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EU Council Regulation 1543/2000

*Establishing a Community framework for the
Collection and Management of the Data
needed to conduct the CFP*

National Programme 2008

IRELAND

(Version 1)

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1 Introduction

1.1 General framework

The Marine Institute has compiled this document as the National Programme for Ireland 2008. This programme addresses the following EU Commission Regulations 1639/2001 (*establishing the minimum and extended Community programmes for the collection of data in the fisheries sector and laying down detailed rules for the application of EU Council Regulation (EC) 1543/2000*), as amended by Commission regulation (EC) No 1581/2004. The general framework follows that provided in previous years following the guidelines and uses the standard tables for submissions as provided by STECF in 2005.

1.2 General description of the fisheries

The Irish fishing fleet consists of a little over 1,400 vessels and is divided into three segments; polyvalent, pelagic trawl and beam trawl. Inshore vessels are also sampled under the DCR but are not included in the above segmentation. There are about 6,000 people working in the fishing fleet associated activities. The majority of Irish fishing, data collection and sampling activity is concentrated the ICES Sub-areas around Ireland VI and VII where Irish vessels are engaged in demersal, pelagic, industrial, deep water, highly migratory fisheries and tuna-like fishes (Table 1.1). The pelagic fishery targeting mackerel and horse mackerel also operates in the II, IIIa, IV. Some pelagic landings in those fisheries are landed in the UK–Scotland and Norway where scientists in those countries sample them. There are minor demersal and deepwater fisheries in II and IV where Ireland has a small share of an EC quota for cod and other species in Norwegian waters (these are below sampling requirement thresholds see Table 8.2).

2 Participating institutes

2.1 National correspondent

*Dr Frank O Brien,
The Marine Institute,
Fisheries Science Services,
Rinville,
Oranmore, Galway,
IRELAND*

2.2 Participating institutes

The Irish National Programme was conducted in close co-operation between three organisations in Ireland;

- **Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR)**

DCMNR is the main governmental department with responsibility for sea fisheries policy, management, control and enforcement.

The Dept. of communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Sea Fisheries Policy

29 – 31 Adelaide Road,

Dublin 2.

Phone : 00353 1 6782000

Fax : 00353 1 6782449

www.dcmnr.gov.ie

- **The Marine Institute (MI)**

The MI is a semi state marine research organisation charged by DCMNR with the collection of scientific data on the fisheries sector.

The Marine Institute

Rinville,

Oranmore.

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www.marine.ie

- **An Board Iascaigh Mhara (BIM – The Irish Sea Fisheries Board)**

BIM is a semi state sea fisheries development agency charged by DCMNR with the collection of economic data on the fisheries sector.

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3 Module C - Fishing capacities

3.1 MP - Planned sampling

Minimum Programme

In Ireland the collection of data concerning fishing capacity is the responsibility of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR). Irish vessels that undertake commercial fishing activities are registered with the DCMNR. The vessel register is a computerised database which includes details such as;

- Vessel type (e.g. trawler, beam trawler)
- Vessel Age
- GRT, Length, width and draught
- Engine Power

The information in the vessel is registered according to Regulation (EC) No. 2930 and No 2090/98. The vessel register is updated continuously and is held by the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources. The register includes data on all licensed under 10 m vessels.

Parameters

For the minimum programme, data will be collected in order to assess the average value per vessel of :

- the gross tonnage
- maximum continuous engine power actually developed by the main engine expressed in kW (as per Council Regulation 2930/86)
- the age of the vessel calculated on the basis of the age of the hull

Disaggregation Levels

The disaggregation level will comply with the segments as defined in Appendix III of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004. These data will be updated annually.

Precision Levels

Data on fishing capacity for all active Irish fishing vessels, on an aggregated level by segment, as described in Appendix III of Commission Regulation 1639/2001 will be collected exhaustively by DCMNR

3.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

None

3.3 EP - Planned sampling

No data collection will be carried out within the framework of the extended programme during 2007.

3.4 EP - Non-conformities

None

4 Module D - Fishing effort

4.1 MP - Planned sampling

The EC regulation on logbooks and the implementation of control regulations concerning the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) require all vessels greater than 10 meters, used for commercial fishing to carry and complete a logbook of fishing activity. The information contained in the logbook includes:

- Vessel name, number and skipper
- Departure and arrival date and times
- Gear Type deployed
- Species and weight caught (kgs)
- Fishing grounds, ICES division and ICES rectangle
- Fishing days

The information in the logbooks is registered according to the provision of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2807/83 and No 2847/93. The logbook data are collated by the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources and kept on a digital database at DCMNR.

Data on the under 10 m fleet will be collected from processor sales slips and fishing calendar depending on the fishery.

Minimum Programme

Parameters

(i) Information on fuel consumption will be collected as part of the minimum programme on the economic evaluation. Ireland will seek funding under the economic evaluation in 2008(see Section JK).

(ii) The Marine Institute routinely conduct analyses of the DCMNR logbook data for use in the stock assessment process. The MI produce annual Irish quarterly fleet activity maps for each ICES statistical rectangle. Data on fishing effort (days or hours fished) on an aggregated level, by segment, as described in Appendix 1 and Appendix VIII of Commission Regulation 1639/2001.

Fishing effort data will be weighted by the measuring unit related to the nominal fishing power of each vessel (KW or GT) as defined in Appendix V.

(iii) Specific Fishing effort will be collected for those stocks of special interest where the catches kept on board exceed certain thresholds listed in Appendix VI of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004.

Disaggregation Levels

Fishing effort indices will be collected according to the fishing techniques defined in Appendix VIII of Commission Regulation 1639/2001, on a quarterly basis by ICES Division.

Precision

Catch and effort data from the EU logbooks are collected exhaustively by DCMNR (census). It is not necessary to carry out a sampling programme for fishing effort by technique for any Irish fleet segments > 10 m. For vessels <10m using passive gears Ireland will sample fishing effort to attain the precision level of 2.

4.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

None

4.3 EP - Planned sampling

Ireland will not undertake the extended programme in 2008.

4.4 EP - Non-conformities

None

5 Module E - Catches and landings

5.1 MP - Landings - Planned sampling

The Department of Communications Marine and Natural (DCMNR) resources collect statistics related to the landings of commercial fish species. Ireland currently assesses the commercial catches, including discards, of the stocks from the north-east Atlantic listed in Annex XII of the Application of Regulation 1581/2004.

Landings are currently provided by species, by quarter, by gear, by ICES Division and by ICES rectangle, based on information supplied in the EU Logbooks (level 4 as per Appendix 1 of Commission Regulation 1581/2004). Landings of the under 10 m fleet segment are collected on a monthly basis by census. Landings by vessels >10 m are also collected exhaustively (census) by DCMNR.

5.2 MP - Landings - Derogations and non-conformities

None

5.3 EP - Landings - Planned sampling

Ireland will not undertake further collection of data in 2008 to fulfil the Extended Programme for E.

5.4 EP - Landings - Non-conformities

None

5.5 MP & EP - Discards - Planned sampling

Ireland has a fleet based discard sampling programme. The Irish fleet segments are listed in table 5.2 and those to be sampled in 2008 are given in Table 5.3. These fleet segments definitions are similar to those agreed by the 2005 Regional Co-ordination Meetings. Further sub-divisions have been made to take into account homogenous metiers with similar targeting and discarding practices. Numbers of vessels active and their effort is based on 2004-2006 averages and the effort is based on fishing days. Discard estimates by species/stocks as required under Appendix XII will be produced for these and fleets on either annual or triennial basis as required.

WGFTFB (2006, 2007) noted that there is often significant movement of individual or groups of vessels between fisheries. These are prompted by a range of economic considerations including fish and quota availability, days at sea effort allocations and other financial considerations for example fuel prices and market conditions. In a number of EU fisheries, switching has been substantial and rapid, generally in a response to fishing opportunities (TACs) and effort allocations. Metier specific sampling targets are by necessity, derived from historic trends in fishing patterns and assume that these patterns can be projected into the future. As noted by WGFTFB, some fleets, particularly demersal trawlers, now demonstrate far wider foraging behaviour than seen previously and forecast assumptions of metier stability may not necessarily be realised. In order to adequately track discard patterns associated with the key fleets engaged in Irish fisheries, it is necessary to ensure that sampling strategies are sufficiently flexible to account for rapidly emerging fisheries where discarding is either known (from historic sampling) or suspected to be important. WGFTFB (2007) highlighted that there is likely to be increased activity by Irish and Scottish vessels in VIb during 2008 due to significant increases in haddock TAC and reduced fishing opportunities in VIa associated with restrictive days at sea and quota allocations of key demersal species. For this reason, Ireland has decided to recommence discard sampling for the Bottom Otter Trawl VIb Demersal in 2008.

