommended each MS to organize the stock related variables sampling for large pelagic along the three years period, accordingly to their own suitability. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to review their National Programs in accordance of the PGMed results
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, LIAISON, PGMed, RCMMed&BS, DGMARE
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012 and review of the NP in autumn

Métier related variables: Large pelagic sampling	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related variables (length) and to estimate CV at regional level. RCMMed&BS 2011 recommend to maintain the sampling levels calculated in the PGMed 2011. MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to review their National Programs in accordance of the PGMed results
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, LIAISON, PGMed, RCMMed&BS, DGMARE
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012 and review of the NP in autumn

Stock related variables: common landing template	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends MS to provide landings data of the previous year of the species presented in Appendix VII of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EU as requested by the PGMed templates. The Group remind that, if landings data are not disaggregated by species the data quality of the results will be affected. In the Comm. Dec. 93/2010 the exemption rules for the Mediterranean Stock, in order to justify the derogations on sampling stock related variables, stated that <i>"the landings by weight of a Mediterranean Member State for a species corresponding to less than 10 % of the total Community landings from the Mediterranean Sea"</i> . Following this issue, the group recommends to all MS to send the required landing data at species level.
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to improve the quality of landing data sending to PGMed
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, PGMed, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012

Métier related variables: shared stocks	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to continue the exercise carried out during PGMed 2011 reviewing yearly the sampling figures for métier related variables and to estimate CV at regional level for shared stocks (GSA 7, GSA 15-16 and GSA 17). MS should adjust their NP accordingly to these results.
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to review their National Programs in accordance of the PGMed results
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS (Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Slovenia), PGMed, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012

Métier related variables: COST tool and calculation of CVs	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to the PGMed the use of COST tool to calculate the precision levels (i.e. CVs) for the métier related variables. For that the attendance of some COST experts is advised.
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to prepare the data in the COST format following the templates that will be circulate before the meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, PGMed, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012

Métier related variables: Technical tables – Ranking system parameters	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	By processing the national technical tables III.C.1 to perform ranking systems at different geographic scales, PGMed met difficulties by lack of information on some métiers, concerning one or several required ranking parameters (i.e. value). These gaps may bias the outcomes of the rankings carried out at international level or combining several GSAs, mainly for métiers targeting species of high commercial value. RCMMed&BS recommends all MS to complete their national table III.C.1 (in compliance with the Guidelines 2009) to assess the real national and regional importance of each métier identified by MS in conformity with the DCF regulation.
Follow-up actions needed	Updating of NP following the RCM meetings
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All Member States, PGMed, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012

Métier related variables: Data available for PGMed	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	All MS should provide data and information required to PGMed in the appropriate formats in order to facilitate the work and to make possible the scope of the results during this methodological group
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to prepare the data in the appropriate format following the templates that will be circulate before the meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, PGMed, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012

Métier related variables: List of Group 3 species	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	<p>The RCMMed&BS revised the group 3 species and recommends to add the following 6 species: <i>Diplodus annularis</i>, <i>D. puntazzo</i>, <i>Lithognathus mormyrus</i>, <i>Polyprion americanus</i>, <i>Homarus gammarus</i> and <i>Pecten jacobaeus</i>.</p> <p>The RCMMed&BS 2011 consider that is not necessary to include the G3 species in the common landing template because of the aim of this template is to justify the derogations on sampling stock related variables in accordance with the DCF requirements to G1 and G2 species.</p> <p>The Group remind also that Group 3 species are only selected for length distribution and not other parameters (i.e. age, sex and maturity) must be collected.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Member states. Updating of sampling programs 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, PGMed, RCMMed&BS, Liaison
Time frame (Deadline)	Before NP revision by SGRN (autumn 2011)

Métier related variables: Large pelagic sampling	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	Concerning the issue on large pelagic, RCMMed&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, RCMMed&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).
Follow-up actions needed	Member states to review their National Programs in accordance of the PGMed results
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, LIAISON, PGMed, RCMMed&BS, DGMARE
Time frame (Deadline)	PGMed 2012 and review of the NP in autumn

Large pelagic issue: participation in the ICCAT working group meetings	
RCMMED&BS 2011 and RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation	Considering that the quality of the work of the ICCAT working groups depends on the adequate participation of experts, the two groups strongly recommend the participation of experts to the ICCAT scientific meetings. It is reminded that ICCAT scientific meetings are eligible for participation under the DCF.
Follow –up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, EU DG-MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	Annual bases, ICCAT calendar

Large pelagic issue: Workshop proposal concerning large pelagic sampling	
RCM ED&BS 2011 and RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation	The two groups 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.
Follow –up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE; Liaison meeting; RCM LDF; RCMMED&BS; ICCAT; MS
Time frame (Deadline)	

