

EU Council Regulation 1543/2000

**Establishing a Community Framework for the Collection
and Management of Data Needed to Conduct the CFP**

**Report of the 3rd Liaison Meeting between
the Chairs of the RCMs, the Chair of SGRN and
the European Commission**

Brussels, 14-15 November 2006

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Liaison meeting was held in the premises of the DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Brussels from 14-15 November 2006.

The EU Data Collection Regulation (EC 1543/2000 and the implementing Regulations 1639/2001 and 1581/2004) established a framework for the collection of fishing capacity, effort, landings and discards, biological and economic data by Member States (MS). It was intended that this programme would provide the basic data needed to evaluate the state of fishery resources and the fisheries sector. Although the Regulations set out the detailed requirements of the programme, and specifically require MS to demonstrate cooperation and task sharing (Article 3 (d)), no mechanism was specified to achieve this.

The implementation of regional co-ordination of the Data Collection Regulation (DCR) was discussed at the meeting of the Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture (CFA) held in Brussels on 21st October 2003. The need to co-ordinate the DCR on a more regional basis was agreed as the problems and issues in the Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic, Mediterranean waters and Overseas are very different. There was agreement that regional co-ordination would greatly increase the efficiency, effectiveness and integration of the various DCR. National Programmes. The key objectives of the Regional Coordination Meetings (RCM) are to identify areas for standardisation, collaboration and cooperation between MS.

As soon as the first year of implementation of the DCR, it was recommended to set up a liaison meeting, in order to maintain communication between the areas and to ensure that recommendations requiring wider participation are effectively dealt with.

To make sure that communication between RCMs, LM, SGRN and the Commission is most effective, the 2nd LM proposed the following timing for the relevant meetings from 2006 onwards:

- All RCMs to take place in late summer or autumn, i.e. after the submission of the National Programme (NP) proposals for the upcoming year but before the end of October. RCM reports to be finalised before the LM of mid-November.
- LM to take place mid-November. LM report to be finalised before the December meeting of SGRN.
- Discussion of the LM report at the December meeting of SGRN. Submission of SGRN's final conclusions and recommendations on RCM-related issues that impact the MSs' data collection programmes "in the field", to the STECF, the Commission and the MSs.

In doing so, the decision making process can be sped up considerably and MSs can be informed sufficiently well in time on the changes they can / should make to their NPs in response to the RCM recommendations, while at the same time, the role of the different advisory bodies on data collection issues (SGRN and STECF) is fully respected.

1.2 RCM Reports discussed at 2006 3rd Liaison Meeting

During its meeting in November 2006, the LM discussed the following RCM Reports:

- **RCM Baltic Sea** (RCM Baltic): 3rd Regional Co-ordination Meeting for Baltic sea, Lysekil, Sweden, 16 - 20 October 2006.
- **RCM North Sea & East Arctic**, (RCM NSEA): 3rd Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & East Arctic, The Hague, The Netherlands, 26-29 September 2006.
- **RCM North East Atlantic** (RCM NEA): 3rd Regional Co-ordination Meeting for North East Atlantic area, Lisbon, Portugal, 2 - 6 October 2006.
- **RCM North West Atlantic** (RCM NAFO): 2nd Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Atlantic North West (NAFO area), Lisbon, Portugal, 25 - 28 April 2006.
- **RCM Mediterranean Sea** (RCM Medit): 3rd Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the Mediterranean Area, Malta, 26 –28 April 2006.

1.3 Participants

Name	Country	Function
Antonio Cervantes(*)	EU Commission	EU Commission
Matthew Camilleri	Malta	Chair of the Mediterranean RCM
Jørgen Dalskov	Denmark	Chair of the NS&EA RCM
Ernesto Jardim	Portugal	Chair of the ICES, PGCCDBS
Hans Lassen	ICES	ICES Secretariat
Joan Modin	Sweden	Chair of the Baltic RCM
Philippe Mogueudet (*)	EU Commission	EU Commission
Graça Pestana	Portugal	Chair of the NEA RCM
Joel Vigneau (chair)	France	Chair of the STECF, SGRN

(*) Part time

1.4 Agenda

At the beginning of the meeting, the following agenda has been adopted. The sections developing the LM comments are indicated between brackets.

1. Overview of the main recommendations and outputs of the different RCM held in 2006, with a particular attention to the following aspects: [section 2]
 - Fleet based approach
 - Ecosystem approach indicators/parameters
 - Review of the research surveys at sea
 - Cooperation and coordination between countries at RCM scale
 - Workshops
2. Identification of priority topics for studies and research projects for 2007 [section 3]
3. Improved cooperation with ICES: new MoU [section 3]

4. Stock taking of cooperation with JRC [section 2.6]

5. AOB (Information on the call for tenders launched in 2006, State of Play of the New DCR) [section 6]

2 Overview of the main recommendations and outputs of the different RCM held in 2006

2.1 Fleet based approach

2.1.1 Discussion

The general conclusions of the RCM's were that the work done at the DCR meetings/workshops on constructing "the fleet activity matrix" and the matrix itself as a comprehensive way to overview all the fishing activities in the European fleet has been successful and that the approach can be implemented by all member states. Implications for sampling when moving from a stock-based to a fleet-based approach has been thoroughly discussed at most RCM's. It was the group's opinion that even though the matrix, as previously stated, is comprehensive on an European scale. Hence, it could cause some unnecessary over-stratification on a regional scale.

Discussion at the RCM's have shown that it is of crucial importance that strata are defined in exactly the same way in all countries sampling the same fishing activity. Furthermore, it has been realised that definitions of "What is a sample?" and "How to carry out métier based sampling?" needs to be clarified.

The LM recognize that it is virtually impossible to fulfil the obligations for sampling all fishing activities in the matrix. Therefore, the future DCR should include guidelines/rules on how to deal with general problems concerning merging different fishing activities in a certain area. Furthermore, all initiatives to setup practical arrangements between countries should be supported and the role of the RCM should be strengthened.

2.1.2 Recap of relevant RCM comments and recommendations, and LM comments

Topic : the métier/fleet matrix	
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East arctic recommend that within the future DCR, clear general rules will be given on merging fishing activity strata for sampling reasons.
LM comment	The LM realises the need for merging fishing activity strata. This merging should be based on scientific analysis and evidence. Attention should be made on the ICES report SGDFE and the RCM's should take these finding into account when setting up proposals.
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East arctic recommend that it will be up to the RCM's to decide, after scientific analysis, which strata can be merged

	for sampling purposes. RCM stresses the importance of synchronisation of strata definitions between countries within an area.
LM comment	See previous comment above
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East arctic recommend that the fishery/metier matrix be adjusted to incorporate recreational fisheries and eel fishing.
LM comment	The LM supports this recommendation.
RCM Medit	The RCM Mediterranean recommends that definition of the most appropriate segmentation on length classes to be consistent as much as possible with the SAC segmentation.
LM comment	The LM suggest that the SGECA meeting in January 2008 should address this issue
RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends implementing a split at 10 m LOA of the 12 m LOA vessel length category.
LM comment	The LM suggest that the SGECA meeting in January 2008 should address this issue
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that the fishery/metier matrix be adjusted to incorporate recreational fisheries for a limited number of stocks.
LM comment	The LM supports this recommendation. The number of stocks caught by recreational fisheries should be based on the pilot project findings.
RCM NAFO	The RCM NAFO recommends to use the "Nantes Matrix" approach and to implement the matrix for the NAFO area.
LM comment	The LM fully supports this recommendation but stresses that the fleet segmentation should be based on analysis of the fisheries.
Topic : the future DCR and the RCM	
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East arctic recommend that the RCM's role will be formally described in the future DCR in 2008. RCM stresses that the RCM's have a key role in submission of national programmes and harmonizing the national programmes before submission.
LM comment	The LM agrees that in order to increase corporation and co-ordination of the regional data collection it is of outmost importance that the RCM's are having a formalised active role when setting up national programmes

	for the coming year (N+1 year). Therefore, the LM suggests that the role of the RCM's is formalised in the revision of the DCR.
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommend that an ad-hoc sub-group be established in time to set up a sampling plan to deal with the issue of translating the future DCR into practical arrangements concerning sampling and sampling intensities.
LM comment	When the Commission publish their suggestion for the data collection implementation regulation the LM suggests that an extension of the next SGRN meeting with two day with a specific ToR for translating the future DCR into practical arrangements concerning sampling and sampling intensities. The next RCM's should also be extended as the SGRN with the same ToR. This should result in setting up standards or guidelines for data collection with aim of improving transparency and quality of the data collection.
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that an intercessional mid-term meeting (sometime mid-2007 to be held in case the revision of the DCR would be ready in time for implementation from 2008 onwards.
LM comment	The LM supports this recommendation. Latest information on the progress of the revision of the DCR indicates that the revised DCR will not come in place for the 2008 programme.
Topic : the future DCR and the log-book Regulation	
RCM Medit	The RCM Mediterranean recommends that in order to use the logbook information for scientific purpose, the quality has to be improved.
LM comment	One of the corner stones in all stock assessment work is reliable catch data. Therefore, every effort to obtain reliable catch data should be supported. Recording of landings data is not covered by the DRC but by various control and enforcement regulations. The LM expresses its concern if the present logbook regulation is not revised in order to meet the revised DCR requirements.
RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends to harmonise the regulations for the fisheries control with the DCR in relevant details to achieve a consistent data collection among MS.
LM comment	The LM fully supports the recommendation and the need for revision of the present logbook regulation (EU Reg. 850/1998) is essential. The obligations in present logbook regulation do not fulfil the minimum data requirements for segmentation of landing statistics into the proposed Nantes Metiér matrix. The LM expresses its concern if this is not taken

	into account as it would create substantial double work (extra data collection) in MS in order to be able to fulfil the matrix requirements.
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that EU logbooks should be amended to record catch data at the haul level.
LM comment	The LM support that recording in the logbook should preferably be made on haul by haul basis. See also comments above.
Topic : the revision process of the DCR	
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that the SGRN 06-03 revision meeting scheduled for November 2006 considers the issue of concurrent sampling of species.
LM comment	The LM supports the recommendation that sampling of all other biological parameters should be coordinated in order to improve the quality of collected data. The LM suggests that a general discussion on this issue could be made at the SGRN 06-03 meetings.

2.2 Integration of the ecosystem approach in the DCR

2.2.1 Discussion

The STECF considered in April 2005 (20th Report of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, section 6.6.2.2) that the ecosystem approach should focus on impact of fisheries on the ecosystem and that data should be collected to provide information on

- The spatial and temporal distribution of different fishing activities.
- Trends in fish assemblages
- Impact of fishing on species that are intentionally exploited and on unintended by-catch.
- Genetic erosion of commercial wild stocks.