MP & EP - Discards - Derogations and non-conformities

The fleet segments not sampled in 2008 will be included in future national programmes on a triennial basis or through international co-operation as appropriate. No derogations are requested and if no non-conformities are foreseen.

5.6 MP - Recreational - Planned sampling

Recreational catches are required for cod (VI and VII) and blue fin tuna.

Recreational catches for cod in Ireland are difficult to estimate. The Marine Institute will continue with the contract with the Central Fisheries Board (CFB), the agency that has responsibility for recreational fisheries development in Ireland in 2008. This contract will enable the CFB to digitise and collate cod catch statistics for recreational tournaments covered by the CFB.

Ireland began a DCR bluefin tuna tagging programme in 2005. Tuna tagging trips were conducted in that year and in 2006. Despite extensive coverage, no bluefin tuna were caught, or tagged in either year. Ireland is already committed to a bluefin tuna tagging programme in 2007. However in 2008, Ireland intends to withdraw from the programme. The reasons for this withdrawal are:

- Lack of success in tagging fish
- Published study (Stokesbury et al. 2007) which shows the movements of bluefin tuna caught and released in Irish waters.
- Large cost of the programme in terms of charter, tag purchase and maintenance.

It is noted that the Stokesbury et al (2007) presents definitive results that are unlikely to be improved upon by a DCR funded bluefin tagging programme.

Stokesbury, Michael J. W.; Cosgrove, Ronan; Boustany, Andre; Browne, Daragh; Teo, Steven L. H.; O'Dor, Ronald K. and Block, Barbara A. 2007. Results of satellite tagging of Atlantic bluefin tuna, *Thunnus thynnus*, off the coast of Ireland. *Hydrobiologia*. **582**: 92-97.

5.7 MP - Recreational - Derogations and non-conformities

None

5.8 EP - Recreational - Planned sampling

None planned

5.9 EP - Recreational - Non-conformities

None

6 Module F - Catches per unit effort

6.1 MP - Planned sampling

A list of the fleets that Ireland will supply data for is shown in table 6.1.

In 2008, Ireland continued to build and update the various CPUE and /or specific effort of specific commercial fleets for use in stock assessment by various working groups. These data are collected by census from logbooks and sampling data are from those collected under Module I. The fleets to be updated for the MP are those specified by STECF (see SEC 2003 843).

6.2 MP- Derogations and non-conformities

None

6.3 EP - Planned sampling

Ireland will also complete the EP for this module in 2008. The fleets to be updated for the EP are those specified by STECF (see SEC 2003 843).

6.4 EP - Non-conformities

None

7 Module G - Scientific evaluation surveys

7.1 MP - Planned Priority 1 surveys

Ireland meets the criteria of the minimum programme for research surveys as defined in Appendix XIV of Commission Regulation No 1581/2004.

Ireland participates in several ICES expert groups that deal with the coordination and organisation of these surveys. These groups are as follows:

IBTS Working Group (International bottom trawl surveys)

PGHERS (Co-ordinates herring surveys)

PGNAPES (Co-ordinates blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring surveys)

WGMEGS (Co-ordinates mackerel and horse mackerel egg surveys)

In 2008, the Irish Marine Institute plans to conduct or participate in the following surveys:

- i) Western IBTS Fourth Quarter Groundfish Surveys
- ii) Spawning/Pre Spawning Herring Acoustic Surveys
- iii) International Blue Whiting Spawning Area Acoustic Survey
- iv) E U Atlanto/Scandian Herring and Blue Whiting Acoustic Survey

i) Western IBTS 4th Quarter

Aim : The aim of the survey is to collect data on all fish and other species caught in a standardised way and monitor the wider ecosystem. For several commercially important stocks the survey provides an important fishery independent relative abundance index for assessment purposes. A further aim is to be the main data source of biological data for commercial fish and shellfish species listed in Appendix XVI.

Data Collection : The western IBTS 4th quarter groundfish surveys are designed to comply with the protocols set out in the ICES IBTS Protocols Manual. The survey is a depth stratified in design. The spatial coverage is such that this survey forms an important continuum along the west coast of Ireland linking the Scottish survey to the North, the French survey to the South, and the Spanish survey on the Porcupine Bank. Further details of the survey design are given in the IBTS WG report. For map of proposed stations see Figure 1

Data storage : Irish survey data are held on a Microsoft Access database. The data collected are reported to the appropriate working groups and has been transferred to the ICES DATRAS databases.

ii) Spawning/Pre Spawning Herring Acoustic Surveys

The aim of the Marine Institute herring acoustic surveys is to provide fishery independent indices of relative abundance to the ICES herring working group (HAWG).

The Marine Institute conducts annual acoustic surveys of herring stocks in ICES divisions VIIa south, VIIg and VIIj (Celtic Sea), and in ICES divisions VIIb, VIIc and VIa south off the north west coast of Ireland. In 2008 two surveys are planned with the aim of providing estimates of relative abundance (with CV's) for these stocks to the Herring Working Group for stocks south of 62° N (HAWG). Ireland is allocated 86% and 91% respectively of the TACs in these two stock divisions.

The surveys provide the only fishery independent data source on these stocks. In 2005 and 2006 MI conducted intensive reviews of the survey data series with the aim of standardising estimates of relative abundance across both survey series and further refining survey design.

Spawning Herring Acoustic Survey

Aim: The aim of the survey is to provide an estimate of relative abundance to the HAWG and to compile a time series of estimates that can be used to tune the assessment of this stock.

Data Collection: This survey takes place on spawning aggregations. Otherwise survey protocols are in accordance with those of the planning group on herring surveys (PGHERS). The area covered by the survey is shown in Figure 2. The survey will take place over 21 days in January 2008 onboard the RV Celtic Explorer. Hydrographic, seabird and cetacean data will also be collected.

This survey will be co-ordinated by PGHERS and covers a stock that is currently in a rebuilding phase.

Data Storage: Data will be stored on a dedicated external hard disc, with DVD backup.

Pre Spawning Herring Acoustic Survey

Aim: The aim of the survey is to provide an estimate of relative abundance to the HAWG and to extend the tuning series used in the assessment.

Data Collection: This survey takes place on pre spawning aggregations. Otherwise survey protocols are in accordance with those of the planning group on herring surveys (PGHERS). The survey has been conducted in the fourth and first quarters with timing being guided by fisheries information on the distribution of the stock. The 2008 survey will take place over 21 days in the fourth quarter of 2008 onboard the RV Celtic Explorer. The area to be covered is shown in Fig. 3. Hydrographic, seabird and cetacean data will also be collected.

This survey will be co-ordinated by PGHERS and covers a stock that is currently in a rebuilding phase.

Data Storage: Data will be stored on a dedicated external hard disc, with DVD backup.

iii) Blue Whiting Survey

Aim: The aim of the survey is to provide a series of stock abundance estimates to tune the blue whiting assessment at the Northern Pelagic and Blue Whiting Working Group (NPBWWG) and to collect hydrographic information. Ireland has been a partner in the International Acoustic survey for blue whiting since 2004 with The Netherlands, Norway, Russia. The Faeroe Islands joined the survey in 2005.

Data Collection: The survey is coordinated by the Planning Group for North Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys (PGNAPES) and is aimed at containing the stock in spawning season. Ireland participates through the RV Celtic Explorer over 21 days in March and April. The Irish survey sector and proposed cruise tracks for 2008 are shown in Fig 4.

Data Storage: Data from the survey is stored at the ICES PGNAPES international database for blue whiting.

iv) E U Atlanto/Scandian Herring and Blue Whiting Acoustic Survey

Aim: The aim of the survey is to provide fishery independent indices of abundance on Atlanto Scandian Herring (ASH) and blue whiting to the Northern Pelagic and Blue Whiting Fisheries Working Group (NPBWWG). It also provides ecosystem data on the Norwegian and Barents Seas to other working groups.

Data Collection: Spatial coverage extends from approximately 62° to 73° N and between 5° W and 10° W and includes extensive hydrographic data. Ireland receives a share of the TAC for both stocks and sends one Scientist on the southern leg of the survey.

Data Storage: The survey data is stored in the international ICES PGNAPES database for ASH and blue whiting.