Large pelagic issue: Metier identification, Codification and naming convention	
RCMMED&BS 2011 and RCM LDF 2011 Recommendation	Considering that the current DCF does not allow any changes on the codification of metiers, the two groups recommend all MS involved in tuna and tuna-like fisheries to strictly follow the SGRN guidelines in terms of coding and naming conventions and also the reference list of metiers agreed by both groups at levels 6 and 7. For the transmission of data to the relevant RFMO (i.e. ICCAT), the conversion tables (see Annex IV of the present report) adopted by the two groups should be used.
Follow –up actions needed	Updating of NP technical tables accordingly
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Member States involved in tuna and tuna-like fisheries; Liaison Meeting; SGRN
Time frame (Deadline)	End of October 2011

Large pelagic issue: Assignment of large pelagic species in different RCMs	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS 2011 strongly recommends that the large pelagic species included in the Appendix VII of DCF Decision under the Mediterranean and Black Sea remain under the responsibility of the RCMMed&BS, for what concern the data collection (the minimum number of individual that each Member States must sample; the collection of stock related variables) and Regional coordination issues (the CV calculation as requested by EC Reg. 193/2010 must be calculated at stock level and for large pelagic this requires a Regional approach). For BFT, the only tuna or tuna like species which is not a Mediterranean single stock, a collaboration is required with the RCM LDF concerning the east Atlantic part of the stock.
Follow –up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Liaison meeting, RCM LDF, RCMMed&BS, MS
Time frame (Deadline)	

Large pelagic issue: East Atlantic Bluefin tuna and metier related data	
RCMMed&BS 2011	Concerning the east bluefin stock (Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean sea), the RCMMed&BS recommend that the métier related data (i.e. length) collected by MS participating in RCM LDF (Portugal, France, Spain) should provided data to the PGMed, for a complete estimation of the relevant CVs of the bluefin. The analysis of the data should be discussed in both relevant RCMs (RCMMed&BS and RCM LDF).
Follow –up actions needed	Transmission of data to PGMed chair
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS (France, Spain); RCM LDF; RCMMed&BS; PGMed chair; Liaison Meeting.
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the 2012 PGMed meeting

Economic variables: Planning Group for economic issues	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	The RCMMed&BS recommends establishing a planning group (PGECON) to discuss methodological and coordination issues related to the economic modules of the DCF. In this way, participation of economists in the RCM would be facilitated because the planning group would ensure the presentation of appropriate ToRs. It is noted that in the SGECA meetings, participants are independent experts and not experts who are directly involved in the implementation of National Programs Through the PGECON, proposals for workshops and/or studies could be transmitted to the RCM for endorsement.
Follow-up actions needed	Other RCMs should consider abovementioned proposal. ToRs for PGECON to be defined by the different RCMs and coordinated by the Liaison Meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM; LIAISON; DG MARE

Economic variables: European Database for economic data	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	The Group supports the creation of database for economic data and recommends to further investigating this proposal in order to review different implementing procedures. A steering Committee should be established to decide who will administrate Database, what data should be included and access rules.
Follow-up actions needed	Other RCMs should consider above-mentioned proposal.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM; LIAISON; DG MARE

Economic variables: Level of data aggregation	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCM is aware that utility will be much better if economic data are collected at GSA level but, there are methodological issues that need to be addressed first, in order to allocate costs to different sub-areas. RCM recommends SGECA (EWG 11-18) to address this methodological issues and to propose appropriate procedures
Follow-up actions needed	Specific ToRs to be included in next SGECA meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	LIAISON; DG MARE

Economic variables: Data calls	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	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 and the same template/ data format is applied each year.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	LIAISON; DG MARE, MS, JRC

Economic variables: Definition of fish processing activities	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	Describing the activities of processing industry is an important issue for the enterprises which perform fish repacking. There is an open question whether the population with mentioned activity needs to be surveyed. For instance the main activity of enterprise "A" is to repacking fish to smaller packages and releasing it to retail market. Could this activity be stated as processing? The Group endorses the STECF recommendation (STECF plenary in November 2010) to set up a STECF working group in 2011 to consider this issue and it suggests that experts from the industry are invited.
Follow-up actions Needed	Specific ToRs to be included in the STECF working group
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	LIAISON; DG MARE