The 2nd LM in February 2006 expressed concern that the integration of the ecosystem approach in the DCR risk to extend far beyond above specifications. With these remarks in mind the RCMs were asked to comment on the integration of the ecosystem approach in the DCR. The RCM Baltic Sea, the RCM North Sea and East Arctic and the RCM NE Atlantic also had access to the Report of the STECF-SGRN-06-01: Data Collection Regulation Review, Brussels 19-23 June, 2006. This report identified and prioritised data, research and development needs to support the integration of environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The approach was to identify indicators based on evaluations in several EU-funded projects (i.e. INDECO, INDENT) as well as previous SGRN reports.

STECF-SGRN-06-01 identified two types of indicators that are needed to support the environmental integration process, i.e. indicators of the state of the marine environment and indicators of the pressure that affects state. The availability of sufficient data and possibility to implement sampling programmes within the DCR were explored.

The following ecosystem state indicators were explored:

1. Conservation status of vulnerable fishes according to IUCN decline criterion,
2. Abundance of marine mammals, reptiles or seabirds.
3. Mean weight and mean maximum length of fish assemblage.
4. Proportion of sensitive habitats impacted.
5. Abundance of sensitive benthos species.
6. Age and size at maturation of commercially abundant fish species.

The following ecosystem pressure indicators were explored

7. Spatial and temporal distribution of fishing effort,
8. Catch and discard rates, including rates for marine mammals, reptiles or seabirds.

In summary, STECF-SGRN-06-01 found that existing data within the current DCR can be used to estimate the state indicators 1, 3 and 6 and pressure indicators 7 and 8.

However in some cases and regions some issues of sampling, availability, reliability and consistency need to be resolved before the indicators can be made operational.

LM stresses that integration of the ecosystem approach to the DCR is a gradual process where the inclusion of new parameters will depend on the development of scientific methodology and sampling effort.

2.2.2 Recap of relevant RCM comments and recommendations, and LM comments

Topic: added value to the CFP by the inclusion of ecosystem indicators.	
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that all species, including vulnerable fish species, caught at the following surveys be measured for length and weight: IBTS, BTS, Channel Groundfish Survey, English Channel Groundfish Survey and DYFS.
LM comment	LM recommends that all <u>fish species</u> should be length measured and weighted in above mentioned research surveys.
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that collection of age, size and maturity of commercially targeted species should be carried out at the IBTS.
LM comment	LM recommends that all fish species should be length measured and weighted in the IBTS. LM also recommends that RCMs shall coordinate regional sampling of age, size and maturity of commercial fish species.
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO recommends that a priority list of non-commercial species to be sampled should be established in order to facilitate the work in the 3NO survey when possibilities of collection of additional data are restricted to the overload by survey primary aims.
LM comment	LM recommends that inclusion of non-commercial fish species need to be scientifically justified before prioritizations can be done.
RCM Baltic	RCM Baltic recommends that the conservation state indicator, the size-based indicators and the maturation indicator derived from the BITS, BIAS and HELCOM coastal surveys should be used in order to assess the impact of fishing on the environment.
LM comment	LM supports the recommendation noting that the HELCOM coastal survey is not included in the present DCR but will be considered by the SGRN-06-05: Review of the list of surveys and level of priorities (Appendix XIV fo the DCR), December 2006.

RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO agreed with the recommendation and concern expressed by the LM of "the proposals made in the SGRN Report on Environmental Integration and Move towards an Ecosystem Approach in (June 2005) risk to extend the DCR far beyond what was agreed by the STECF.
LM comment	See the Report of the 2nd Liaison Meeting, Brussel, 6-7 February 2006.
Topic : Recommendations on VMS data access	
RCM Medit	<p>The group felt that there should be a guarantee of access to VMS data for the scientific community (especially for the purpose of the ecosystem approach). The level of aggregation and deadlines for data availability will be decided at a later stage (at the implementation regulation).</p> <p>It was reminded that the MS are responsible for maintaining their own data and it's up to them how to keep their data (national or regional database).</p>
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that, as the transmission frequency of once very two hours for VMS data is not sufficient for scientific purposes, the frequency of transmission be increased to once every 30 min or even once every 15 min.
RCM Baltic	RCM Baltic recommend that VMS data should be made available to the scientific community and that the required resolution of these data should be less than half an hour..
RCM NEA	RCM NAFO supported the comments made by SGRN that VMS records from all vessels which have VMS in the NAFO area should be made available to scientists for analysis (and not only for ecosystem requirements)
LM comment	LM endorses the recommendations on scientific access to VMS data. LM suggests that recording frequency, not transmission rate, need to be increased to less than half an hour.
Topic : Suggestions for additional scientific studies	
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that collection of data of vulnerable marine mammals, reptiles and seabirds should be subject to a pilot study, before an inclusion into the DCR is considered.

LM comments	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends not to include benthos data collection in the new DCR, as more research is needed to properly define indicators of state and pressure for benthic assemblages.
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO recommends elaborating a priority list of non-commercial species for using when possibilities of collection of additional data are restricted due to the overload by survey primary aims.
LM comment	LM supports above recommendations stressing that the inclusion of non-fish species need to be evaluated and scientifically justified by scientific studies/workshops.

2.3 Review the research surveys at sea

2.3.1 Discussion

In order to prepare the SGRN meeting on the eligibility on surveys, the RCM had the task of listing existing surveys and to provide information with regard to their contribution in analytical assessments. At the end of this process, RCMs listed the existing surveys but most of them did not provide the requested information related to their contribution to assessment arguing that the results were (i) depending on the assessment method used and (ii) contrasted with a catch-at-age matrix not always reliable.

LM is of the opinion that the consideration whether a survey was used or not in an assessment will be one of the issue to be considered but not the only one. The LM considered that the set of criteria already defined by STECF/SGRN should be kept and that a new set of criteria should be added to take into account the future needs generated by the new DCR. LM recommends soliciting the forthcoming STECF/SGRN meeting (20 – 24 November, Brussels) to address recommendations on criteria to be used for the eligibility of surveys at sea, considering (i) the historical reflection of SGRN on this issue and (ii) the importance to start the meeting on the eligibility of surveys with a minimum level of agreement.

In annex, the list of existing surveys provided by the different RCMs are candidate to be considered during the December meeting, and should not be seen as surveys supported by the RCMs. The RCM reports contain summaries of the objectives and key points to be considered at the moment of evaluating their eligibility.

2.3.2 Recap of relevant RCM comments and recommendations, and LM comments

RCM Medit	The RCM Mediterranean recommends that efforts will be made to establish a pan-Mediterranean acoustic survey to assess small pelagics.
LM comment	LM acknowledges that this recommendation is in line with previous SGRN recommendation but considers that it is up to the RCM to initiate this process
RCM Medit	The RCM Mediterranean underlined the importance for member states to perform acoustic surveys within the framework of the DCR. This would need the approval of the EC and thus be included as an eligible survey in the revised DCR
RCM NAFO	NAFO RCM repeats last year recommendation that “both surveys of NAFO SA 3 should continue in the future”
RCM NAFO	NAFO RCM recommends that “other MS involved in the fishery should participate to these surveys”

RCM NAFO	NAFO RCM recommends that "expert from NAFO area would be involved in the revision process of surveys (December 2006).
LM comment	The LM recommends that the NAFO, STACREC (Standing Committee on Research Coordination) evaluate the existing surveys in the area and that STACREC recommends to the STECF/SGRN which survey to be included in the DCR.
RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic support the recommendations of the STECF and ICES that the BIAS should be extended to include Sub-divisions 30 and 31 in order to provide fishery-independent estimates of herring resources.
LM comment	LM acknowledges that this recommendation is in line with previous SGRN recommendation but considers that it is up to the RCM to initiate this process
RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends that river monitoring of wild salmon stocks should be considered in the revision of DCR, either as a new survey or in a specific section dealing with the anadromous species.
LM comment	LM notes that the recommendation will be dealt with during the upcoming SGRN meeting on DCR surveys, December 2006

2.4 Cooperation and coordination between countries at RCM scale

Topic : The need for new planning groups	
RCM Medit	The Mediterranean RCM agreed to recommend the creation of a Planning Group (PG) for the Mediterranean (MEPMED) where methodological matters will be discussed (except for economics). Regarding scientific surveys, this planning group will co-ordinate with other groups about the improvement of the quality of the data. The need to strengthen the links with the GFCM and to maintain those with the northern PGCCDBS was strongly supported.
LM comments	The LM supports the establishing of a Mediterranean planning group, PGMED, and fully agreed with the importance of the link with GFCM and PGCCDBS.
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that a forum (workshop) for Economists should be established on an annual basis in order to discuss economic issues, methodological problems and other questions.
LM comments	In the first instance, a workshop for economists should be held on methodological aspects and should consider whether an Economists PG, which would meet annually, should be established. To be addressed by STECF/SGECA.
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that the question of intensifying the collaboration between Biologists and Economists should be raised at the Liaison meeting and the Chair of the SGRN economic subgroup should be invited.
LM comments	LM recognized the importance of inviting chairs of the different PGs in order to strengthen its work and advice
Topic : Methodology, intercalibration and data quality	
RCM Medit	The Mediterranean RCM invited the Medits group to include the inter-calibration issue in the agenda of the next Medits co-ordination meeting.
LM comments	LM supports but draws attention to the complexity due to number of countries and vessels involved.
RCM Medit	Any initiatives for data checking are of high importance and it was suggested to collaborate with the JRC to develop a procedure to validate the quality of the data.

LM comments	LM understands that validation of data is important and data format would have to be finalised before any initiative are taken on the validation of data with JRC. Regarding the quality of data this should be done within a small scale project involving ICES experiences. The Medits planning group should draw up clear a project proposal in this regard.
Topic : The new MS : Bulgaria and Romania	
RCM Medit	It was pointed out that the Black Sea area is covered by the Mediterranean RCM and therefore, the soon new MS will be part of it
RCM Medit	Regarding the new candidate MS, Bulgaria and Rumania, it was recommended that they follow the current Medits methodology.
LM comments	LM suggests that the situation and the methodology in the Black Sea is carefully studied. Bulgaria and Rumania should join the Mediterranean RCM and this matter could be discussed.
Topic : Coordination of sampling programmes and surveys	
RCM Medit.	The Mediterranean RCM strongly recommended coordination for the collection of biological parameters in order to avoid duplication of the same work. It was also suggested that a regional information table of national landings will be maintained by the proposed Mediterranean planning group (PGMED) as a guideline for the co-ordination of biological sampling programmes.
LM comments	To be further discussed at the STECF/SGRN-06-04 meeting
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic highlighted the need to continually monitor landings, fleet activity etc. so that participating countries could react to any variation to their originally planned sampling schedule. In order for this to be effective, it would be desirable for the individual responsible for a particular agreement to maintain this as a high priority in their work tasks.
LM comments	The LM welcomes this initiative to better plan data collection schemes
Topic : Regional data collection programme	
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that Denmark and Sweden prepare a Working document proposing how regional data collection could be arranged by using the Kattegat as a test area. The working document will be presented at WGBFAS 2007 and for the RCM's.

RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends that Finland and Sweden will evaluate the collection of biological data of the herring fishery in the Gulf of Bothnia in order to elaborate congruent procedures. The possibilities to harmonize the collection of corresponding economic data should be evaluated
LM comments	The LM agrees with these initiatives and the outcomes of this exercise could be useful for other areas provided that there is enough scientific background and evidence to make shared sampling feasible.

2.5 Workshops

2.5.1 Discussion

LM stresses that the workshops organized by ICES under the recommendation of PGCCDBS must be opened to all scientists interested on the subject independently of the area they come from. Moreover, the MS must assure that the proper experts attend the WK.

2.5.2 Recap of relevant RCM comments and recommendations, and LM comments

RCM BALTIC RCM NEA RCM NS & EA	<p>[WK RECFISH] - The RCMs recommends that results from the national pilot studies on recreational fisheries within DCR should be discussed in an ad-hoc workshop to be established in 2007.</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place:</p> <p>Dates:</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p>
LM comments	<p>LM agrees with the proposed WK and suggests that ToR include a review of the pilot studies and contrasts them with existing experiences (e.g see PGCCDBS, 2005). LM proposes that the main objective of the WK should be focus on landings and effort statistics (to be linked with the FFBS). To be discussed by STECF/SGRN.</p>
RCM BALTIC	<p>[WK PROCIND] - The Baltic RCM recommends a workshop to evaluate the progress reached in collecting economic fish processing data (ie processing industry). A STECF-SGECA meeting with economists participating in the data collection programme should be organized.</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place:</p> <p>Dates:</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Summarising the importance of processing industry in the MS (dependency of industry on European fish stocks/European management measures; turnover, employment, share in GDP in relation to fishery/fleet sector; and other appropriate indicators); b) Review the feasibility of collecting economic indicators taking into account MS experience regarding the fish processing industry;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Propose a framework to collect economic fish processing data taking into account the results of item 1-2; d) Propose an appropriate periodicity of data collection.
LM comments	LM agrees with the proposed WK. To be discussed by STECF/SGRN.
RCM Medit	<p>[WKADCP] - Workshop on Age Determination (Reading ?) of common pandora (<i>Pagellus erythrinus</i>)</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place: Italy</p> <p>Dates: 2007</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review information on age determination, and validation work on this species; b) Compare different otolith-based age determination methods; c) Examine the preliminary results on the age determination from the first circulation of otoliths; d) Identify sources of age determination error in terms of bias and precision: i.e. analyse different validation techniques and describe the corresponding interpretational differences between readers and laboratories, and agree on a common ageing criteria; e) Analyse growth increment patterns and provide specific guidelines for the interpretation of growth structures in otoliths; f) Create a reference collection of otoliths and start the development of a data base of otolith images;
LM comments	LM agrees with the proposed WK provided that it follows the TACADAR guidelines. To be addressed by PGMED.
RCM Medit	<p>[WKALADYM] - ALADYM Age-Length Based Dynamic Model Workshop</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place: Bari</p> <p>Dates: 2007</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop standard operational procedures for optimising the

	<p>use of Aladym model by using three candidate species (M. merluccius, M. barbatus, P. longirostris) widely spread in the Mediterranean;</p> <p>b) Report on developments in the translation of trawl survey estimates into stock assessment information and catch forecast advice;</p> <p>c) Compare results and search for reference points across the whole Mediterranean;</p>
LM comments	Outside the scope of DCR.
RCM Medit	<p>[WKFISHMAT] - Proposal for a Workshop on fish maturity for the purpose of DCR.</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place: Bari</p> <p>Dates: 2007</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>a) standardizes the criteria to classify each maturity stages to be used for DCR and discuss on the existing maturity scales;</p> <p>b) formulate conversion rules to make possible the correspondence between the locally used scales and the common ones;</p> <p>c) collect basic information on reproductive biology;</p> <p>d) validate digital photos already available for the different species;</p> <p>e) validate the macroscopic maturity stages according to the common standardized scales eventually using histological confirmation;</p> <p>f) provide guidance on how to organize the maturity photo database available on the web;</p> <p>g) standardize the methodology to create a field-guide (Atlas) to facilitate the identification and classification of maturity stages.</p>
LM comments	LM agrees with the proposed WK but recommends that it should be split into groups of species, as agreed in ICES PGCCDBS (2006). LM recommends that ToR d) and f) be dealt by WebGR (see small scale projects n°1). To be addressed by PGMED.

RCM NS & EA	<p>[WKMAT] - It was considered that it would be important to replace the last ToR with the following, in order to make it more clear what is wanted:</p> <p>h) Review maturity at length/age requirements from Appendix XVI of Commission Regulation 1639/2001; in particular the periodicity for which these parameters should be collected, with the aim at revising the Regulation.</p>
LM comments	To be addressed by ICES PGCCDBS chairman.
RCM NAFO	<p>NAFO RCM recommends to formally establishing a coordination meeting as a workshop on survey coordination and standardisation.</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place:</p> <p>Dates:</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p>
LM comments	LM agrees with the proposed WK provided that all countries involved in the area are considered. To be addressed by NAFO/STACREC.
RCM NAFO	<p>Based on the conclusions of the 2006 workshop, NAFO RCM recommends carrying out a new workshop on ageing Greenland halibut in 2008 and considers all MS should use more than one method to age this species.</p> <p>Chairman:</p> <p>Place:</p> <p>Dates:</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p>
LM comments	To be addressed by ICES PGCCDBS.

2.6 Data related issues

2.6.1 Discussion

Precision estimates, regional databases and data exchange are issues addressed from the very beginning of the DCR. If the two first have been the object of call for tenders through small scale projects launched in 2006, and are expected to provide answers within a short time period, data exchange continues to be problematic for most of the MS. **Concerning data exchange, LM recommends that (i) the legal implication should be dealt with as a first step, (ii) the needs for data be clarified and (iii) the variables be fully described.** The Commission indicates that a code of conduct is under discussion and will be part of the new DCR. The objective is to provide a legal framework for both the providers and the users. The Commission is willing to set up a framework allowing as much flexibility as possible, and closely linked to scientific organisation bodies. In other words, the definition of the exchange format will be the responsibility of the scientific organisations requesting the information. In the case ad hoc demands, the cost induced by the extra workload with regards to the preparation of the dataset would be eligible within the DCR.

2.6.2 Recap of relevant RCM comments and recommendations, and LM comments

Topic : Precision estimates	
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO strongly supports the proposal of developing a set of tools within an open source framework which will provide quality control of the data to be use in the assessments and analysis and precision calculations Moreover, RCM NAFO recommends that the specification of NAFO area should be taken into account in the developing of such a tool.
LM comments	COST, if accepted to financing, will deal about accuracy and uncertainty of sampling data. LM supports RCM NAFO recommendation
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO recommends that precision levels should be estimated at the EU level. The development of the regional database would allow calculating the precision levels in a fleet/regional basis.
LM comments	LM agrees with this recommendation and is of the opinion that the objective of precision should more generally be specified at the level where the data is used (advice in support of common policy). Moreover, LM acknowledges that the calculation of precision levels can be done at any disaggregation level.

Topic : Regional database	
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that to upload the 2004-2006 landings and effort statistics into FishFrame together with the associated data from market and on-board sampling, for all species within the remits of the WGNSSK by April 1st, 2007
LM comments	LM supports this initiative
Topic : Data exchange	
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO recommends providing aggregated maturity data to the assessment working groups on a yearly basis for those stocks that are sampled on a routine basis yearly, in a format agreed by the working group.
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO welcomes the LM recommendation to move towards a Regional Database. However, NAFO RCM is concerned with regard to the problems related to implement such a regional database, i.e. confidentiality issues, maintenance, cost, responsibilities.
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that the best solution for data exchange and audit on data collected should be further examined before any decision is made. This should include cost implications for the Commission and MS concerned
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that regional databases could be used as data providers to other parties than the Commission, such as RFOs, RACs, etc. as this approach also ensures that the end-users only have access to data that is checked for quality and where aggregation is valid, and not to the raw, non-validated data (with all the risks this bears). Furthermore, the RCM also stresses that access to the DCR-data should absolutely be restricted to qualified teams of experts.
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that as ICES holds several databases with DCR or DCR-related data, ICES must be ensured that confidentiality is guaranteed and that mis-use by especially private companies is avoided. Furthermore, it is recommended that all MS clearly specify the conditions under which their data may be used by third parties every time they transmit data to ICES.
RCM NEA	RCM North East Atlantic recommends that future calls for data follow set rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives of the call should be clearly defined. • Details on the intended analysis should be provided;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any request for data by the Commission, the STECF or its subsidiary groups should be made through the formal channels, i.e. through the National Correspondents;• The costs incurred by the MS's to process and submit the requested data should be covered by the Commission.
LM comments	See discussion section

2.7 Sampling related issues

2.7.1 Discussion

LM calls the attention that the sampling procedure to collect maturity data will be defined by the WKMAT 2007 and that the use of survey data to build population maturity ogives must be justified by scientific evidence.

2.7.2 Recap of relevant RCM comments and recommendations, and LM comments

Topic : 3 year update of other biological data	
RCM Baltic	RCM Baltic recommends collecting visual scientific data on maturity and age samples and associated descriptive documents and making them available to the scientific community by the creation of a web driven data base hosted and serviced by JRC.
LM comments	LM supports this initiative to be included in the small scale project (WebGR) described section 4
RCM Medit	Co-ordination is strongly recommended for the collection of these parameters in order to avoid duplication of the same work. The RCM group suggested that a regional information table of national landings will be maintained by the Mediterranean planning group as a guideline for the co-ordination of biological sampling programmes.
LM comments	To be addressed by the PGMED (see section 2.4)
RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends that the Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group coordinates the sampling and determination of maturity ogives for the main fish species in the Baltic Sea. Suggestions for ToR should be formulated by the PGCCDBS
LM comments	LM agrees with the recommendation of coordinating sampling of maturity data by ICES/BIFSWG, hence the ToRs considering this specific issue should be defined directly by the ICES/BIFSWG. See also discussion section
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO suggests that the Survey Coordination Meeting plan coordinated sampling of "other biological parameters" at different NAFO surveys and onboard sampling
LM comments	LM recommends any survey planning group to follow the outcomes of the forthcoming workshop on maturity sampling (WKMAT) that will be held in 2007, when coordinating maturity sampling.
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO recommends seeking multilateral agreements to overcome the obligation to provide data for species by MS that have

	small catches of these species.
LM comments	LM insists it is the plain responsibility of RCM to seek such multilateral agreements
RCM NEA	RCM North East Atlantic 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.
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic notes the comments of the RCM NS & EA that the forthcoming workshop (Lisbon , January 2007) dealing with the methodological approach in setting up the most effective sampling programme for maturity should provide the basis for an effective data collection programme
Topic : comparison of sampling strategies of commercial landings and onboard observer sampling	
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that sampling and compilation of fishery dependent data should be made.
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that SGRN should set up a template for a common manual. All MS are then recommended to use this template when writing manuals.
LM comments	To be addressed by PGCCDBS
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that to start the harmonisation process otoliths should be sampled in homogenous strata as this would give the opportunity to combine ALKs within an area.
LM comments	The LM supports the initiative to establishing international age/length keys. For technical details to be addressed by PGCCDBS
RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that if an area is covered by one dedicated trip per year only, the effort put into this single trip could better be allocated to other fleet segments ensuring better coverage of these segments.
LM comments	To be addressed by ICES PGCCDBS
Topic : The collection of data on processing industry and aquaculture	
RCM Medit	The group made a recommendation for further guidelines on the definition of processing industry activities
LM comments	To be addressed by STECF/SGECA

RCM NS & EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that testing the feasibility of collecting fish processing data should be promoted.
LM comments	To be addressed by STECF/SGECA

2.8 Issues (other than workshops) raised in RCM reports for consideration by Commission, ICES, DCR revision meeting, national authorities, etc...