7.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

None

7.3 EP - Planned Priority 2 surveys

i) *Nephrops* Surveys (*Nephrops* Ecology in Divisions VIIa)

Aim: The aim of this survey is estimate the density and distribution of *Nephrops* and other benthic species in the western Irish Sea and to investigate the ecology of *Nephrops*. Ireland (Marine Institute) and UK Northern Ireland (DARDNI) have successfully conducted joint *Nephrops* ecology/UWTV survey in August-September each year since 2003. Funding is sought in the under the extended programme in 2008 for the Irish leg of this joint survey.

Data Collection: The survey is based on a randomised fixed grid design with stations approximately 3 nautical miles apart. The estimate numbers of stations in 2008 is 140 an example grid is shown in Figure 5. At each station burrow counts are made and densities are estimated. Various ecosystem data are collected throughout the survey area. Ireland has budgeted for 12 sea days in 2008 to complete the survey grid.

Data Storage: The data are collected following standard in house protocols and stored in a database specifically designed for UWTV data. . There has been international co-operation with the UK Northern Ireland and UK Scotland in the development of the survey. These data will be made available to the scientists in Ireland and the UKNI and results will be presented at the ICES WGNSDS.

ii) Irish Deep Water Trawl Survey

Aim: The Irish deepwater survey in Sub-area VI and VII has been conducted since 2006 and Ireland is seeking funding under the extended programme to continue this survey in 2008. The survey runs in close collaboration with the UK deepwater survey in subarea VI. See Figure 6. Gear and protocols are standardized between the two surveys as far as possible, survey effort is spatially coordinated and comparative tows are carried out between the two vessels. It is envisaged that the two surveys will form the core of an internationally coordinated deepwater survey along the European slope in 2009 with participation of additional vessels/countries south of subarea VII.

Data Collection: The aim of the survey is to collect abundance indices and biological data on the deepwater and slope fishery in Sub Areas VI and VII (Figure X). Additional data will be collected to describe the deepwater ecosystem including the taxonomic analysis of other species and the collection of environmental parameters. Fishing will be undertaken by demersal trawling on depth transects across the continental slope and protocols are in agreement with the methods used on the UK deepwater survey.

Data Storage: The Irish deep water survey data are held on a Microsoft Access database and is reported to the ICES working group on deepwater ecosystems (WGDEC) the working group on the biology and assessment of deepwater fish. (WGDEEP).

7.4 EP - Non-conformities and priority upgrades

None

8 Module H - Length and Age sampling

8.1 MP - Landings - Planned sampling

The species and stocks that will be sampled for length, and where appropriate ages, are given in Table 8.1. Numbers planned exceed the minimum numbers required where the data are either used in analytical stock assessments, are for recovery plan stocks, or can be collected at no additional cost to the EC.

Landings length and age sampling are stratified by ICES Area, Quarter, and Species (with the exception of Tuna where annual sampling occurs). Age samples are also length stratified. In all cases sampling intensity is adjusted to take into account seasonal distribution of landings. The sampling programme involves both market and port sampling where appropriate. Additional landings sampling occurs during discard trips.

Precision Levels and Sampling Intensities

Ireland has examined the relationship between precision levels and sampling intensities for a number of stocks (see Technical Report – Irish National Program, 2003). A comparison was made between the CV in numbers-at-age realised by actual levels of Irish sampling and the precision achievable by sampling at the intensities defined under the MP of the DCR. This analysis indicated that, when sampling to a level specified under the MP of the DCR:

- Sampling intensity can be grossly inadequate.
- Sampling levels are sometimes so low that the probability of sampling fish from the extremes of the length distribution is often zero.
- Highest CV's in the catch numbers are sometimes coincident with the most abundant age in the catch.

The sampling strategy and planned length and age targets proposed by Ireland in its 2008 National Programme is consistent with that used in the 2004-7 National Programmes.

Sampling of Foreign Landings

“Sampling of foreign flag vessel landings for length and age is one of the requirements of the DCR. According to the current provisions of the DCR, this sampling should be done at the port of landing (section H.1.c. of EU Regulation 1639-2001). This may pose logistic problems, especially when the port of landing differs from the port of first sale, e.g. when the landings are transferred in the port of landing to refrigerated lorry, for transportation to an auction in the flag country of the vessel.

In its December 2003 report, SGRN noted that the issue of foreign flag vessel sampling is often very inadequately covered by the National Programme proposals and that it could be improved by better task sharing between the countries involved. SGRN also suggested that the problem be resolved by bilateral agreements between the flag country of the vessels concerned and the countries where the landings are taking place. These agreements could then be included as part of the National Programme submissions of the two parties, as proof of the action that is / will be undertaken”. (RCM – DCR North East Atlantic Area, September 2004)

Ireland will follow the recommendations of both SGRN and the North East Atlantic RCM which recommend that foreign landings be sampled in the country of first sale. As a first step Ireland has begun the process of agreeing and implementing Bi – lateral agreements with other EU countries to better co – ordinate this sampling effort. An example of one such agreement is included in Annex II.

8.2 MP - Landings - Derogations and non-conformities

An overview of average landings, shares in EU TACs and EU landings, and exemption rules applied are given for mandatory species and stocks in Table 8.2. One non-conformity to mention is that some non-obligatory species/stocks will be sampled when encountered on surveys at no additional cost to the EC.

Spanish mackerel

The landings of this species in the last three years result from one single landing in 2004 into a foreign port. Ireland has not reported landing any spanish mackerel since and is unlikely to catch any in 2008. Therefore Ireland requests derogation for the sampling of this species.

Herring in IIa

Ireland has a share (8.9%) of the EU quota of Atlanto-Scandian herring. In recent years, subject to the terms of the EU-Norway agreement, Ireland has fished this stock, though landings have been into Norway. Thus it is difficult to obtain samples. Ireland will sample these catches, on an opportunistic basis, as far as possible.

Herring in VIIg and VIIaS

The DCR implementation document stipulates sampling levels for herring belonging to the Celtic Sea herring stock. This stock comprises Divisions VIIg, VIIj and Sub-division VIIaS. However the DCR only stipulates levels for VIIj. Therefore, in its submission for 2008, Ireland includes landings in VIIj, for the other areas too, as they comprise the same stock. Ireland makes this amendment because it considers the omission of VIIaS and VIIg as an error in the Regulation

Herring in VIIbc

Herring in VIIbc are part of the same stock as in VIaS. Consequently landings from the latter Division are included in VIIbc.

8.3 EP - Landings - Planned sampling

Extended programme species to be sampled are shown in table 8.3

8.4 EP - Landings - Non-conformities

None

8.5 MP & EP - Discards - Planned sampling

Ireland's discard sampling is based on the identified fleet segments or metiers previously identified in table 5.3. Discard sampling for all metiers is based on a random target sub-sample of discarded catches. All species will be measured in a sub-sample obtained for each haul. Landings sampling for length and age will also occur on discard trips to fulfil the requirements for species/stocks in 8.1. Age sampling of discards will occur for species/stocks in Annex XII of Regulations 1581/2004 where the lengths observed are outside the ranges covered by landings sampling. No species specific targets are set since sampling intensities are not readily predictable as they are dependent on occurrence of the species/stock in the discard sub-samples. Data on Irish discard rates, numbers and weights-at-age are provided and used by several ICES stock assessment working groups.

In 2008, Ireland will continue a self-sampling project in the Nephrops fishery. This programme will be conducted with co-operation of the Irish Industry and will involve several vessels providing catch samples on a monthly basis.

Ireland will develop its discard programme for pelagic fisheries, in 2008. A multivariate analysis of logbook data suggested 12 metiers targeting pelagic species. On a qualitative analysis, this was reduced to 8 metiers on the following criteria:

- Homogeneity of ICES Divisions
- Homogeneity of time period
- Homogeneity of vessels involved (same vessel using different gear codes)

Based on these analyses the metiers were identified as in Table 5.3

8.6 MP & EP - Discards - Derogations and non-conformities

None

9 Module I - Other biological sampling

9.1 MP - Planned sampling

The species for which sampling requirements exist are given in Table 8.2. Ireland took part in WKMAT in Lisbon in January 2007 and will follow the recommendations from the workshop. Sampling will take place during the spawning season, and will take place both on and off the spawning grounds to avoid biased estimates of the proportions mature.

Cod, black and white bellied monkfish, haddock, whiting, hake, ling

These species are usually landed gutted and biological parameters can therefore not be established from sampling the landings. Obtaining biological parameters during observer trips tends to interfere with the work of the fishermen and is therefore impractical. Apart from the availability of samples, there are a number of other drawbacks to sampling from commercial sources: (1) The size range of the fish in commercial sources is often so that very few immature fish are caught, making estimates of maturity imprecise; (2) Commercial fishermen often target spawning aggregations, thereby biasing the sampling; (3) Samples from commercial sources are not suitable for histological analysis as the ovaries have to be freshly preserved in formalin. Therefore the only feasible method of collecting fresh, unbiased samples in the right size range is by using surveys.