Surveys: on the methodological issue of MEDITS survey	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to the next Medits steering committee the finalization of the MEDITS manual. This manual must be ready before the start of the 2012 Medits surveys.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MEDITS Working Group, MS, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Surveys: on the MEDIAS Regional Database	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to the MEDIAS group to emphasize the current estate of development of the Regional Database for MEDIAS surveys and report it to the RCMMed&BS
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MEDIAS Working Group, RCMMed&BS, Liaison meeting
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Surveys: on the methodological sampling during MEDIAS surveys	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to the MEDIAS group to address their worries in relation to the maturity scales or any other methodological issues to the suitable groups (e.g. PGMed) and not to the Commission.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCMMed&BS; MEDIAS Working Group
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Surveys: on the Terms of Reference	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS recommends to those groups which work under its umbrella (i.e. PGMed, MEDITS and MEDIAS steering groups) to clearly follow the Terms of References defined and to inform about the resulting discussion in their annual reports
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MEDIAS and MEDITS Working Groups, PGMed
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Review feedback from data end users: Data call	
RCMMED&BS 2011	Following the difficulties encountered by MS in transmitting information through a number of data calls during 2010 and 2011 in different data exchange formats, RCMMed&BS 2011 strongly reiterates the 2010 recommendation concerning data calls and transmission of data (endorsed by Liaison Meeting 2010): respect of legal provisions to deliver data calls (1 month); provide clearer indications on variables; standardize data exchange formats of the request; respect DCF format without changing format from year to year.
Follow –up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, SGRN, JRC, SGMED, DG MARE, Liaison Meeting
Time frame (Deadline)	

Review feedback from data end users: Data presentation	
RCMMED&BS 2011	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 <u>6 months following the reference year of the collection of data</u> ; this time period should be respected by the data calls and the end users.
Follow –up actions needed	MS modify national programmes accordingly
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, JRC, SGMED, DG MARE, Liaison Meeting; RCMMED&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	

Regional data base – Reconsidering RCMMed&BS position on RDB	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	<p>MSs participated to RCMMed&BS 2011 (except Spain) in view of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the general trend of DCF to improve the use of data collected under the DCF; the improvements to facilitate extraction of validated datasets under common formats by implementing RDB; the LM, SGRN and STECF recommendations pushing MS to collaborate for implementing such data bases at least at RCM level; the possible changes in stocks assessment (i.e. a better knowledge on stocks boundaries for the Mediterranean species); the increasing GFCM requirements, especially with annual Task 1 data calls; the future DCF requirements, <p>have reconsidered their position on the usefulness and adequacy of a Mediterranean RDB not only reduced to large pelagic issues and surveys. RCMMed&BS will carry out an analysis on the relevant perimeter to facilitate the implementation of a RDB, the MS works and to improve efficiency through a broader RDB for Mediterranean and Black Sea.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Liaison meeting, SGRN, STECF, RCMMed&BS, MS,
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Regional data base – Which issues and covering for a Mediterranean RDB?	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	To analyse the relevant perimeter and covering of the future Mediterranean RDB, RCMMed&BS recommends to PGMed 2012 to propose priorities in terms of thematic issues, types of data and aggregation levels. RCMMed&BS recommends also the creation of a steering committee to review PGMed conclusions and to propose a framework and a roadmap to NCs and to RCMMed&BS for advice, at the latest before next RCMMed&BS meeting.
Follow-up actions needed	PGMed ToRs, official implementation of the MED RDB Steering Committee
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCMMed&BS (ToRs and Steering Committee composition), NCs to advice on the RDB proposal; PGMed
Time frame (Deadline)	January 2012 (PGMed), March-April (SC proposal), April 2012 (NCs advice), RCM&BS 2012 (2012-2013 road map).

Regional data base – Black Sea DCF data base.	
RCMMed&BS 2011 Recommendation	RCMMed&BS highlights the work made by Romania and Bulgaria for making concrete a common approach on DCF issues in Black Sea and for having implemented at national level relevant tools allowing going further to build a common database for Black sea. RCMMed&BS, appreciating the work carried out till now, recommends both countries to continue their work in that way and to define a roadmap on which data they can as first priority and practically shared and under which formats, to develop and implement the relevant BS database structure and to test it.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Bulgaria and Romania, RCMMed&BS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012 (Next RCMMed&BS meeting)

III - Summary of Recommendations from the 2011 North Atlantic RCM

DCF Requirements	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends that the collection of otoliths of John Dory is continued but not proceed with age readings until an agreed standardized method is developed.
Follow-up actions needed	All MS having catches of John Dory to collect otoliths
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	None

Feedback from assessment working groups	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to describe in detail the methodology on the separation of the catches of the 2 Lophius species. This information should be available to the 2012 benchmark assessment.
Follow-up actions needed	Prepare a document to be forwarded to the WGHMM Lophius stock coordinators.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS having catches of Lophius in the Atlantic and having not provided this information to the ICES assessment Working group in 2011.
Time frame (Deadline)	End of 2011

Stock variables	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends that STECF considers the collection of age information of sardine and anchovy in area VII for inclusion in the new DCF.
Follow-up actions needed	STECF to include this point when discussing modifications of the current DCF for the period 2014 onward
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Metier variables : Increase sampling in deep-water fisheries	
RCM NA 2011 recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to check in their NP proposal 2012 that sufficient coverage of deep-water fisheries on-board sampling is planned, in order to meet the EWG needs.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to check and consider increasing the sampling coverage of deep-water fisheries in their amendment of 2012 NP proposal.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011