2.8.1 Recommendations for consideration by the Commission

RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends to harmonise the regulations for the fisheries control with the DCR in relevant details to achieve a consistent data collection among MS.
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that EU logbooks should be amended to record catch data at the haul level.
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that, as the transmission frequency of once very two hours for VMS data is not sufficient for scientific purposes, the frequency of transmission be increased to once every 30 min or even once every 15 min.
RCM Baltic	RCM Baltic recommend that VMS data should be made available to the scientific community and that the required resolution of these data should be less than half an hour..
RCM NEA	RCM NAFO supported the comments made by SGRN that VMS records from all vessels which have VMS in the NAFO area should be made available to scientists for analysis (and not only for ecosystem requirements)
RCM NAFO	RCM NAFO agreed with the LM recommendation and, therefore, recommends that the timing of NAFO RCM should move to the October from 2007 onwards

2.8.2 Recommendations for consideration by ICES PGCCDBS & PGMED

RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that SGRN should set up a template for a common manual. All MS are then recommended to use this template when writing manuals.
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that if an area is covered by one dedicated trip per year only, the effort put into this single trip could better be allocated to other fleet segments ensuring better coverage of these segments.
RCM Medit	Co-ordination is strongly recommended for the collection of these [Other Biological] parameters in order to avoid duplication of the same work. The RCM group suggested that a regional information table of national landings will be maintained by the Mediterranean planning group as a guideline for the co-ordination of biological sampling programmes.

RCM Baltic	In order to keep the general work in the different RCMs in compliance, the RCM Baltic recommends that the ICES PGCCDBS need to establish general principles and guidelines for all RCM work.
LM comments	LM disagrees with the recommendation and stresses that this task is in the remit of the RCMs.
RCM NS	Therefore an additional ToR for the Planning Group for Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS) could be included: i) Review ongoing sampling programmes (for instance for Northeast Arctic cod) for liver index sampling and evaluate to which extent such sampling programmes could usefully be implemented for other stocks.
LM comments	Liver index is not a parameter to be collected in the framework of the DCR.

2.8.3 Recommendations for consideration by the DCR revision meeting (SGRN-06-03)

RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that the SGRN 06-03 revision meeting scheduled for November 2006 considers the issue of concurrent sampling of species.
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that the fishery/metric matrix be adjusted to incorporate recreational fisheries for a limited number of stocks.
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East arctic recommend that the RCM's role will be formally described in the future DCR in 2008. RCM stresses that the RCM's have a key role in submission of national programmes and harmonizing the national programmes before submission.
RCM Baltic	RCM Baltic recommends that the upcoming text of the DCR shall include general responsibilities of the RCMs, underlining that the RCMs have a regional role in coordinating sampling, including task sharing within the region.
RCM NEA	The RCM North East Atlantic recommends that the SGRN 06-03 revision meeting scheduled for November 2006 considers the issue of concurrent sampling of species.

2.8.4 Recommendations for consideration by the meeting on review of surveys (STECF/SGRN-06-05)

RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends that river monitoring of wild salmon stocks should be considered in the revision of DCR, either as a new survey or in a specific section dealing with the anadromous species.
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2.8.5 Recommendations for consideration by STECF/SGECA meeting

RCM Medit	The RCM Mediterranean recommends that definition of the most appropriate segmentation on length classes to be consistent as much as possible with the SAC segmentation.
RCM Baltic	The RCM Baltic recommends implementing a split at 10 m LOA of the 12 m LOA vessel length category.
RCM NS&EA	The RCM North Sea and East Arctic recommends that a forum (workshop) for Economists should be established on an annual basis in order to discuss economic issues, methodological problems and other questions.

2.8.6 Recommendations for consideration by STECF/SGRN-06-04 meeting

Following the discussion on the review of research survey at sea (section 2.3.1), it was the LM opinion that the forthcoming STECF/SGRN meeting (20 – 24 November, Brussels) should

- address recommendations on criteria to be used for the eligibility of surveys at sea, considering (i) the historical reflection of SGRN on this issue and (ii) the importance to start the meeting on the eligibility of surveys with a minimum level of agreement.
- Consider an extension of next July SGRN meeting to translate the future DCR into practical arrangements

3 Small scale projects to improve the DCR and solve technical problems.

3.1 Web services for support of Growth and Reproduction Studies (WebGR)

Contact persons: Ernesto Jardim <ernesto@ipimar.pt> and Ulrich Berth <ulrich.berth@fieldweb.de>

Objectives

Develop a set of web services to support the organization and data analysis of Age Calibration Workshops and Maturity Staging Workshops. The website should consist of a repository of images which need to be grouped or classified by exercise (species, date, area, etc). Each image must be annotated by several scientists. The annotations must include fields for the classification (age x or maturity stage y, etc), observations, scientist, etc. These information will be stored on a database so that the statistical analysis of the results can be automated as much as possible and made public. The usual features are requested: user management, upload of images, permissions, etc.

Such tool would also be useful for training purposes. Someone learning about growth or reproduction could browse the images, read the annotations and the conclusions of the experts. Eventually could select a set of otoliths or gonads and try her/him self to classify the structures. The software developed will be licensed as Open Source to promote transparency and allow the scientific community to get involved on further developments, like linkage to statistical analysis engines, or any other specific features.

Duration: 12 month

LM suggests to extend this WebServices project to all the Regions and involve JRC expertise

3.2 Improving the knowledge of biology and fisheries of the new MOU species

Contact persons: Jean-Claude Mahé <jean.claude.mahe@ifremer.fr> or Henk Heessen <henk.heessen@wur.nl>

Objectives

To improve the knowledge on biological parameters, stock ID, composition of catches and landings of species relevant to the ICES Working Group on Assessment of New MoU Species (WGNEW). Species concerned are sea bass, striped red mullet, red gurnard, tub gurnard, grey gurnard, turbot, brill, lemon sole, dab, flounder and witch flounder.

Data on these species are routinely collected during surveys but usually not analysed. Often otoliths were collected, but ages have not been determined because most attention was given to the major commercial species.

Through this project WGNEW expects to better understand the biology, fisheries and status of these species and to be able to define the data that should be collected to assess the state of these resources.

Duration: 18 months

LM has no specific comment on this project

3.3 Exploratory analysis of VMS data, development and implementation of algorithms to estimate fishing effort (FishSat)

Contact persons: Ernesto Jardim <ernesto@ipimar.pt> and Manuel Afonso Dias <madias@ualg.pt>

Objectives

1. To compile and explore VMS data. Making use of training datasets the experts will explore the VMS data in terms of quality control, spatial distribution, fleet distribution, etc, in order to identify major drawbacks on the data.
2. To develop and implement algorithms to compute fishing effort. Using existent examples like GeoPesca (<http://www.geopescas.fcma.ualg.pt/> ,Project MARE 22-05-01-00025) the experts will develop, test and implement algorithms to estimate fishing effort per metier.

Duration: 18 month

LM acknowledges that other examples exists and other institutes have gained experience on this issue.

3.4 Development of tools for logbooks data analyzes.

Contact person: Cristina Castro Ribeiro cribeiro@dg-pescas.pt, Hans Lassen <hl@ices.dk>

Objectives

Create an algorithm to deal with classification of logbook data under new DCR fleet based approach. This methodology should assure a standardized approach “metiers matrix” on a Regional level assuring the criteria homogeneity between MS.

The main output will be an algorithm which automatically classifies trips into métiers based on logbook species composition, gear or group of gears. and area of operation.

Duration: 12 months.

LM has concerns on the fact that this project can only succeed if all MS are participating, together with the relevant scientific organisations. Moreover, the project should focus on standardizing among the existing methods.

3.5 Standardization of effort and CPUE for deep-water species in the Northeast Atlantic

Contact person: Ivone Figueiredo <ifigueiredo@ipimar.pt>

Objectives

In this Project the major MS with fisheries targeting deep-water species in NE Atlantic area, namely Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, UK, Norway, should be involved. The main objectives are:

1. definition of a standardized exchange format for compilation and archiving fleet composition, vessel characteristics (including vessel technological improvements along time) , catch and effort data (including log-books, VMS , observer schemes, surveys) in a fine spatial and temporal disaggregated level
2. compilation of all the available data on catch and effort fishery dependent and independent data spatially and temporally disaggregated
3. compilation of data on fleet composition and vessel characteristics
4. Establishment of statistical procedure protocols for analysing and mapping different data sources. To accomplish this objective a workshop with all the participants as well as invited experts will be scheduled.

Duration: 18 months

LM agrees with the proposal but is of the opinion that the objectives should be reformulated and suggests that the chairman of the ICES WGDEEP should be added as a contact person

3.6 Evaluation and standardization of sampling schemes adopted to estimate the landings of rays and skates at species level in the Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay and Iberian Waters

Contact person: Ivone Figueiredo <ifigueiredo@ipimar.pt>

Objectives

In this Project the MS (France, Spain and Portugal), capturing demersal elasmobranchs in the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Waters should be involved. The underlying problem associated with the implementation and execution of the sampling schemes for ray and skates is the mixed nature of their fisheries. The main objectives are:

1. analyze and critical review of the sampling schemes adopted by MS
2. identification of the main problems and deficiencies associated with the sampling schemes
3. update of the sampling schemes according to pre-settled levels of precision and taking into consideration the different realities where the fisheries are taking place
4. execution of the sampling schemes during a short time period
5. Analysis of data and adjustment of the sampling scheme accordingly to the conclusions obtained

Two working meetings one at the beginning of the project and one at the middle of objective 5 execution time should be considered.

Duration: 16 months

LM considers that the issue of mixture of species in the landings has already been dealt with in e.g. the industrial fisheries and in the Mediterranean Sea. LM recommends to closely look into the work done in the above mentioned areas and that the outcome of the project should generalise the concept as much as possible

3.7 Improving data collection on small-scale fisheries (SSCF) in Europe.

Contact person: Patrick Berthou <pberthou@ifremer.fr>

Objectives

To make an inventory of existing sampling strategies used by MS to estimate effort, landings, discards and economic indicators for SSCF. To analyze the quality of the available data on effort, landings, discards and economic indicators for SSCF, more particularly with regards to precision levels achieved. To analyse the cost effectiveness of the current data collection programmes for SSCF in light of the existing precision requirements, and to advice on any changes in the target precision levels for landings, effort, discards and economic parameters for the SSCF. To harmonize sampling strategies between MS and to evaluate the impact of possible changes to existing national sampling strategies. To evaluate the perspective of a commonly agreed, standard methodology for the collection of effort, landings, discards and economic data on the SSCF at EU level.