As the optimum time to establish maturity parameters is just before the peak of spawning, Irish maturity surveys for these species take place in February or early March. The 2006 biological sampling programme covered ICES division VIIa. In 2007 divisions VIIg and VIIj were targeted. It is proposed for 2008 to target VIIb and VIa South, thereby covering all coastal areas around Ireland in a 3-year period. Additional sampling for sex-ratio will take place on autumn groundfish surveys (Irish Groundfish Survey; western IBTS 4th quarter), which will cover ICES divisions VIaS and VIIbcgjk. The biological sampling programme takes place in coordination with the England & Wales spring groundfish survey.

Megrim, plaice and sole

These species are often landed with the gonads (partly) in place, however sampling from commercial sources is subject to the same drawbacks as mentioned above (size range, bias and histology). Megrim and plaice are caught in large numbers on groundfish surveys and will continue to be sampled in the areas covered by these surveys (VIaS, VIIbcgjk). As these species spawn around January, it is often possible to establish their maturity state during both the autumn ground fish survey and the spring biological sampling programme. Sole tend to be caught in low numbers and sampling levels will be supplemented by port sampling in 2008.

Rays

Maturity of rays can be determined year-round, so both maturity and sex ratio parameters will be collected during the spring biological sampling programme and the autumn groundfish surveys covering VIa and VIIbcgjk.

Herring, mackerel and horse mackerel

Maturity and sex of these species are determined for commercial samples as well as for survey samples. Surveys on which these species are sampled include the Herring Acoustic Surveys (VIa S, VIIb / VIIa S, VIIgj) and the Groundfish Surveys (VIaS, VIIbcgjk). No fecundity sampling for mackerel and horse mackerel will take place in 2008 as this is being done in 2007 during the triennial mackerel egg surveys and will next take place in 2010.

Nephrops

The sex and maturity stage of nephrops in commercial samples (FU 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20) and of those caught on groundfish surveys (VIa S, VIIbcgjk) will be determined.

Edible crab and Lobster

Edible crab and lobster will be sampled in the Irish ports. Length measurements will be taken and sex and maturity state will be noted.

Blue whiting

The derogation rules apply for this stock, but sampling for maturity and sex will take place during surveys, including the International Blue Whiting Survey (West of Ireland and West of Scotland) and the Groundfish surveys (VIa S, VIIbcgjk).

Portuguese dogfish, roundnose grenadier and orange roughy

These stocks will be sampled during the deepwater survey, which covers the west of Ireland and the west of Scotland. This survey takes place in coordination with the Scottish deepwater survey.

9.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

The TAC for haddock is set for the combined ICES areas VII, VIII, IX and X. However, Ireland has reported no catches from VIII, IX or X. Therefore no sampling will take place in these divisions. Similarly, the TAC for whiting is set for the combined areas Vb, VI, XII and XIV, however the vast majority of catches in this TAC area are from VIa. Therefore sampling will not take place in V, XII or XIV.

Spanish mackerel

The landings of this species in the last three years result from one single landing in 2004 into a foreign port. Ireland has not reported landing any Spanish mackerel since and is unlikely to catch any in 2008. Therefore Ireland requests derogation for the sampling of this species.

9.3 EP - Planned sampling

No extended programme is planned

9.4 EP - Non-conformities

No extended programme is planned

10 Module J – Economic data on fishing vessels

10.1 MP – Planned sampling

What data will be collected

In 2008, the following economic parameters will be collected from the Irish Fishing Fleet. Where possible, recommendations from SGRN and SGECA regarding parameter definition will be adhered to in the 2008 National Programme. It is possible that some additional parameters will be collected once a thorough review of the Members State's procedures and methodologies is completed in 2007.

Commission Reg. No. 1639/2001 Appendix XVII	Economic Parameters collected in 2008	Data source
Income (turnover)	Fishing Income Vessel related non-fishing income	Company accounts Logbook
Production costs		
--- Crew (including social costs)	Total crew costs	Company accounts
--- Fuel	Fuel and Oil (Bulk)	Company accounts
--- Repair and maintenance	Repairs and maintenance	Company accounts
--- Other operational costs	Filters/Gloves/Lube Oil Provisions Handling Fees Commission Transport Ice Dues and levies Other operational costs	Company accounts
Fixed costs	Insurance Loan interest Bank interest & charges Accountancy & audit Subs & donations Motor & Travelling expenses Legal Fees Telephone, Postage & Stationery Other fixed costs	Company accounts
Financial Position	Fixed Assets (initial cost, Additions/Disposals, Depreciation, Net Book value, Insured value) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Boat ▶ Equipment & Fittings ▶ Motor Vehicles ▶ Other fixed assets (specify) Current Assets (Cash as Bank, Debtors & Prepayments, Other current assets) Current Liabilities (Short term loans, Bank Overdraft, Bank Finance & Leasing, Creditors & Accruals, Other current Liabilities) Long Term Loans	Balance Sheet
Investments (Assets)	Fixed Assets Investments Government Grants	Balance Sheet

Prices/species	Collected exhaustively by Member State	Logbook/Sales Notes
Employment	Total, Part-time, Fulltime, Casual	Questionnaire
Fleet	No of Vessels, GT, Kw, Age, Gears	Fleet Register
Effort	Days at sea	Logbook

Who the data will be collected from

The data sources for the national implementation of Module J are as follows:

- Fleet register information from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR)
- Log sheet information from the DCMNR
- Voluntary questionnaire information returned from vessel owners targeted for the annual economic survey
- Mandatory questionnaire information returned from vessel owners when applying for EU and National grant aid.
- End of year accountant's reports from certified accountants containing income and earnings and balance sheet details.
- Voluntary questionnaire information from interviews with vessel owners
- Abridged accounts of Limited Companies from the Company Registration Office

The target population is the "commercial fishing fleet" in accordance with Article 2.2 of the DCR. The structure of the fishing fleet is provided in table 10.1 under "total population no." and represents all vessels on the national fishing fleet register on 17th April 2007, as provided by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR), both active and inactive. The target population segments are defined by the overall length of the vessels and main fishing methods, in accordance with Appendix III of Commission Regulation EC 1639/2001, and hence, are fully compliant with the DCR regulations.

How the data will be collected

To identify the sample sizes necessary to attain the required level of precision for each of the fleet segments as defined in Appendix III, BIM will employ independent statistical consultants to examine historical economic data, in conjunction with the existing fleet structure. The resultant sample sizes will be based on an analytical based approach to defining sample size, based on a known target population and precision level. The sampling plan is detailed in Table 10.1 under the column heading "planned sample no". Economic data from a minimum of 312 vessels will be collected, from a total population of 1858, representing 17% of the target population. Of these, 214 will be from fleet segments over 12 metres in overall length, and 98 from segments under 12 metres in overall length, representing 54% and 7% of the total population respectively.

On the recommendation of the statistical consultants, all vessels over 12 meters in length, regardless of their level of activity, will be polled in order to maximise the return rate from the postal survey. Economic data on inshore vessels (less than 12 metres overall length) will be obtained by face-to-face interviews with vessel owners by regional fisheries personnel.

In 2006, it was made mandatory for all vessel owners to submit economic data to qualify for vessel related EU and National grant aid in excess of €6,500. This measure was implemented to increase compliance with the regulations in terms of population coverage, and in the knowledge that the annual economic survey will remain voluntary for the foreseeable future.

Following advice and input from the industry, the timing of the 2008 survey will be scheduled to coincide with the final date for submission of tax returns for the previous financial year. This is intended to encourage the active participation of fishermen and their accountant's in providing the relevant data at a single and convenient time of the year.

Gross value of landings for the offshore fleet will be determined as the product of the landings and contemporary fish prices, as provided in official fishing logbooks and contemporary price databases provided by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

To ensure the anonymity of all fishermen that cooperate in the survey no unique vessel identifiers will continue to be stored in the database developed for this purpose.

10.2 MP – Derogations and non-conformities

In common with many other member states, the Irish National Programme for the collection of economic data is largely reliant on the voluntary provision of data. As such, whilst every effort will be made to attain the proposed level of sampling in Table 10.1, there can be no guarantee that this will be achieved. In addition, due to the self-selecting nature of a voluntary survey, sampling theory cannot be applied, nor the precision of the data ascertained.