Metier variables : Metier descriptions	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	MS to update metier descriptions already compiled by RCM NA 2010 and using the standard template complete descriptions for any new regionally ranked metiers identified. Updated and new files to be uploaded by Fishing Ground co-ordinators.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to complete metier descriptions
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM NA 2012

Metier and stock variables : Concurrent sampling	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	MS to fill in template on concurrent sampling and provide it to the chair of RCM NA for compilation and sending to the chair of STECF EWG 11-19 in advance of the December meeting
Follow-up actions needed	MS to fill the template Chair of RCM NA to compile all questionnaires and sent them to the chair of STECF EWG 11-19
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS, chair of RCM NA
Time frame (Deadline)	November 31 2011

Metier variables : Merging metier	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends RCM participants to contact relevant staff within their institute to attend the ICES WKPICS1 meeting on practical implementation of statistical sound catch sampling programmes
Follow-up actions needed	Identify experts for attending WKPICS1
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM NA participants
Time frame (Deadline)	November 2011

Metier variables : Availability of 2011-2013 National Programmes	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends DG MARE to place all final versions of the 2011-2013 NPs on the DCF website.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and JRC to arrange uploading of the documents on the DCF public website
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	As soon as possible

Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	<p>MS should make sure that their landings abroad are included in the Regional Database upload allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements.</p> <p>The RCMs should perform an annual 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. Standard output algorithms to enable analysis of compiled data should be included in the RDB.</p>
Follow-up actions	MS to make sure landings abroad data are included into the RDB
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	Annually. Deadline 1 st of July 2012.

Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	<p>In order to identify where bilateral agreements on sampling of foreign landings have to be set up, the RCM NA proposes a common understanding of thresholds for sampling.</p> <p>where less than 5% of a member state's total landings, sampling of landings abroad are excluded (corresponding to the application of 1639/2001), given that the other 95% of the landings are sufficiently sampled by the landing countries for the relevant métier(s)</p> <p>the analysis on when bilateral agreements are needed, should be done annually by the RCM using landing data from the previous year</p>
Follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF to reflect on this m
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Sampling of métier related variables: Making use of the outcome of the Lot 2 project on VMS and logbook data	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	Organisation of workshop
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Recreational fisheries: Best practice.	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to include recommendations and outcomes of PGRFS in the adjustment of their 2012 NP, if relevant..
Follow-up actions needed	Revising MS NP proposals 2012.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS.
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011

Recreational fisheries: Regional coordination.	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends that any scope for regional coordination should be dealt with by the ICES Planning group on Recreational Fishery Surveys (PGRFS), and the PGRFS should advise the RCMs of any proposal for coordination.
Follow-up actions needed	Discussion in the future PGRFS meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES and PGRFS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Recreational fisheries: Regional coordination.	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends DG MARE to include PGRFS under the eligible list of meetings
Follow-up actions needed	STECF to comment on this, and DG MARE to take appropriate action
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF and DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2011

Stock variables : Quality issues	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends MS to complete properly the tables III.E.1 and III.E.2
Follow-up actions needed	MS to review their tables of the NP Proposal 2011-2013
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011

Stock variables : Quality issues	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and STECF to review biological parameters by stock in view of the future DCF.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Stock variables : Sampling intensities	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends an inter sessional study on combining the biological data in FishFrame, and estimating the biological parameters at the stock level. Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) was listed as a candidate due to the number of MS having sampling obligations.
Follow-up actions needed	MS having blue whiting samples
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Coordinator to be found by chair of RCM NA
Time frame (Deadline)	May 2012

Stock variables : Sampling intensities	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	In view of the large bandwidth of sampling intensities between the stocks (from very low to extremely high), RCM NA recommends ICES PGCCDBS to reflect on statistical issues related to optimal numbers to sample and minimal requirement under which sampling may only be a waste of time and resource.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES PGCCDBS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Stock variables : Task-sharing for ageing	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends ICES PGCCDBS to discuss the statistical and methodological procedures which would enable sharing international information on biological parameters.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES PGCCDBS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Stock variables : Regional collection	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends all MS to have a careful look at the tables in annex VII, in order to identify stocks for which a bilateral agreement would improve the sampling scheme.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to identify bilateral agreement, contact NC and propose such agreement in their NP proposal for 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	October 2011

Quality issues : data collection protocols	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES PGCCDBS for guidance and STECF for drafting future NP proposal guidelines
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Quality issues : Quality control	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	Echoing on the 7 th LM (2010) recommendation, RCM NA recommends the setting of a sharepoint facility to serve the RCM needs and as a repository for all agreed references.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and JRC to agree on a procedure
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, STECF, JRC
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Quality issues : Stock variables	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	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
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE and STECF during discussion of the future DCF
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Metier variables : Regional ranking / RDB	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends that all MS investigate data loaded to RDB under metier 'No_logbook' and replace with the agreed code given in section 3.1 and request the RDB steering group to endorse these as the only permitted entries within the fields defined.
Follow-up actions needed	Resubmit data into the regional database after correction
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	July 2012