Duration: 18 months

LM suggests to use the agreed definition in Kavala of vessels less than 12 meters to better define the scope of the project. There is a lot of experience gained in the Mediterranean (COPEMED) on this issue and therefore, Mediterranean experts should be part of the project.

3.8 Improving knowledge on recreational fisheries (RF) in order to obtain complete characterization of the activity on a EU level.

Contact person: Christian Dintheer <Christian.dintheer@ifremer.fr>

Objectives

To make an inventory of the activity amongst the MS: dimension, levels of knowledge, kinds of activity and legal status within each MS. To make an inventory of existing strategies used by MS to estimate effort catches of the RF. To analyze the quality of the available data on effort, landings, for RF, more particularly with regards to precision levels achieved

To evaluate the MS knowledge on economic parameters in order defines strategies to lead wit RF activity in the future.

Duration: 18 months

LM suggests that it would be up to the proposed WS RECFISH (see section 2.5.2) to consider the need to go further

3.9 Added value to the international mackerel egg surveys

Contact Person: Leonie Dransfeld <leonie.dransfeld@marine.ie>

Objectives

To analyse the plankton samples collected at the 2007 mackerel egg surveys for the larval concentrations of mackerel and horse mackerel as well as the egg and larval concentrations of anchovy, hake, megrim, blue whiting and sardine.

Obtain spatial distribution of spawning grounds and seasonal spawning curves.

Duration: 18 months

Added value to the 2001 and 2004 international mackerel egg survey

Contact Person: Paula Álvarez (palvarez@pas.azti.es) AZTI

Objectives

To update the analyse of plankton samples collected at the 2001 and 2004 mackerel eggs surveys for the larval concentrations of mackerel and horse mackerel as well as the egg and larval concentrations of anchovy, hake, megrim, blue whiting and sardine.

Obtain biomass abundance indices, spatial distribution of spawning grounds and seasonal spawning curves for the target species.

To evaluate the historical series of distribution/abundance eggs and larvae for target species.

Duration: 18 months

LM recommends setting up only one project with the ideas described

3.10 Create a database on eggs and larvae for common fish species in NEA waters.

Contact person: Paula Álvarez (palvarez@pas.azti.es) AZTI

Objective

Improve the work of identification of eggs and larvae of fish species creating a data base with extended description and photos of eggs and larvae from artificial fertilization. A list of target species will be made and people interested in joining this group will be responsible for get data for the species they select. The information collected will be the base for a hand-manual book and the creation of a web.

Duration : 18 months

LM recommends to co-ordinate this project with ICES and reformulate the objectives

3.11 Development of an alternative biochemical/genetic technique of ageing commercial fishes and comparison with traditional methodologies (otoliths reading)

Contact person: Guzman Diez gdiez@suk.azti.es

Objectives

This proposal is specially focused to try solve ageing problems found using traditional otolith reading techniques in important commercial fish species assessed by means of aged based models.

1. The main objective is to develop a new technique to estimate the fish age and growth by means of biochemical and genetic tools in culture fish species.
2. To compare the results obtained with the alternative techniques and those reached with otoliths reading methodologies in samples of culture fish species of known age.
3. To apply this ageing technique to wild species presenting real ageing problems when using traditional otolith reading methodologies
4. To restructure the catch at age matrix with the results of the new age keys obtained by means of the alternative techniques and to compare the differences in the results assessment.

Duration: 24 months

LM considers this to be a research project

3.12 Improving the knowledge on the large pelagic sharks caught by surface long-line fishery in the Atlantic with especial reference to the North Atlantic fishing areas

Contact person: Jaime Mejuto (jaime.mejuto@co.ieo.es) and Miguel Neves dos Santos (mnsantos@cripsul.ipimar.pt)

Objectives

This proposal is specially focused on the large pelagic-sharks caught by the long-line fishery in the Atlantic, with especial reference to the North-eastern and North-central Atlantic fishing areas. It would involve the two major EU pelagic long-line fleets (Spain and Portugal), which in recent years have made some changes in terms of target species. In fact, pelagic sharks were initially caught as bycatch species from the swordfish fishery, but currently are in some cases target species, as a result of the implementation of ICCAT regulations on swordfish and the increasing commercial value of the shark products (both fins and carcass). There is some concern regarding the status of some pelagic sharks stocks, but progress in stock assessment will be impaired unless significant improvement

is made on the knowledge of this fishery, as there are apparently significant data gaps (e.g. blue shark, shortfin mako and porbeagle) and lack of reporting (less abundant species, such as pelagic thresher sharks). The main objectives of the project are to:

- i) improve the general knowledge on the EU pelagic shark fishery (e.g. gear characteristics, catch composition, spatial and temporal distribution of the fishing effort, etc);
- ii) Analyze and critical review the available catch data series (logbooks and observer programmes), in order to rebuilt the catch data table;
- iii) update/develop fin: body ratios by fleet for the different species within the EU pelagic shark fishery.

Through this project it is expected to significantly improve the knowledge on this fishery, contribute for the stock assessment of the most important species and, thus, to the sustainability of the pelagic shark fishery.

Duration: 18/24 months.

LM recommends to add ICCAT experts as contact person to better define this project

3.13 Improving the knowledge on the stock structure of the North Atlantic-Mediterranean swordfish using genetic tools based on DNA.

Contact persons: Jaime Mejuto (jaime.mejuto@co.ieo.es), Miguel Neves dos Santos (mnsantos@cripsul.ipimar.pt) and George Tserpes (gtserpes@imbc.gr)

Objectives

This proposal is focused on the stock structure of the North Atlantic Swordfish with especial reference to the North-eastern and North-central Atlantic fishing units where the two major EU pelagic long-line fleets (Spain and Portugal) are fishing as main players in the North Atlantic regions. Recent genetic analyses indicate that the swordfish is genetically structured between North and South Atlantic stocks (with small but significant differences between both) in addition to the clearly distinct Mediterranean unit/s, distant of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific profiles. However, some mixing areas between Mediterranean and North Atlantic were suggested. Additionally, the possible genetic differences within the North Atlantic fishing areas (East vs West) needs additional clarifications. There are concerns regarding the implications of the current stock structure used for assessments on the regulatory measures taken in place (TACs and minimum size regulations). The stock structure assumed could have important implication in the assessment, TACs policy and EU quotas. The main objectives of the project are to:

- i) improve the general knowledge on the stock structure of the swordfish taken into consideration the genetic profiles observed in different North Atlantic-Mediterranean areas where the EU fleet is now fishing.
- ii) evaluate the implications of a new stock structure.

Through this project it is expected to significantly improve the knowledge on the stock structure of the swordfish in the North Atlantic, contribute for the stock assessment of

one the most important large pelagic species for the EU and thus, to the sustainability of the swordfish stock and fishery.

Duration: 18/24 months.

LM considers this to be a research project
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3.14 Creation of an algorithm within FishFrame, to secure transparency and quality when compiling scientific data.

Contact person: Henrik Degel, hd@min.dfu.dk

Objectives:

The diversity among fishing fleets makes it very difficult to sample all fishery strata within a MS. For stock assessment purposes usually only major contributors to the fishing mortality needs to be sampled. For fisheries strata (strata within a fishery and/or minor fisheries) not sampled the solution usually is to borrow data from a neighbouring stratification cell. For stock assessment purposes this job is usually done by the stock coordinator. The recent increase in interest from end-users to use data collected underneath the DCR have resulted in an extensive increase in data requests from different scientific groups. For the moment there are no consistent rules in the borrowing process, the transparency is thereby very limited. The result could be that different data sets, based on the same data appear in different scientific groups. It is further not always possible that over time keep thoroughly track on what is borrowed from where.

The fishery based sampling in the forthcoming DCR will add complexity to sampling and presumable increase the number of strata to sample. The large amount of cells within the Nantes matrix will increase the number of strata not sampled as well. The scientific need for a consistent and transparent way to borrow data between strata will increase. Access of fisheries data by end-users not involved in the collection or compilation process will further increase the need of data to be compiled in a trackable, consistent and transparent way.

Creation of an algorithm to conduct the borrowing process in an automatic or semi-automatic way would greatly improve transparency in the data compilation process. It would further also hopefully make it more cost-effective.

The Nantes matrix will be the basis for consistency in definitions of fisheries within a region. Consistency in definitions of fisheries is the basis for ability to borrow data between countries in a region. Establishment of such an algorithm in a regional database would benefit the best use of data within a region and improve consistency and transparency in the data compilation process within a region.

Duration: 18 months

LM agrees with this project but would like to unlink the algorithm to the platform and recommends to base the analysis on the forthcoming COST project, if accepted for financing.
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3.15 Evaluation of the fishing effect in the open sea on coastal fish communities.

Contact person: Johan Modin (johan.modin@fiskeriverket.se)

Objective: to establish if ecosystem state indicators from coastal surveys can be used to infer cascading effect of fishing in the open sea.

Justification: Studies (Hansson et al. 19??, Casini et al. 2006) indicate that intense fishing on cod result in lower consumption by cod and thereby an increase in sprat abundance in both offshore and coastal areas. These studies also show that the resulting food competition have affected both sprat and herring condition. In coastal areas, the increased sprat abundance and food competition appears to influence coastal fish recruitment and thereby the coastal fish community (Ljungberg et al. 200?). Thus, the effects of fishing on top-predators (cod) in the open sea should propagate to the coastal fish communities.

Duration: 18 months

LM considers this to be a research project
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3.16 3. Evaluation of self-sampling by the fishing industry

Contact person: Johan Modin (johan.modin@fiskeriverket.se)

Objective:

to evaluate the feasibility of biological sampling by the fishing industry as a supplement to the present market and sea sampling.

Justification: The costs of biological sampling of landings is a heavy burden for fishery institutes around the Baltic. Examples from the vendace fishing in the Bothian Bay indicate that sampling by the fishing industry is cost-effective and can be conducted with sufficient precision levels, provided that a quality control is implemented. The involvement of the industry in biological sampling have also resulted in a dialog on fishery management with the responsible national institutes.

Method: The project will be based on pilot studies in three or more Baltic fisheries in different parts of the Baltic Sea. The studies shall be restricted to defined local fisheries within national fishing zones in order to be able to evaluate and compare the cost-effectiveness and quality aspects in different national fisheries. Regular sampling programmes by participating fishery institutes will be used as a control. The project shall involve both biological and economical expertise.

Duration: 18 months.