The Member State is fully aware of its obligations under the DCR in relation to population coverage and the reporting of precision and the following actions will increase the response rates to future surveys:

- Mandatory supply of economic data to qualify for EU and National grant aid over €6,500;
- Commitment by the Producer Organisations to supply additional economic data;
- Employment of an economics stagiere in 2007, to assist in all aspects of the annual survey, from sampling design to quality assessment of the data received;
- Employment of an interviewer (nationally funded) to conduct face-to-face interviews with fishermen, initially targeting the under 10 m fleet,
- Redesign of the economic assessment forms to mirror an accountant's end of year financial accounts, in order to improve the quality of the data received and ease the burden on industry to comply with the survey,

In addition, all sampling techniques will be reviewed in 2007, with the aid of statistical consultants, to examine how best to proceed with regard to reporting on precision on a voluntary survey. Efforts to improve on industry cooperation will continue, utilising all methods available to ensure that sampling targets are met.

10.3 EP – Planned sampling

Not applicable

10.4 EP – Non –conformities

Not applicable

11 Module K - Data concerning fish processing industry

11.1 MP - Planned sampling

BIM will collect the data set out in the table hereafter:

Table 1: Economic information from the processing industry as defined in Appendix XIX

Commission Reg. No. 1639/2001 Appendix XIX	MP First priority (annual)	To be collected by BIM in 2008
Raw material	<i>Total and per species (tonnes)</i>	Volume of Raw Material
Income (turnover)	<i>Total and per product</i>	Turnover Other (Operating) Income
Production costs: - Labour (=D) - Energy (=E) - Raw material (value) (=F) - Packaging (=G) - Other running costs (=H)	<i>Total and per category cost</i>	Wages and Salaries including social costs Energy Costs Value of Raw Material Packaging Costs Other operational costs
Fixed costs	<i>Average costs, calculated from investment</i>	Depreciation
Financial position	<i>Share of own/borrowed capital</i>	Equity Shareholders' Funds/Shareholders' Equity/Owner's Equity Total Liabilities
Investment (asset)	- <i>Historical</i> - <i>Replacement</i> - <i>Insurance</i>	Net fixed Asset (historical) Replacement Insurance
Prices/product	<i>Value, tonne</i>	Volume of Sales per product Value of Sales per product
Employment	<i>Numbers/ FTE</i>	Numbers employed, full-time, part-time and FTE
Capacity utilisation	<i>Annual average</i>	Capacity Utilisation

The data is being collected from the company accounts of fish processing companies.

Target population

The target population is all licensed fish processing companies operating in the Republic of Ireland.

Sampling Frame

The sample will be a stratified sample. In Ireland, over half the companies operate at less than an annual turnover of €1million, therefore, the logic is to divide the companies into larger size and smaller sized companies by turnover. The first category is the top 50 companies, which account for 80% of accumulated total sector turnover. Category two contains the remaining companies, which account for 20% of accumulated total sector turnover.

Sampling Method

Random sample within the strata outlined above.

Sample Size

Once the strata are defined, BIM considers that a sample size in the region of 30% would be a good representation from category one. It is felt that 30% would be too large a representation of the category two, given the fact that these smaller companies only represent 20% of overall turnover. So a sample size of 15% is deemed appropriate.

How the data are being collected

As all processing companies are limited liability (ltd) companies they are required to publish abridged accounts on an annual basis. BIM will carry out an analysis of these audited accounts through the Companies Registration Office (CRO). In addition, BIM will access an internal database if the need arises and will carry out a number of one to one interviews with processors to complete and validate this data.

A benchmark study of the industry will be undertaken in 2008 as part of a recommendation set out in "Steering a New Course", the report that forms the basis for the National Strategic Plan and Operational Programme. This study will look into the profitability and competitiveness of the processing sector and any data that will be collated could potentially also be used for DCR purposes.

Database Development

In compliance with article 9, 10 and 11, a database has been created to store and analyse all data relevant to module K (fish processing). Upgrading of this database will continue in 2008. The data will be stored in aggregated format only and it will not be possible to identify individual processors. As stipulated in article 10(2) of the regulation, it will be possible to extract any data requested by the Commission within 20 working days

11.2 MP - Derogations and non-conformities

No derogations requested

11.3 EP - Planned sampling

None planned

11.4 EP - Non-conformities

Not Applicable

12 Databases

12.1 Database development and data management

Ireland will provide data to the relevant international organisations engaged in stock assessment, namely, ICES, ICCAT, STECF and the EU in accordance with the specific rules and regulatory provisions of these organisations. The EU will be informed by Ireland on the transmission of any data and will be provided with a digital copy upon request.

In accordance with articles 9, Ireland shall ensure that all data collected under the Data Collection Regulation are dealt with in a confidential way and that all primary and aggregated data are housed and managed on computerised databases accessible by electronic means to the Commission and National Correspondents.

Data Base Development for 2008

Data from FSS port sampling is warehoused in the STOCKMAN system, which is a client-server relational database in SQL2000 with a VB6 graphical user interface (GUI). Other data, such as survey, discard and tagging for example is presently housed in a number of Access 2000 databases on the Marine Institute's network. Other data continues to be managed in Excel spreadsheets. The focus of the data management programme is to consolidate data where possible, and centralise on more robust and secure enterprise-wide databases while continuing to enhance and further develop the suite of analysis and reporting tools available. Significant progress has been made over recent years to consolidate the range of databases and data management solutions in place for fisheries datasets. Services from the biological sampling database (STOCKMAN) are available via Java Apache web-service technology (Apache Axis 2) to the JRC. Data archiving is now formalised, and the integration of survey datasets is well underway.

The planned priorities for 2008 are as follows;

Stockman – Biological Sampling Database

- Formalise views used in reporting precision.
- Implement a QC system
- Address minor bugs encountered with the current GUI of STOCKMAN Data Entry and develop data validation routines
- Complete uploads of archived data restored from obsolete media and historic formats to STOCKMAN & implement an archive policy

Catch/Logbooks Data Management System.

- Consolidate old logbooks data to views consistent with FSS interpretation of IFIS model
- Formalise data reporting schedules between IFIS and FSS logbooks database
- Formalise versioning of FSS logbooks database

DCR Control Exercise.

- Monitor and implement any changes in codification standards.
- Complete implementation of the JRC data web services access solution. These services run on a designated server and respond to client calls (from the JRC) for data requests. The client calls the web-service by sending a configurable data-request to it. The server services this data-request by reading from the appropriate database(s), and returning this data in an appropriately structured XML format to the JRC.

Discard Database

- Work will continue on the discard database with plans to finalise database security, data entry validation and GIS export solutions.
- Ireland will develop a database module for its new pelagic discard programme, in 2008.

Survey Databases

- 2008 work will see the completion of the IBTS and the deep water survey databases to the generic survey data model developed in 2006 in SQL Server.
- The work initiated in 2006 to spatially enable the Survey database will be implemented and GIS tools provided to support analysis and dissemination of data. Meta data is currently available on www.maps.marine.ie .

Database Integration

- Scope and plan data integration solution. The objective of the integration will be to build the functionality required for a complete automated response from JRC data requests, as well as provide a flexible tool for spatial and temporal data mining of fisheries and environmental (ecosystem) data.

13 National and international co-ordination

13.1 National co-ordination

National co-ordination meetings for the Data Collection Regulation will be held between the three main participating agencies; the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Marine Institute and Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

13.2 International co-ordination

Scientific Planning and Co-ordination meetings

During 2008, Ireland will participate fully in the ICES planning and co-ordination meetings and ageing exchanges which are directly related to data collection requirements under Commission Regulation (EC) 1639/2001.

13.3 Follow-up of RCM recommendations and initiatives

- RCM NEA recommends that surveys carried out in NEA area (Annex 6) will be presented in the SGRN meeting (Review of the list of surveys and level priorities, December 11-15,2006)

Ireland participated at the SGRN survey review meeting in Feb 2007, and presented information in relation to its surveys.

- RCM NEA recommends that the announcement of Blue Whiting survey dates should be made before the first of January of the year in which the survey will be held.

The Irish Research Vessel schedule is generally fixed and announced in December.

- RCM NEA recommends a sampling design oriented for the proper area and season to obtain maturity data, intensifying the maturity sampling in the period of sexual activity.

The species for which sampling requirements exist are given in Table 8.2. Ireland took part in WKMAT in Lisbon in January 2007 and will follow the recommendations from the workshop.