Metier variables : Regional ranking/ RDB	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommended the use of the standard code MIS_MIS_0_0_0 to replace 'No_Matrix' for fisheries not specified in Annex IV of the Commission Decision.
Follow-up actions needed	Resubmit data into the regional database after correction
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	July 2012

Metier variables : Regional ranking	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends STECF to investigate more closely the methods used by MS to deal with <10m transversal variables
Follow-up actions needed	Review NP proposals
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	STECF EWG 11-09
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2011

Quality issues : internal RCM work	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends that a module be implemented in the RDB containing information provided now in the DCF set of Excel tables, such as sampling plan and realised, achieved precision, etc...
Follow-up actions needed	Steering Committee of the RDB to include meta-information in the design of the RDB.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE and STECF
Timeframe (Deadline)	October 2011

Quality issues : COST follow-up	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	RCM NA recommends a follow-up of the COST project to ensure a maintenance of the statistical tool and improve the current settings, including user-friendly interface and a connexion to a Regional database.
Follow-up actions needed	DG MARE to investigate ways for financing such a project
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Surveys	
RCM NA 2011 Recommendation	The RCM NA recommends that the inclusion of these surveys on to the DCF list of potential surveys and the modification of survey designs be considered by STECF
Follow-up actions needed	STECF to evaluate these surveys for inclusion on to the DCF list of eligible surveys
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Chair of STECF EWG 11-09
Time frame (Deadline)	December 2011

IV - Summary of Recommendations from the 2011 Baltic RCM

Métier variables: Intersessional work	
RCM Baltic 2011 recommendation	For the purpose to give the RCM the possibility to evaluate were task sharing in métier sampling could be achieved. Robust analytical methods should be tested to look for differences / similarities in exploration patterns (size and species distribution, spatial pattern) between countries within 1-2 métiers as a case study.
Follow-up actions needed	Intersessional work. Production of a short report prior of main conclusions.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Participants from Denmark and Sweden
Time frame (Deadline)	1 st July 2012.

Métier related variables: Routines for establishing bilateral agreements	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<p>MS should upload all landing data into FishFrame allowing the RCM to analyse the possible needs for bilateral agreements.</p> <p>The RCMs should each year perform an analysis on landings in foreign countries and conclude were bilateral agreements needed 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Follow-up actions	<p>MS to upload data into FishFrame</p> <p>2. RCMs to check for the need for agreements and ICES/FishFrame respectively</p> <p>3. MS to set up bilateral agreements</p>
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>1. MS</p> <p>2. RCM 2012</p> <p>3. MS</p>
Time frame	<p>1. Annually. Deadline 1st of July 2012</p> <p>2. Annually</p> <p>3. Annually. Before deadline for compilation /amendment of NP</p>

Sampling of Métier related variables including foreign landings : Requirement of on-line information on fleet behaviour	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	National institutes to get access to online logbook and VMS data
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS administrations
Time frame (Deadline)	As soon as possible

Métier variables: Tasks for the 2012 meeting	
RCM Baltic 2010 recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	RCM Chair to put in the agenda for the meeting
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM chair and RCM participants
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM 2012

Sampling of métier related variables: Making usage of the outcome of the Lot 2 project on VMS and logbook data	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	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.
Follow-up actions needed	Workshop
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES PGCCDBS
Time frame (Deadline)	2012

Stock related variables: Upload of cod (sd22-24) data to FishFrame	
RCM Baltic 2010 Recommendation	In order to be able to analyse the current sampling level of cod in the Baltic and suggest optimal sampling levels for future regional coordinated sampling, the data must be available in an agreed format and checked for errors. Data has to be uploaded in FishFrame
Follow-up actions needed	All MS should upload 2010 cod data into FishFrame before the end of October 2012. Data collected in 2010 Data on landing statistic on monthly and rectangle basis and all commercial sampling on sample basis should be uploaded.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Marie Storr-Paulsen (DEN), Katja Ringdahl (Sweden)
Time frame (Deadline)	To be presented preferably in RCM 2012 (Sept 2012)

Stock related variables: data quality and deficiencies.	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	MS to look into discard sampling program according to WKACCU 2008 guidelines (12 aspects).
Follow-up actions needed	The Chair RCM and all the MS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chair RCM and all the MS
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM Baltic 2012

Métier related variables: Recreational fisheries	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<p>MS is requested to submit the recreational fishery available data (total removals, any biological data) to the next meeting of WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL in 2012.</p> <p>ICES WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL are asked to consider the usefulness of inclusion the recreational fishery data into the stock assessment. IF it is useful for certain stock WG should provide the list of necessary data needed from recreational fishery in the Baltic.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MS responsible scientists 2. Decide during corresponding ICES WG how to proceed
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>MS national correspondent for recreational fisheries</p> <p>WGBFAS, WGBAST and WGEEL stock assessment coordinators</p>
Time frame (Deadline)	<p>Before corresponding ICES WG meetings (March 2012 – WGBAST, April 2012 - WGBFAS, September 2012 - WGEEL)</p> <p>March-September 2012</p>