LM suggests that it would be up to the WS WKUFS (Bergen, 5 – 6 June 2007) to consider the need to go further
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3.17 Comparison fishing of survey gears

ICES WGBEAM and WGCAN have both recommended gear efficiency comparisons between different surveys (compare e.g. ICES WGBEAM Report 2006, page 62, Annex 2). Only a study could generate the necessary scientific data. None of the involved institutes from are able to conduct such work within the frame of the institutes' standard work. The consortium would consist of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands and UK. The objectives would be to conduct parallel fishing with the various types of gear applied in the Young Fish Surveys (DYFS, DFS, YFS) along the Southern North Sea coast by the means of

charter vessels, to find conversion factors for abundance indices.

These indices are used since about 30 years for assessing the 0-group year class strengths of plaice, sole, cod, whiting as well as brown shrimp and are processed by ICES WGNSSK for VPA purposes as well.

However, the traditional procedures apply conversion factors dating back to 1985, which are statistically not significant in most cases as we have realised and therefore, desperately need re-evaluation, as the basic data provided to ICES and to CFP relevant requests could be severely biased and therefore the long-time series therefore need to be re-evaluated as well.

LM considers that there is a need to better justify the need of such project with regards to the use on assessment WGs. It is not clear from the text why the comparison cannot be done at the assessment level.

3.18 • Settlement of an ageing routine network for the Flemish Cap beaked redfishes *S. mentella* and *S. fasciatus* based on otoliths

Despite the existence of three redfish species on the Flemish Cap bank (NAFO Division 3M) the 3M redfish assessment is focused on a management unit composed of two populations from two very similar species, commonly designated as beaked redfish: *S. mentella* and *S. fasciatus*. The reasons for this approach are the dominance of this group in the 3M redfish commercial catches, corresponding also to the bulk of the redfish bottom biomass survey indices available for the Flemish Cap bank. These *S. mentella* and *S. fasciatus* populations have similar length growth up to 20 years of age, slow maturation and are long living species. The assessment of this stock uses an Extended Survivor Analysis (XSA) to tune the terminal fishing mortalities at age with the EU survey abundance's at age (a survey time series starting at 1989). All assessment framework is dependent on the annual update of both catch at age and survey abundance at age matrices. And in turn this update is dependent on the annual build up of a representative age length-key, based on age reading of otoliths collected by the biological sampling of the EU survey catches. One of the proponents of this small research project, António Ávila de Melo (Instituto de Investigação das Pescas e do Mar, Lisbon, Portugal) is the NAFO Scientific Council designated expert for the 3M redfish assessment since 1997.

The *S. mentella* age length keys from the EU surveys, with both sexes combined, are the ones used in the 3M beaked redfish assessment. The ageing criteria of 3M redfish otoliths

have been first revised in 1995 and again in 1998 and previous survey age length keys were then standardized accordingly. The purpose of these revisions was to get a clearer consistence on the tracking of the 1990 cohort, a strong year class that showed a density dependent growth. The other proponent of this small research project, Dr. Fran Saborido-Rey (Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, Vigo, Spain) has carried out the research on 3M redfish otoliths for ageing purposes since 1990.

The main objective of the project will be the transfer of the expertise on the ageing of *S. mentella* redfish using otoliths from the Spanish to the Portuguese researcher, so that in the near future the designated expert for the 3M redfish assessment is also responsible each year for the construction of an essential tool used in his work. This transfer of knowledge would imply one week stay of António Ávila de Melo in Vigo in order to work with Dr. Fran Saborido-Rey at his laboratory. This action will then be consolidated through a regular program of otoliths exchange, that will check if the established standard criteria of age reading is used correctly by the new reader so that the new age length keys will be consistent with the former ones. During this program Dr. Fran Saborido-Rey will stay one week working at IPIMAR with António Ávila de Melo so that all process of enhancing and reading of redfish otoliths at the Lisbon laboratory is checked and consolidated. A final report will be issued when the above learning process is finished and transformed into a routine (one year after the first trip to Vigo). The estimated budget is 10 000 euros.

LM considers that arrangement between experts, regardless of the scientific interest, is contrary to the philosophy of a call for tenders and cannot be addressed in such a channel.

3.19 • Improvement of the analysis of gonads to calculate a NAFO Div. 3M American plaice maturity ogive.

The Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) American plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*) is an important stock but the catches since 1996 are at minimum historical levels between 100 and 300 t. At DCR – RCM NAFO Area April 2006 the moment the stock is at a very low level due to the systemic lack of recruitment since the beginning of the 90's. One of the weak points on the knowledge of this stock dynamics is the use of a knife-edge “maturity ogive” on the assessment. Being the major problem for this stock recovery the ongoing recruitment failure it is fundamental to study its spawning component based on true maturity ogives.

On the EU-Spain and Portugal Flemish Cap survey (1988-2005), gonads have been collected on a regular basis for further histological analysis. During some years some of this material have been prepared and analysed, but the outcome of this exercise didn't result in the availability of multi-annual maturity ogives. In fact the bulk of the samples have not yet been processed and analysed.

The main task of the project will be to process histological all the collected gonad material and to implement a working routine so that an American plaice maturity ogive will be available, updated and used in future assessments. To achieve this goal it is proposed a three weeks stay of Ricardo Alpoim (designated expert for the 3M American plaice) at the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas (Vigo/Spain) in order to work with Dr.

Fran Saborido-Rey and his team in the histological processing and microscopic analysis of the American plaice gonads.

At the end of this program Dr. Dolores Garabana, from the same Vigo laboratory, will come to IPIMAR (Lisbon, Portugal) to validate the analysis of gonads and maturity related data that meanwhile have been carried out by Ricardo Alpoim at IPIMAR, in the sequence of his former training action.

This project is estimated to cost 20 000 euros.

Same comment as previous

4 Improved cooperation with ICES:

The EC ICES Agreement 2007-2009 is close to completion and actual tasks and commitments in relation to the DCR data have been agreed as follows:

- The Commission will arrange – through member states or directly – for **any data collected through the Data Collection Regulation (DCR) and legally available for scientific analysis to be available to ICES for use in ICES advisory work.** The Commission will assist ICES in getting access to any other data which has been collected under Community legislation or is collected with the support of Community funding while respecting legal status regarding the distribution of this information (i.e. confidentiality or public availability such as pertaining to environmental information).
- **ICES will communicate any problems encountered regarding access to data, data quality and completeness of data.** This shall in particular apply to data are collected through the DCR or which have been collected with other Commission support;
- **ICES is responsible for quality control of the aggregated data used in assessment and shall decide which data are considered a useful basis for advice.** If the quality of landings data cannot be accurately documented ICES may decide to base its advice exclusively on other types of information such as survey data;
- **ICES will explain in the background documentation for the advice which data were used and how and will evaluate data quality and completeness on a stock, country, fleet and data type basis;**
- **The Parties will facilitate that stakeholders are invited to contribute to data preparation and evaluation of data quality;**
- **ICES will provide advice and services relating to the Data Collection Regulation.** These services include review of data delivered for ICES' advisory obligations and specific services regarding standards, manuals and coordination.

5 Information on call for tenders and revision of the DCR

5.1 Call for tenders launched in 2006

The Commission representative presented the state of the art on the call for tenders launched in 2006. The background of the call for tenders is the need to address a Council decision made at the beginning of the DCR and stipulating that up to 15% of the DCR budget should be allocated to small scale projects in support of the DCR. The constraint attached to these projects is that they must give an added-value to the DCR and must not interfere with research project.

2006 corresponds to the first year when such projects are being called, and three series of call for tenders have been prepared. The first series happened in August and listed 9 lots for a total amount of 3.4 millions EUROS. The deadline for submission was the end of September and all but two lots (No 3 and 9) received at least two applications. The external expertise is now ended, the internal evaluation has begun and is expected to end in December. In an optimistic agenda, the projects are planned to be contracted in February-March for an effective start in March-April.

The second call for tenders has recently been published and the deadline for submission is 15th of December. The main objective of this call is to establish a framework contract for the promotion of dissemination of scientific outputs. The technical specifications of the call include the following tasks:

1. Identification of target groups and their specific interest in matters related to data collection, studies and pilot projects issues.
2. Define and produce dissemination material suited to these target groups according to a pre-defined strategy;
3. Organise activities and events to promote the dissemination of scientific information.

The third series of projects has been published in November and considers 3 lots.

- 1 – study of impact assessment of discards policy (6 months maximum)
- 2 – analysis of economical importance of the fisheries using bottom gears in the high seas (6 months maximum)
- 3 – energy efficiency by the European fleet (by métier) (14 months maximum)

The deadline will be the 8th of January.

5.2 New DCR

The general framework and implementation framework are two on-going parallel process. The general framework is more advanced than the implementation and is foreseen to go through the European Council for approval in the first half of 2007. It seems unlikely that the implementation framework be approved before the writing of the 2008 national Programme, even in the case of a late submission of this latter. Actually, the planned agenda for finalising the adoption of the new regulation is by the end of

2007. As a consequence, the Commission wishes to adopt an extension to the current Regulation for 2007 and 2008, which means that the first year for the implementation of the new DCR would be 2009.

6 LM own recommendations

Given the short time period between the end of the RCMs, the LM and the STECF/SGRN November meeting, **LM recommends the RCMs to summarise all the recommendations at the end of their report following the format used by LM.** By doing this, not only the preparation work for the LM would be considerably eased but also the editorial and reporting work after the meeting.

In 2007 there will be a sixth RCM dealing with tropical fisheries. **LM stresses the need that no stocks fall outside the scope of the 6 RCMs.** In the current scheme, it is unclear where Atlantic albacore, swordfish and, more generally, non tropical tuna and tuna-like stocks will be considered for coordination purposes.

The domain of competence of the RCMs includes economic issues and it is the LM opinion that **the chair of STECF/SGECA should participate to the LM** in order to have a full scope of expertise.

It is the role of LM to ensure that all RCMs move in the same direction. The problem that appeared during these first years is the limitation due to the one-year chairmanship of the RCMs. **The LM suggests to either extend the duration of the chairmanship to two years, or to invite the future RCM chairs in the LM meeting.** This is also a response to RCM NAFO recommendation :

“NAFO RCM recommends that the chairs of the RCM should hold the position for a period of two years and try to ensure that all recommendations are followed up and actioned”.

7 2007 RCM meetings

RCM BALTIC	The RCM Baltic unanimously agreed that Katja Ringdahl, Sweden will be the next chair and that the next meeting will be held in Riga, Latvia during October 2007.
RCM NAFO	The next meeting of the RCM for the NAFO area will take place in October 2007 in Pasaia, Basque Country (Spain). Antonio Vázquez should be the next chair for the NAFO RCM meeting of 2007.
RCM NEA	The next meeting of the RCM for the North East Atlantic will take place in the first week of October 2007 in IFREMER, Brest, France, with Christian Dintheer as Chair.
RCM NS & EA	RCM North Sea and East Arctic decided that Christoph Stransky from Germany should be the next Chair and the next meeting will be held in Lysekil, Sweden, in the period 25-29 September 2007.
RCM Medit.	Cyprus was proposed as venue of the fourth RCM. The date was fixed on 23-27 April 2007.