List of acronyms and abbreviations

- ACFM** Advisory Council on Fisheries Management – This ICES group is responsible for compiling and analysing all available fish stock information to compile advice on stock levels and strategies for management.
- Acoustic surveys** Acoustic surveys use sound waves emitted from a "transducer" to estimate the density of plankton and fish shoals. The survey vessel tows the transducer under water, which is linked to an echo sounder in the vessel which records the shoals of fish as "marks" on a screen or paper trace. The density of these marks is used to calculate total biomass of a stock.
- Age** The number of years of life completed, here indicated by an Arabic numeral, followed by a plus sign if there is any possibility of ambiguity (age 5, age 5+).
- BIM** An Bord Iascaigh Mhara, The Irish Sea Fisheries Board, charged with responsibility for development of the fishing and aquaculture industries in Ireland. (see www.bim.ie)
- By-catch** Refers to discarded catch (see Discards) plus incidental catch not purposely targeted by the fishermen.
- CPUE /Catch Per Unit of Effort** The catch of fish, in numbers or in weight, taken by a defined unit of fishing effort. Also called catch per effort, fishing success, or availability.
- DCMNR** Depart. of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (see www.dcmnr.gov.ie/Marine)
- DCR / Data Collection Regulation** EU Council Regulations 1543/2000 and 1639/2001 established a community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the common fisheries policy. Each member state must collect data on the biology of the fish stocks, on the fleets and their activities and on economic and social issues
- Discard** Discards are defined as that part of the catch returned to the sea as a result of economic, legal or other considerations.
- Discard rate** The percentage (or proportion) of the total catch which is discarded.
- EP** Extended Programme
- FAT** Fisheries Assessment Technician – regionally-based sea-going staff employed by FSS.
- Fishing Effort** The total fishing gear in use for a specified period of time. When two or more kinds of gear are used, they must be adjusted to some standard type
- Groundfish** Species of demersal fish dwelling on, or close to the sea floor, as targeted in the annual FSS groundfish surveys around the Irish coast.
- IBTS** International Bottom Trawl Survey Working group
- ICES** International Council for the Exploration of the Seas –Ireland shares the Total Allowable Catches TACs for many stocks we exploit with our European Union partners. Because of this international dimension many stocks need to be assessed in an international fora such as ICES.
- ICCAT** International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
- Marine Institute** The Marine Institute is Ireland's national agency with the following general functions : "to undertake, to co-ordinate, to promote and to assist in marine research and development and to provide such services related to marine research and development, that in the opinion of the Institute will promote economic development and create employment and protect the environment." Marine Institute Act, 1991 (see www.marine.ie)
- FSS / Fisheries Science Services** – One of seven service areas of the Marine Institute, FSS's mission is to assess, research and advise on the marine fisheries resource in Irish waters
- LT** Laboratory Technician.
- MP** Minimum Programme.
- MS** Member State.
- Nemesy s** *Nephrops* measuring system.
- NP** National Programme.
- RCM** Regional Co-ordination Meetings.
- PGCCDBS**, Planning group commercial catch discards and Biological sampling
- PGHERS** ICES Planning Group for Herring Surveys
- PGNAPES** ICES Planning Group on North East Atlantic Pelagic Ecosystem Surveys
- Recovery Plan** This is a multi-annual plan to recover seriously depleted stock. The plans general involve agreed Harvest control Rules, Technical Measures, effort controls and various control and enforcement measures.

Recruitment The amount of fish added to the exploitable stock each year due to growth and/or migration into the fishing area. For example, the number of fish that grow to become vulnerable to the fishing gear in one year would be the recruitment to the fishable population that year. This term is also used in referring to the number of fish from a year class reaching a certain age. For example, all fish reaching their second year would be age 2 recruits.

Sample A proportion or a segment of a fish stock which is removed for study, and is assumed to be representative of the whole. The greater the effort, in terms of both numbers and magnitude of the samples, the greater the confidence that the information obtained is a true reflection of the status of a stock (level of abundance in terms of numbers or weight, age composition, etc.)

STECF The Scientific Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries was established by the European Commission and comprises fisheries scientists and economists from the member states. The role of STECF is to advise the European Commission on scientific, technical and economic issues related to the management of fisheries resources that are exploited worldwide by members of the European Union.

STO Scientific and Technical Officer

Stock A "stock" is a population of a species living in a defined geographical area with similar biological parameters (e.g. growth, size at maturity, fecundity etc.) and a shared mortality rate. A thorough understanding of the fisheries biology of any species is needed to define these biological parameters.

SSB / Spawning stock biomass The total weight of all sexually mature fish in the population. The size of SSB for a stock depends on abundance of year classes, the exploitation pattern, the rate of growth, fishing and natural mortality rates, the onset of sexual maturity and environmental conditions.

STOCKMAN A custom developed relational database which houses the Marine Institute Fisheries Science Services sampling data.

TAC / Total allowable catch is the total regulated catch from a stock in a given time period, usually a year.

TL Team Leader

WGFTFB Working group Fishing technology and fish behaviour

WKDRP Workshop on Discard Raising Procedures

WGMEGS ICES Working Group on Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Surveys (WGMEGS)

WKMSMAC Workshop on sexual maturity staging of mackerel and horse mackerel

WKUFS Workshop on Using Fishermen to sample catches

14 Comments, suggestions and reflections

Special Comment

Staff Costs

Staff costs for 2008 are based on averages for the staff grades in December, 2006 and adjusted by an estimated 15.75% to take in the anticipated changes in line with National Wage and Benchmarking Agreements.

Vessel costs

The required increases in vessel day rates of €3,000 per day for the Celtic Voyager and €2,000 per day for the Celtic Explore have been identified following a detailed independent audit of the costs associated with the operation and management of both vessels. The Marine Institute commissioned the review of the pricing structure applicable to the two research vessels in order to ensure that charge out rates for non commercial research are appropriate, and accurately reflect the recovery of full operational costs. These revised rates are a true reflection of the total costs of operating the vessels which were difficult to define in 2002 when the Celtic Explorer was first acquired, as there were no actual operational costs available at that time. Some of the principle factors responsible for increasing the running costs for the vessels include:

- Increased Fuel Prices.
- Management fee associated with the award of the Technical and Operational Support Services contract to P&O Maritime Services in 2006.
- Salary increases due to the expansion in crew and shore support staff to support the Celtic Explorer
- National Wage Agreements and Benchmarking agreements increasing salary costs.