Stock related variables: Inconsistencies in NP proposal tables	
RCM Baltic 2010 & 2011 Recommendation	<p>To avoid inconsistencies and errors in the tables filled in by MS in their NP proposals, the following are recommended:</p> <p>Table III.E.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species list in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu) following the list established by FishFrame. - Area/Stock definition in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu), following the list established by FishFrame, see recommendation below. - MS should follow the guidelines and put in absolute figures for landings even if landings are below 200 tones. - MS should follow the guidelines and put in absolute figures for percentage even if the percentage is below 10%. <p>Table III.E.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species list in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu) following the list established by FishFrame - Area/Stock definition in a fixed format (e.g. drop down menu) following the list established by FishFrame, see recommendation below. - Data sources in a fixed list (survey, sea sampling, market sampling etc).
Follow-up actions needed	Revision of the Guidelines and templates for future NP proposal
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	To be considered by the Commission and STECF while updating the guidelines
Time frame (Deadline)	To be considered in the next update of the guidelines

Stock related variables: COST responsibility	
RCM Baltic 2010 Recommendation	In order to be able to develop COST further ownership has to be established and as COST and FishFrame have same exchange format it would seem reasonable for FishFrame to incorporate the COST tool. And for ICES or another organisation to take the ownership
Follow-up actions needed	ICES to analyse the possibility for a technical long term solution
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	The Chairs of the RCMs and the RDB steering committee in cooperation with ICES.
Time frame (Deadline)	2012-2013

Stock related variables: task sharing of age reading of species caught in BITS survey, eel, and salmonids.	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	RCM Baltic requests WGBIFS to clarify the BITS flatfish species to be sampled (maturity, otoliths, sex, etc.).
Follow-up actions needed	Clarification needed in the BITS manual, with numbers by species to be sampled
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	WGBIFS
Time frame (Deadline)	WGBIFS 2012

Stock related variables: task sharing of age reading of flatfish species caught in BITS survey, eel, and salmon.	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	<p>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 recommends the following MS to investigate their capability to read relevant age samples of interested MS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Germany: plaice (2) Denmark: plaice, dab and sole (3) Poland: flounder and turbot (4) Sweden: eel and salmon (5) Finland: salmon <p>The suggested coordination should be discussed, agreed and decided by the National Correspondents so the first agreements could be established before December 2011.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Discussion and agreements to be taken place among National Correspondents
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Participants of RCM Baltic 2011 from the MS listed above to report back the Chair of RCM Baltic. EFARO
Time frame (Deadline)	October 1 st 2011

Stock variables: stocks with low landings	
RCM Baltic Recommendations	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.
Follow-up actions needed	Feedback from LM, ICES and STECF
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Chair for RCM Baltic
Time frame (Deadline)	RCM 2012

Stock related variables: stomach sampling	
RCM Baltic 2011 Recommendation	Regarding EA and MSFD, RCM Baltic suggests WGBIFS and WGBFAS to address more consideration to stomach sampling
Follow-up actions needed	Feedback from WGBIFS and WGBFAS if they consider stomach sampling relevant
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Chairs of WGBIFS and WGBFAS
Time frame (Deadline)	WGBIFS and WGBFAS 2012

Stock variables: clarification of the Commission Decision 2010/93/EC	
RCM Baltic Recommendations	<p>1. In order to avoid that some stocks are not sampled by any MS the exemption rules (III.B2.5.1.(b) in Decision 2010/93/EU should be clarified in the next regulation.</p> <p>2. The text in Chapter III.B2.5.1 should refer to landings or quotas not only quotas, to make sure that shares in landings between MS can be calculated to cover the non TAC species.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Revision of the Guidelines and templates for future NP proposal
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	To be considered by the Commission and STECF while updating the guidelines
Time frame (Deadline)	To be considered in the next update of the guidelines

Transversal variables	
STECF EWG 11-04 recommendation	EWG 11-04 considers that duplication of CR data collection commitments in the DCF should be limited to the cases where the data collected under the CR is unlikely to fulfill the data quality requirements of the DCF. The Expert Group 11-04 recommends including in the DCF commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level a formal system for cooperation between control authorities and the National programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF.
Follow-up actions needed	Creation of cooperative system
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
RCM Baltic 2011 comment	RCM agrees that duplicate time series should be avoided whenever possible. RCM agrees as well, that there is a need for cooperation. Such cooperation should be arranged on a national level and harmonized in RCM.