**ANNEX : list of surveys at sea in European waters
for consideration in STECF/SGRN-06-05 meeting**

Research surveys in the Baltic Sea

Name of the survey	Acronym	Member States/Institutes involved in the survey (leader in bold)	Area	Period (Months)	Category (Dem/Pel/Ana/Lar)	Objectives for scientific advice/stock assessments (Targetted stocks)	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes Name of the Stock	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning fleet	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
								days	hauls					
RUNING SURVEYS														
Baltic International Trawl Surveys, 1st/4st quarter	BITS	DE, DK, EE, FI, LV, LT, PL, SE	IIIaS,IIIb-d	I-II + XI-XII	D	Stock assessment, Cod IIIaS,22-32, Sole IIIaS, Plaice IIIaS Recruit indices		164	413	WGBFAS	Cod IIIaS,22-32, Sole IIIaS, Plaice IIIaS	Depends on model used and age group included	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on cod stocks in the	1
Baltic International Acoustic Survey	BIAS	EE ,FI, DE, DK, LV, LT ,PL, SE	SD22-SD31 +SD28N, 29E, 29N, 32W	Oct-Nov	P	Herring (herring in SD's 25-29,32W excl.GoR)		81	191	WGBFAS	Herring in SD 25-29 & 32, excluding Gulf of Riga	Depends on model used and age group included	-	1
Sprat Acoustic Survey	SPRAS	DE, LV, LT	IIIc-d	Quarter 2	P	Sprat		23	56 hauls / 1500nm	WGBFAS	Sprat in Subdivision 24-29 (intended)	Depends on model used and age group included	Sampling and experiments in the frame of the German Globec project	1
Herring Larvae survey	HERLRVS	DE	IIIc	Quarter 2	L	Herring		50	350 hauls	HAWG	Herring in Division IIIa and Subdivision 22-24 (intended)	Year class strength index N30		2
Boxen-Survey in the German EEZ of the Baltic Sea	BaltBox	DE	IIIc; IIId	June	D	occurrence of all demersal fish species	hydrographic parameters: Sal, Temp, Oxy	12	55 hauls/ 88nm		Fishing in relationship with marine uses	Fishes in all ages as possible	variances in composition of fish communities	2
German Flatfish survey	GFLATFS	DE	III d	Quarter 3	D	Flounder			20 hauls	WGBFAS	Flounder stock SD 24+25		Diversity	2
NEW PROPOSED SURVEYS														
HELCOM														
Coastal monitoring	HELCOM	FI, EE, LV, PL, SE	Baltic Sea	August	D/P (flatfish and freshwater species)	Ekosystem state indicators for coastal species	Integration of fishing effects on coastal environment	14	13 stations x 6-12 sites (3 netnights each)	HELCOM	Flatfishes, freshwater species (less marine species)	Adults CPUE by age, precision available at www.helcom.fi	Fishery-independent data on coastal speceies	Not listed in current DCR
GERMANY, POLAND														
Flatfish Costal Monitorig	FCM proposition	PI/SFI, De/IOR	Baltic Sea, SD 24-25	Monthly, but March and April	D	Monitoring of: the length and age structure, gonad development, fish concentration, estimation of year-classes,fitting datesvfor closed season. Folunder, plaice, turbot		80	10 months x 4 sites x 2 netnights	WGBFAS	Flounder, Plaice, Turbot in SD 24-25	Adults CPUE by age, precision available at www.helcom.fi	Monitoring frshwater species	Not listed in current DCR
FINLAND, SWEDEN														
River monitoring of Baltic salmon (in index rivers specified by the WGBAST)	RIVERSAL proposition	EE, FI, SE (possibly LV, LT)	Wild salmon rivers/ Baltic Sea	May-September	A	Estimates used in stock assessment of Baltic salmon: numbers of juvenile salmon (smolttrapping, electrofishing) and spawning salmon				WGBAST	Wild salmon stocks from rivers running to the Baltic Sea	Depends on model used and age group included	Fishery-independent data on salmon and sea trout	Not listed in current DCR

Name of the survey	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
		days	hauls					
DENMARK								
IBTS 1st quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	18	42	NSSKWG; HAWG	her, spr, sai, cod, had, whi, nwp	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
International ecosystem survey in the Nordic Seas	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	30	3500nm/50ha uls/110plankt on	PGNAPES; NPBWWG	herring, blue whiting	Depending on age and assessment model used	Plankton distribution in the Norwegian Sea	1
IBTS 3rd quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	18	46	IBTSWG; NSSKWG; HAWG	sai, cod, had, whi, nwp	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
NS Herring Acoustic Survey	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	14	1900nm/35	HAWG, PGHERS	herring	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is one of main fishery independent source of information on herring and sprat stocks in the area.	1
BITS 1st quarter (Baltic International Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	20	42	WGBFAS	cod, plaice	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is one of main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
BITS 4st quarter (Baltic International Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	20	42	WGBFAS	cod, plaice	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is one of main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
Nephrops TV Survey (FU3&4)	Biological parameters	9*	6 hauls/70 TV tracks*	WG NEPH; NSSK WG	None so far	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey will be the main fishery independent source of information on nephrops stocks in the area.	Not listed in current DCR
Sole survey in Div IIIa	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Non-commercial spp	30	120	WGBFAS	sole in IIIa	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is the main fishery independent source of information on the sole stocks in the area.	Not listed in current DCR
North Sea Sandeels Survey	Biological parameters	10	30	NSSKWG	sandeel IV	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is the main fishery independent source of information on the sandeel stock in the area.	Not listed in current DCR
BELGIUM								
Demersal Young Fish and Brown Shrimp Survey	Has been used for ecosystem studies in the past This can (fairly) easily be done in the future as well	10	35	WGCRAN, WGNSSK	None so far (survey only targets juveniles)	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery-independent source of information on flatfish pre-recruits and brown shrimp in coastal waters of the Southern North Sea	1
North Sea Beam Trawl Survey	Analysis of commercial and non-commercial by-catches. Indicators of condition of fish assemblages (e.g. mean max size, mean trophic level, etc.)	10	62		None so far	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery-independent source of information on flatfish pre-recruits in the offshore waters of the Southern North Sea	1
Glass Eel Recruitment Survey	None so far	100	600-750	None so far	None so far	Not applicable	None so far	Not listed in current DCR
GERMANY								
IBTS 1st quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	31	70	HAWG, WGNSSK	her, spr, sai, cod, had, whi, nwp	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
IBTS 3rd quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	8	26	HAWG, WGNSSK	sai, cod, had, whi, nwp	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
North Sea Beam Trawl Survey	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	16	50	WGNSSK		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Demersal Young Fish Survey	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	15	180	WGNSSK, WGCRAN	pla, sol	Depending on age and assessment model used	Use for Qual. Status Report (QSR)	1
North Sea Herring Acoustic Survey	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	20	2200nm	ICES HAWG	herring, sprat	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is one of main fishery independent source of information on herring and sprat stocks in the area.	1
International ecosystem survey in the Nordic Seas	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	financial contribution	financial contribution	WGNPBW	herring, blue whiting	Depending on age and assessment model used	Plankton distribution in the Norwegian Sea	1
German Cod Survey (now German Autumn Survey Exclusive Economic Zone)	Biological parameters, Epibenthos, Ecosyst data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	21	80	(none so far)			Ecosystem survey in the German EEZ; gear comparison: 7m beam trawl, cod trawl	2
International Herring Larvae Surveys in the North Sea	sprat, Cod and plaice eggs and larvae	20	220	HAWG	North Sea autumn spawning herring	Depending on age and assessment model used		2

Name of the survey	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
		days	hauls					
German Small Scale Bottom trawl Survey (Summer)	Biological parameters, benthos, sediments, hydrography, fish stomach analyses, nutrients, marine mammals & seabirds in selected years	42	300	WGFE, WGEKO, BEWG	-		Ecosystem survey, contribution to integrated assessment and process studies	Not listed in current DCR
German Small Scale Bottom trawl Survey (Winter)	Biological parameters, benthos, sediments, hydrography, fish stomach analyses, nutrients, seabirds in selected years.	9	50	WGFE, WGEKO, BEWG	-		Ecosystem survey, contribution to integrated assessment and process studies	Not listed in current DCR
Sole Survey	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	16	75-100	(none so far)			Monitoring of Natura 2000 areas	Not listed in current DCR
Winter Crangon Survey	All fish species caught plus selected macro-invertebrates	25-30	80-100	(none so far)		Depending on age and assessment model used	covers partly territorial waters of DK and NL regarding winter distribution of brown shrimp	Not listed in current DCR
International Plaice, Cod, Haddock and Whiting egg survey	Spatial distribution of spawning	??	??	WGNSSK	Cod and plaice	Depending on age and assessment model used	??	Not listed in current DCR
FRANCE								
Channel Ground Fish survey	Interreg project CHARM (ecosystem approach)	30	100	WGNSSK2005	VIIId plaice, cod	Depending on age and assessment model used	Since 2005 inclusion of the data in the IBTS database	1
IBTS 1st quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	30	80	WGNSSK2005	Whiting, cod, haddock, Norway pout	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
Young fish survey (French part)	Survey on flatfish nursery ground	5	50	WGNSSK2005	VIIId sole, VIIId plaice	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey not taken into account in DCR, external financing	?
THE NETHERLANDS								
IBTS 1st quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Essential for monitoring changes in the ecosystem	25	65-70	WGNSSK, HAWG		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
North Sea Herring Acoustic survey	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	18	2000nm	HAWG		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Mackerel egg survey	??	15	150	WGMHSA		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Sole net survey	Essential for monitoring changes in the ecosystem	10	56	WGNSSK		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Beam trawl survey	Essential for monitoring changes in the ecosystem	45	80+70	WGNSSK		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Demersal Young Fish Survey	Essential for monitoring changes in the ecosystem	55	340	WGNSSK		Depending on age and assessment model used		1
International Herring Larvae Surveys in the North Sea	Cod and plaice eggs and larvae	10	250	HAWG		Depending on age and assessment model used		2
International Herring Larvae Surveys in the North Sea	Cod and plaice eggs and larvae	10	75	HAWG		Depending on age and assessment model used		2
International ecosystem survey in the Nordic Seas	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	30	3500nm/50ha uls/110plankton	NPBWWG	herring, blue whiting	Depending on age and assessment model used	Plankton distribution in the Norwegian Sea	1
SWEDEN								
IBTS 1st quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	15	49	WGBFAS, WGNSSK, HAWG	her, spr, sai, cod, had, whi, nwp	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
IBTS 3rd quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	15	49	WGBFAS, WGNSSK, HAWG	her, spr, sai, cod, had, whi, nwp	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
International ecosystem survey in the Nordic Seas	Biological parameters, Ecosyst data, Hydrog, Non-commercial spp	30	3500 NM, 110 plankton	ICES WGNPBW	herring, blue whiting	Depending on age and assessment model used	Plankton distribution in the Norwegian Sea	1
Skagerrak/Kattegat coastal survey Q2	Abundance of juvenile fish as an integrated environmental assessment of coastal habitats	20	55	WGBFAS, WGNSSK	None so far Cod in Kattegat from 2007 onwards Plaice in IIIa from 2007 onwards	Depending on age and assessment model used	Evaluation on management measures (fishing in restricted areas, MPAs) Cod stock separation issues in the study area (e.g. tagging experiment)	Not listed in current DCR