Maps of Proposed Cruise Tracks & Station Positions for 2008 Surveys

Figure 1: Stations for Western IBTS Groundfish Survey 2008

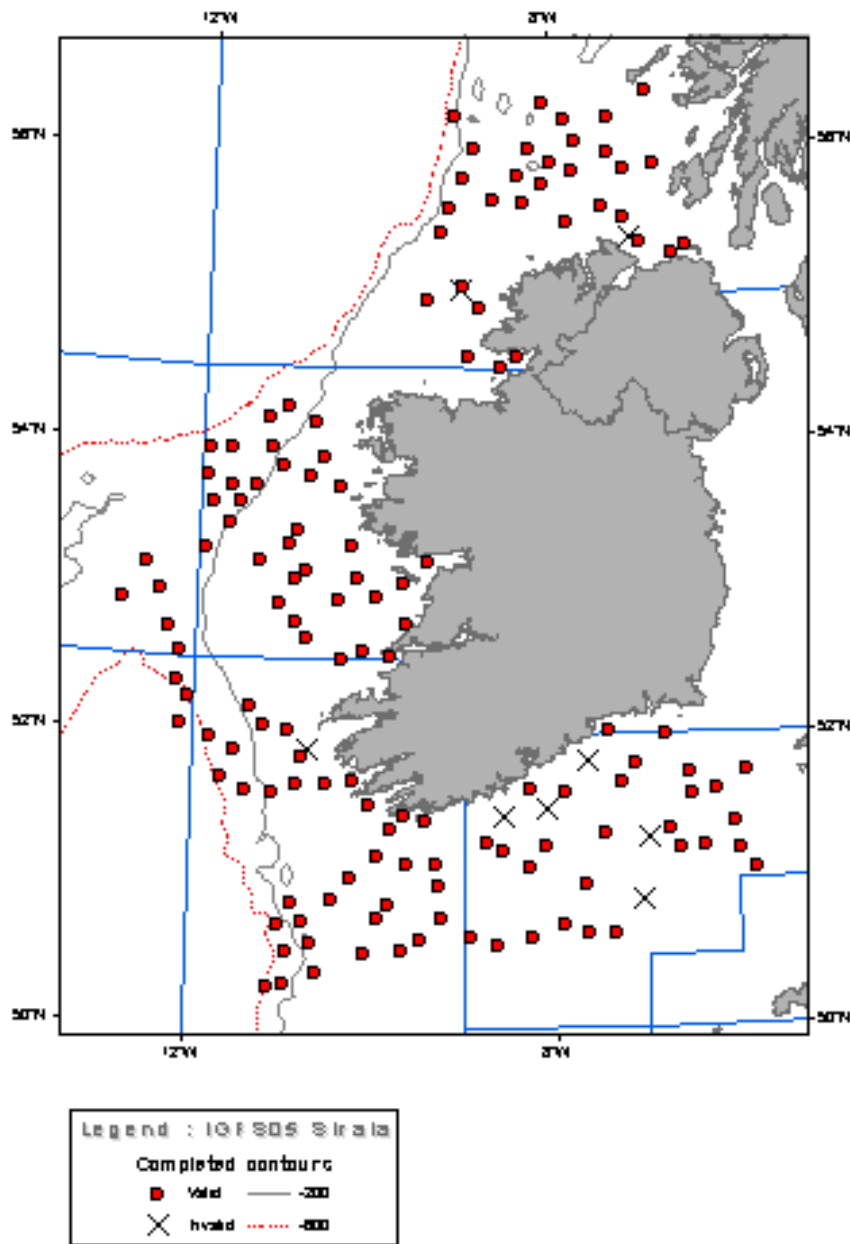


Figure 2: Spawning /Pre Spawning herring acoustic survey

Herring acoustic survey proposed area coverage for the 2008 VIaS and VIIb spawning stock survey.

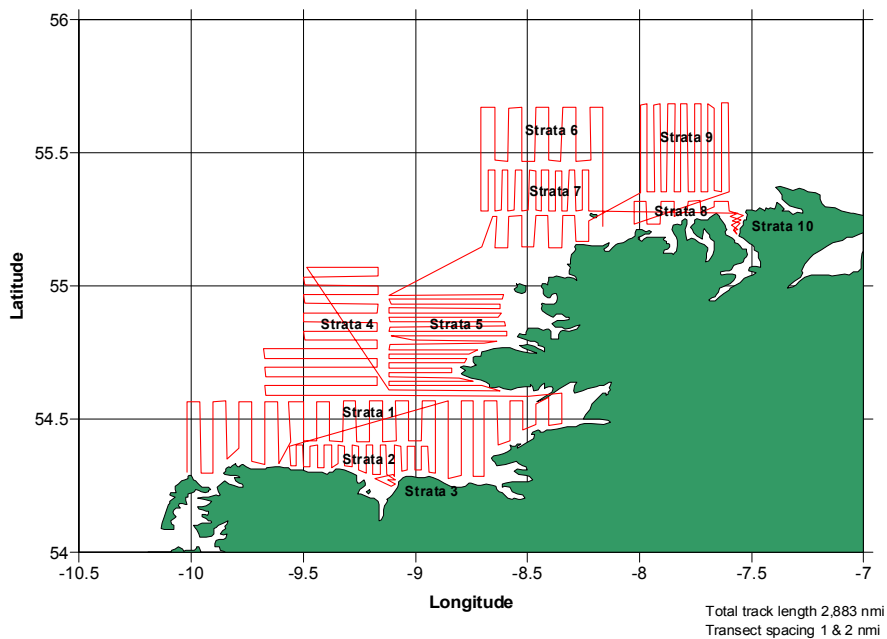


Figure 3: Herring acoustic survey proposed area coverage for the 2008 Celtic Sea and VIIj pre spawning stock survey.

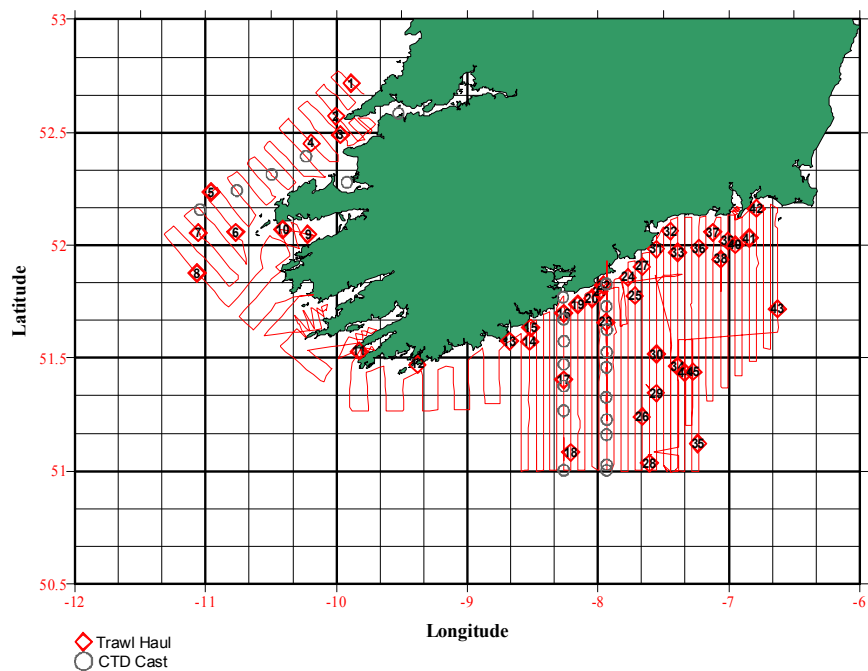


Figure 4 : Proposed Cruise Track for Blue whiting Acoustic Survey 2008

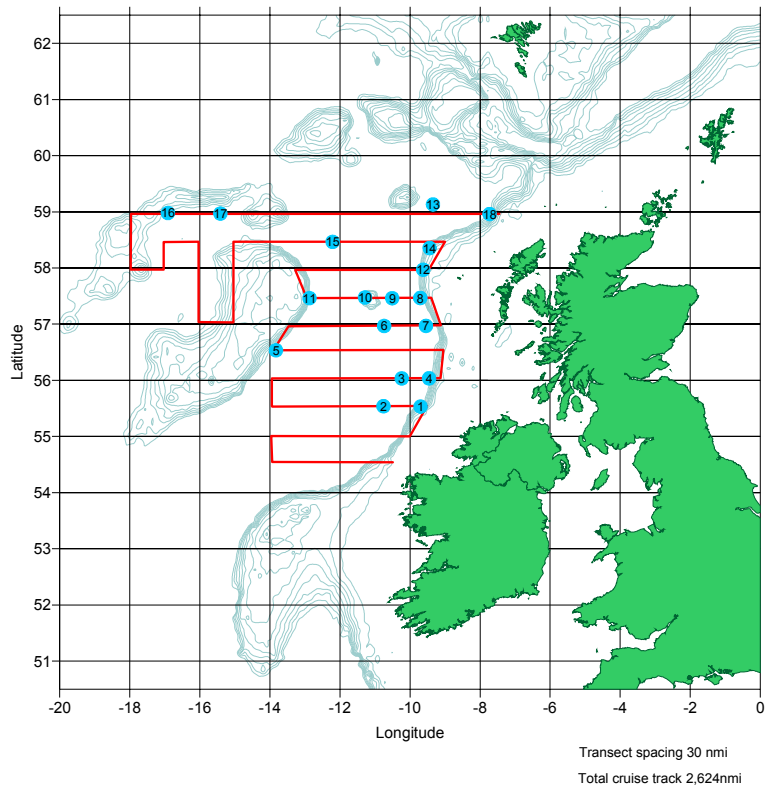


Figure 5: Proposed Station positions for joint Marine Institute Nephrops UWTV Surveys in Irish Sea during 2008