Transversal variables	
CM Baltic 2011 recommendation	Variables Hours fished and soaking time should be added to Control Regulation and logbook as mandatory. After that, variable Fishing time might be withdrawn from CR or defined as hours fished for active gears and soaking time for passive gears. Variables Number of hooks and lines, Number of pots and traps, number of rigs should be defined more clearly in Control regulation and after that a reference from DCF to Control regulation should be added. Concerning number and height of nets , a more comprehensive approach is available in Control regulation namely length, height and mesh size of the nets . This should be included in DCF by a reference to Control regulation Use of selective devices should be mandatory reported in the logbook. Number of fishing operations should be included for all active gears in DCF (now only purse seine)
Follow-up actions needed	Logbooks should be developed and updated so that the data needed can be obtained via logbooks. In the short term some of improvements may be reached nationally, as member states may change the optional fields of logbook as mandatory. Updating of DCF is also needed. In mid-term, legislative updates are needed
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	In short term: NCs with national control authorities (formal cooperation between DCF and CR-people) For the legislation process: Liaison meeting > STECF > Commission
Time frame (Deadline)	ASAP

V - Summary of Recommendations from the 2011 Long Distance RCM

Métier identification: description and naming convention	
RCMLDF / 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	Information about fishing activity of Italian fleet in the CECAF area must be completed.
Follow-up actions needed	Description or full templates (used in 2010) to be prepared by Italy.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Italy
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the next LM.

Métier identification: description and naming convention	
RCMLDF / 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	Information about fishing activity of Portuguese fleet in the CECAF area must be completed.
Follow-up actions needed	Description or full templates (used in 2010) to be prepared by Portugal.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Portugal
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the next LM.

Métier identification: description and naming convention	
RCMLDF / 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	The NP of Italy contains text information on a fishery in CECAF area including commitment to sampling, but it is not reflected in the relevant tables.
Follow-up actions needed	The Italian NP to be modified.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Italy
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the 31 October 2011.

Métier identification: description and naming convention	
RCMLDF / 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	The RCM received information on fishing activities of Portuguese vessels in the CECAF area other than those in the waters around Madeira. The NP of Portugal makes no mention of these fisheries.
Follow-up actions needed	Portugal to clarify the information. If the information is correct, the Portuguese NP must be adjusted
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Portugal
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the 31 October 2011.

Métier variables: Sampling Observer Programme	
RCMLDF / 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	To implement a joint observer program in the fishery of small pelagic in the CECAF area during the years 2012 and 2013.
Follow-up actions needed	Negotiation of financial aspects between the concerned MS and if agreement is reached modification of their NP
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Members State involved: Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany.
Time frame (Deadline)	Before the 31 of October 2011

Stock variables: Methodology on biological sampling	
RCM LDF / 2011 Recommendation CECAF Subgroup	In the absence of a maturity scale for CECAF stocks, the RCM-LDF recommends for the time being to use the maturity scale established in the ICES WKSPMAT 2008 Workshop.
Follow-up actions needed	To joint this methodology to the Sampling Observer Program
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Members State involved
Time frame (Deadline)	Before 2012

ANNEX 2

8th Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, the Chairs of STECF DCF EWG's the European Commission (4-5 October 2011, Brussels)

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.

TOR 2.

Discussion on horizontal issues:

- Regional databases:
 - Overview of use of FishFrame in RCMs in 2011 and problems identified
 - Outcomes of the Workshop and position of the RCMs
 - Changes for the future – hosting by ICES, ways to ensure all MSs upload data prior to RCMs
- Feedback from data end users :
 - Implication on the evaluation of Annual Reports 2010
 - Further standardization of feedback from ICES
- Surveys: Analyse the information provided by MS according to templates agreed by SGRN-09-04
- Participation of economists on RCMs 2011 and how to approach this in 2012

TOR 3.

Outcomes of the RCM Long Distance

TOR 4.

Workshops:

- Review of list 2012
- Proposals from the economists

TOR 5.

RCMs 2012 issues: schedule, ToRs, infrastructure issues

TOR 6.
Studies

- Studies 2012

TOR 7.
AOB

- JRC Website/central repository for DCF files (AR, NPs)
- Roadmap for DCF post-2013

ANNEX 3

8th Liaison Meeting between the Chairs of the RCMs, the chair of ICES PGCCDBS, the chair of PGMED, the ICES representative, the Chairs of STECF DCF EWG's and the European Commission

4th and 5th October 2011
Mare Room J79 02/04,
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries,
Joseph II 79, Brussels, Belgium

FINAL AGENDA

Tuesday 4th October 2011 (Start 9am – Finish 6pm)

09.00 Introduction and Welcome
Comments of the Commission
Meeting Logistics and Information
Addressing our Terms of Reference - Agree the Agenda
Format and Content of Meeting Report
Appointment of Rapporteurs

09.30 Review of 7th Liaison Meeting Report
Have Action Points Been Followed up ?
Any outstanding Issues?

11.00 Coffee

11.20 Addressing TOR 2 – Horizontal Issues

Regional Databases

- Overview of use of FishFrame in RCMs in 2011 and problems identified
- Outcomes of the steering group meeting and position of the RCMs
- Changes for the future – hosting by ICES, ways to ensure all MSs upload data prior to RCMs