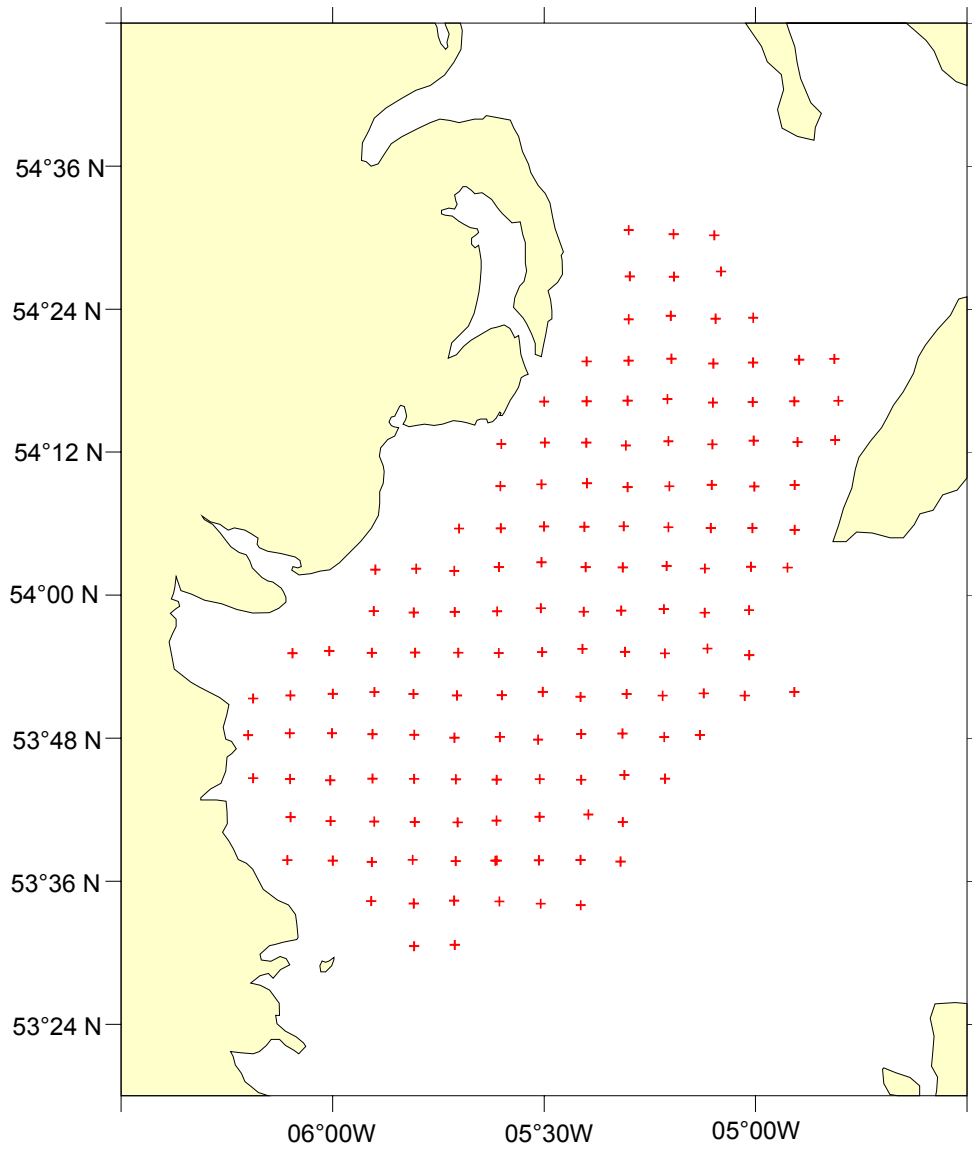
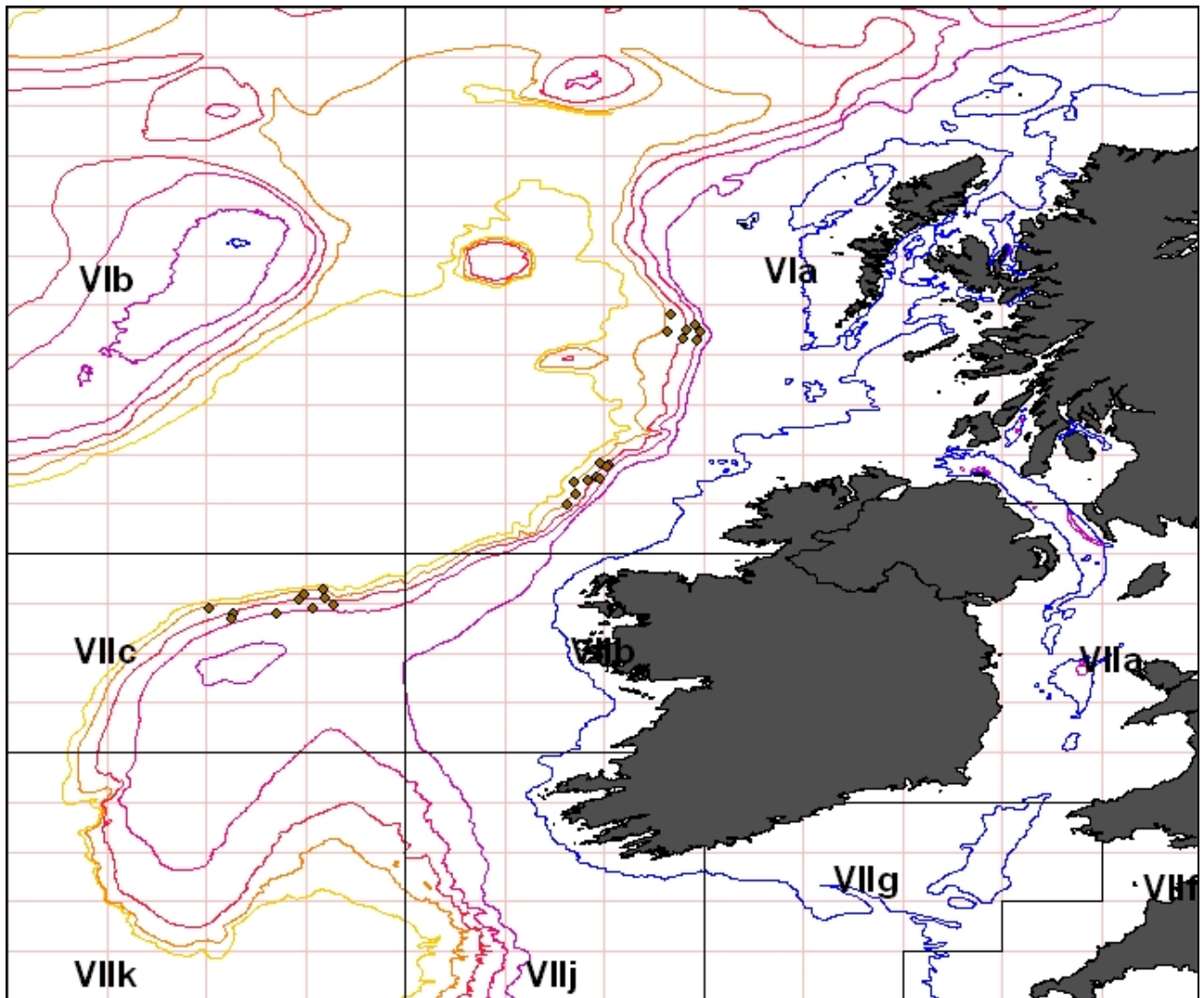
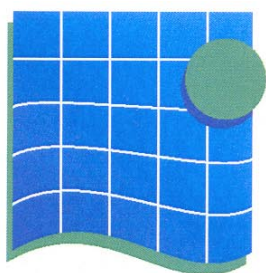


Figure 6: Proposed stations for the 2008 Deepwater Survey





Marine Institute
Foras na Mara

**Bilateral Agreement between Ireland (M.I. Ireland) and
Scotland (MARLAB) for the Collection of Length and Age Samples
Under the Minimum Programme of Regulation 1639/2001**

In its report from December 2003, SGRN noted that length and age sampling of landings by foreign vessels could be improved by better task sharing between the countries involved.

In compliance with this, Ireland and Scotland have agreed that samples of fish landed by Irish vessels into Scotland will be sampled by MARLAB. Landings by Scottish vessels into Ireland and transported for first sale into Scotland will be sampled upon arrival in the Scottish auctions by MARLAB as part of the Scottish National Data Gathering Programme, under the requirements of the EU Data Collection Regulation (1639/2001). MARLAB will ensure that the estimated additional landings are included in their target when calculating sampling levels, and when applying for funds to cover this additional sampling requirement.

At the same time, Ireland agrees to carry out additional sampling of fish landed by Scottish vessels for sale in Ireland. MI also ensures they will sample Irish vessels landing fish into Scotland which are transported for first sale in Ireland as part of the Irish National Data Gathering Programme, under the requirements of the EU Data Collection Regulation (1639/2001). MI will ensure that the estimated additional landings are included in their target when calculating sampling levels, and when applying for funds to cover this additional sampling requirement.

This agreement confirms the arrangements in place for 2004, and agrees that it should be continued in 2005 and 2006. After this time this current agreement will be extended subject to review.

Signed: Gráinne ní Choshaí
Marine Institute, Ireland.

Date: 26/04/2005

Signed: Margaret A. Beal
MARLAB, Scotland.

Date: 3/05/2005