Feedback from Data End Users

- Implication on the evaluation of Annual Reports 2010
- Further standardization of feedback from ICES

Survey Information provided by MS

Participation of Economists at RCM's

13.00 LUNCH

14.00 Addressing TOR 2 – Horizontal Issues (continued)

15.00 Addressing TOR 4 – Eligible Meetings 2012
Review List for 2012
Proposals from Economists
Recommendations

16.30 Coffee

16.50 Addressing TOR 6 – Studies
Studies 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 followed by social dinner

Wednesday 5th October 2011 (Start 9am – Finish 06.00pm)

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

09.15 Addressing TOR 1 & 3 – 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
Identify who will follow up outcomes
Specific Recommendations for the 8th Liaison Meeting

11.00 Coffee

11.20 Addressing TOR 1 & 3 – Outputs from RCM Meetings (continued)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Review of how we are doing

14.10 Addressing TOR 5 – RCM's in 2012
Issues to be addressed
Preparing TOR's
Meeting Schedule (Dates and Venues)
Infrastructure Issues

- 14.45 Addressing TOR 7– AOB
 - JRC Website – Status and Discussion
 - Central Repository for DCF Files
 - Roadmap for future of DCF post 2013
- 15.40 Coffee
- 16.00 Rapporteurs Prepare Text for Meeting Report
- 17.00 Plenary - Reports from Rapporteurs
 - Discussion
 - Key outputs from 8th Liaison Meeting
 - Follow up to our Recommendations
- 17.45 Final Discussions on Outstanding Issues
 - Completion of Report – Task Allocation and Timelines
 - Closing Comments of Commission
 - Have we addressed our TOR's?
 - Summing Up
- 18.00 Close of Meeting

Annex 4

8th Liaison Meeting Participant Details

NAME	ADDRESS	e-mail
Paul Connolly (Chair)	The Marine Institute, Oranmore, Co. Galway, IRELAND	paul.connolly@marine.ie
Evelina Sabatella	Irepa onlus via San Leonardo, trav. Migliaro 84135 Salerno ITALY	esabatella@irepa.org
Jorgen Dalskov	DTU Aqua Charlottenlund Slot, 2920 Charlottenlund, DENMARK	jd@aqua.dtu.dk
Els Torreele	ILVO Fisheries, Ankerstroot, 8400 Oostende, BELGIUM	Els.torreele@ilvo.olaaudereu.be
Ireneusk Wojcik	National Marine Fisheries Research Institute ul. Kollataja 1 81-332 Gdynia Poland	Ireneusz.Wojcik@mir.gdynia.pl
Christoph Stransky	VTI Institute of Sea Fisheries, Palmaille 9, 22767 Hamburg, GERMANY	Christoph.stransky@vti.bund.de
Herwig Ranner	European Commission Joseph II 79, 1049, BRUSSELS	Herwig.ranner@ec.europa.eu

Amelie Knapp	European Commission Joseph II 79, 1049, BRUSSELS	Amelie.knapp@ec.europa.eu
Mike Armstrong	CEFAS, Parkfield Road, Lowestoft, NR33 OHT UK	Mike.armstrong@cefas.co.uk
Myrto Ioannou	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, 101 Vythleem Street, 1416 Nicosia CYPRUS	mioannou@dfmr.moa.gov.cy
Francesca Gravino	Malta Centre for Fisheries Sciences Fort San Lucjan BBG 06 Marsaxlokk MALTA	francesca.gravino@gov.mt
Beatriz Guijarro	Instituto Español de Oceanografía Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares P.O. Box 291 E-07015 Palma de Mallorca SPAIN	beatriz.guijarro@ba.ieo.es
Joel Vigneau (Part Time – By Phone)	IFREMER, Nantes, FRANCE	j.vigneau@ifremer.fr

Annex 5

8th Liaison Meeting Roadmap

DCF 8th Liaison Meeting - Meeting Roadmap (Version 1)

	Morning Session (9am to 1pm)			Afternoon Session (2pm to 6pm)		
Day 1 Tues 4th Oct.	Introduction Welcome Commission Comments TOR's Report Rapporteurs	Review of Outputs of 7th Liaison Report Follow Ups?	TOR 2 Regional Data Base Feedback Data End User Survey Information provided by MS Economists and RCM's	TOR 4 Eligible Meetings 2012	TOR 6 Studies	Summing Up Day 1 Plan for Day 2 Report
Day 2 Wed 5th Oct	TOR 1 and 3 Outputs from 2012 RCM Meetings			TOR 5 RCM's in 2012	TOR 7 JRC Website DCF Files Future of DCF	Rapporteurs Reports Key utputs from 8th LM Recommendations Report Have we Addressed our TOR's Final Summary

ANNEX 6

DCF Structures

Data Collection Framework