Name of the survey	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
		days	hauls					
Skagerrak/Kattegat coastal survey Q4	Abundance of juvenile fish as an integrated environmental assessment of coastal habitats	25	55	WGBFAS, WGNSSK	None so far Cod in Kattegat from 2007 onwards Plaice in IIIa from 2007 onwards	Depending on age and assessment model used	Evaluation on management measures (fishing in restricted areas, MPAs) Cod stock separation issues in the study area (e.g. tagging experiment)	Not listed in current DCR
Nephrops TV Survey (FU3&4)	Biological parameters	9*	6 hauls/70 TV tracks*	WG NEPH; NSSK WG	None so far	No age based model used	Survey will be the main fishery independent source of information on nephrops stocks in the area.	Not listed in current DCR
UK								
IBTS 1st quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	23	50	NSSK WG; HAWG	cod, had, whi, Norway pout	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
International ecosystem survey in the Nordic Seas	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	30	3500nm, 110 plankton	WG NPBW	herring	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
IBTS 3rd quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	32	75	WGNSSK; HAWG	cod, had, whi, Norway pout	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
IBTS 3rd quarter (International Bottom Trawl Survey)	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	23	87	WGNSSK; HAWG, WGHABMAP	cod, had, whi, Norway pout	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
North Sea Herring Acoustic survey	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	22	2500nm	HAWG	herring	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Beam trawl survey	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	15	91	NSSK WG	pla, sol	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Demersal Young Fish Survey	Biological parameters, Ecosystem data, Hydrog. Non-commercial spp	8	82	NSSK WG	pla, sol	Depending on age and assessment model used		1
Nephrops TV survey (FU 6)	Biological parameters	9	6 hauls/70 TV tracks	WG NEPH; NSSK WG	Nephrops	Depending on age and assessment model used		Not listed in current DCR
Nephrops TV survey (FU 7)	Biological parameters	15	août-80	WG NEPH; NSSK WG	Nephrops	Depending on age and assessment model used		2
Nephrops TV survey (FU 8)	Biological parameters	9	juin-70	WG NEPH; NSSK WG	Nephrops	Depending on age and assessment model used		2
Nephrops TV survey (FU 9)	Biological parameters	15	août-80	WG NEPH; NSSK WG	Nephrops	Depending on age and assessment model used		2
New proposed surveys where no country is assigned (ICES)								
International Greater Silver Smelt survey in Area II	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	Not listed in current DCR
Survey on Greater Silver Smelt in Div. IIIa	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	Not listed in current DCR
International Plaice, Cod, Haddock and Whiting egg survey	Spatial distribution of spawning	??	??	WGNSSK	Cod and plaice	Depending on age and assessment model used	??	Not listed in current DCR
Other new surveys in area I and II								
Lithuanian survey on Greenland halibut	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	Not listed in current DCR
Polish survey in Greenland halibut	??	??	??	??	??	??	??	Not listed in current DCR

Research surveys in the North East Atlantic Area (all countries)

Name of the survey	Acronym	Member States/Institutes involved in the survey (leader in bold)	Area	Period (Months)	Demersal / Benthic/Pelagic/ Icthyo (D/B/P/I)	Objectives for scientific advice/stock assessments (Targetted stocks)	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes Name of the Stock Assessment WG	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning fleet	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
								days	hauls					
Western IBTS 4th quarter	IBTS Q4	UK(Eng, Scot), IRL, FR, SP, PT	Vla, VIIa, b, e, f, g, h, j, VIII, IXa	4th quarter (Oct-Nov)	D	Recruit and tuning indices, gadoids, pelagics and shellfish	biological parameters; ecosystem app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp; parasites studies; Benthic invertebrates	212	659	WGSSDS, WGNSDS, WGHMM, WGHMSA, WGHMMN, IBTSWG, WGNPBW, WGCEPH, SGDF, WGEF	Several stocks of: cod, haddock, whiting, megrim, anglerfish, Hake, Horse Mackerel, Mackerel, Plaice, Sole, Nephrops, saithe	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area (Biological parameters, stock structure, Habitat mapping, benthos survey, oceanographic data, sea bird marine mammal surveys)	1
Blue whiting survey		UK(Sco), DK, IRL, NL, FR, SP, Nor, Russ	VI, VII	1st & 2nd quarter	P/D/I	Combined age stratified estimate of relative abundance for stock assessment purposes	Ecosystem approach, Phy. Oceanography, MM Obs	39	+30	WGNPBW	blue whiting	~10%	Mapping distributions, biological parameters	1
International mackerel and horse mackerel egg survey (triennial)		UK(Sco), IRL, NL, DE, SP, PT	VI, VII, VIII, IXa	1st - 3th quarter (March-July)	P/I	Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Production; Abundance and distribution of eggs and larvae, SSB Horse mackerel and mackerel	Ecosystem approach, Phy. Oceanography, Hydrography, sex, maturity, fecundity of mackerel and horse mackerel, plankton assemblage, fish assemblage, other biological parameters; Data for ecosystem approach and data (mainly biologic) for non commercial species	237	~990 Icthyo/~80 fish trawls	WGMHSA, WGMEGS	Mackerel and Horse Mackerel	30% (IRL)	larval distribution, biological parameters, life history research; only fishery independent information on the NEA mackerel stock, horse mackerel	1
Sardine, anchovy, horse mackerel acoustic survey		FR, SP, PT	VIII, IX a	mar-may	P/I	anchovy, sardine, sprat, horse mackerel : biomass and abundance indices (SSB and recruitment)	simultaneous data collecting on a standardized sampling strategy of : 1) fish abundance from acoustics and fishing 2) geographic distribution of eggs by CUFES (anchovy + sardine) 3) environmental parameters (hydrology) 4) primary and secondary production 5) top predators	88	3900 nm surveyed along transects + 150 hauls (approx.)	WGMHSA, WGCEGG,	Sardine, Anchovy	Depending on age and assessment model used	This survey provides since 2000 yearly a comprehensive description of the pelagic ecosystem, from primary producers to top predators and of physical environment	1
Sardine DEPM (triennial)	DEPM	SP, PT	VIIIc, IX a	1st - 2nd quarter (Jan-May)	I	Abundance and distribution of eggs and larvae, SSB-Sardine	Data for ecosystem approach and data (mainly biologic) for non commercial species, use of CUFES for improve the estimates	75	~1000 Icthyo/~64 fish trawl	WGMHSA, WGCEGG, SGSBSA	Sardine in div. VIIIc and IX a and Anchovy in IX a		environmental parameters, larvae and egg distributions	1
Nephrops TV survey - FU 14 / 15		UK(NI), IRL	VIIa	Aug / Sept	B	nephrops abundance index	biological parameters; ecosystem app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp	12	24 / 106	WGNSDS	Nephrops, gadoids	Depending on age and assessment model used	Ecosystem data	2
International Hydro-Acoustic Oceanic Redfish Survey	REDTAS	DE, Iceland, Russia (Norway)	Va, XII, XIV, NAFO SA, LB, 2	June/July (every 2nd yr)	P	Redfish	Hydrography, parasitisation, stomach analysis, biological parameters	28-30	2900nm	NWWG	Redfish (survey index used)		only fishery independent information on pelagic redfish	1
Nephrops UWTV & Ecology Survey Irish Sea	WTV(FU15)	IRL, UK (NI)	VIIa	August-September	B	Nephrops FU 15 abundance indices for stock assessment	Benthic impacts, Nephrops ecology, Habitat mapping, Phy. Oceanography	10 days by RoI + 10 days by UKNI	140 UWTV tracks, 24 Trawls & 12 Beam Trawls	Survey used as basis for advice for FU 15 in 2006 WGNSDS	Survey & Trends assessnet only. No tunned age based assessment	Length data & Observed Survey CVs range from 4-5%	Habitat mapping, benthos survey, biological parameters, life history research	2
Irish Deepwater survey	IDS	IRL, UK (Sco)	VI, VII	Q3 (September)	D/B	Abundance estimate/ CPUE for stock assessment	Ecosystem approach, Phy. Oceanography, Benthic invertebrates, MM Obs	14	20+	WGDEEP	beginning of time series		biological parameters, life history research	2
Sardine Recruitment Survey	SAR	PT	IX a	Oct/Nov	P	Abundance and distribution of the Sardine Recruitment	approach and data (mainly biologic) for non commercial species	28	30 hauls- transects= 850 nm	WGMHSA	Sardine in div. VIIIc and IXa		Distribution of eggs and larvae	2
Scottish Western IBTS	IBTS Q1	UK(Sco)	Vla, VIIa	1st quarter	D	Recruit and tuning indices, gadoids & herring	parameters; ecosystem app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp;	20	57	WGNSDS; WGSSDS	Cod, Whiting, Haddock, saithe			1
ISBCBTS September	ISBCBTS	UK(Eng, Sco)	VIIa, f, g	September / October	D	Recruit and tuning indices, sole, plaice	biological parameters; ecosystem app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp; benthos	24	108	WGNSDS, WGBEAM	Plaice, Sole	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1

Name of the survey	Acronym	Member States/Institutes involved in the survey (leader in bold)	Area	Period (Months)	Demersal / Benthic/Pelagic/ Icthyo (D/B/P/I)	Objectives for scientific advice/stock assessments (Targetted stocks)	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes Name of the Stock Assessment WG	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning fleet	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
								days	hauls					
Greenland Groundfish Survey	GGs	DE	XIV, NAFO SA1	Oct/Nov	D	Cod, redfish	Hydrography, groundfish assemblage, biological parameters	40-45	100-150	NWWG, NAFO SC	Cod		only fishery independent information on Greenland cod	2
Spawning/pre-spawning herring acoustic survey (Scotland)		UK(Sco)	VIa	Jul	P	Abundance index for herring	biological parameters;	20	2500/35	HAWG	herring			1
Spawning/pre-spawning herring acoustic survey (N Ireland)		UK(NI)	VIIa	Aug/Sept	P	Abundance index for herring	biological parameters;	16	150/15	HAWG	VIIa herring	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on pelagic stocks in the area.	1
Northwest herring acoustic Survey	NWHAS	IRL	VIIb, VIaS	Q1 (January)	P/I	Age startified estimate of relative abundance for stock assessment purposes	Ecosystem approach, Phy. Oceanography, MM Obs	21	30+	HAWG	VIIb and VIa	30-50%	Oceanography, marine mammals, biological parameters, mapping distribution	1
Celtic Sea herring acoustic survey	CSHAS	IRL	VIIg, VIIj, VIIaS	Q4 (October)	P/I	Age startified estimate of relative abundance for stock assessment purposes	Ecosystem approach, Phy. Oceanography, MM Obs	21	30+	HAWG	VIIg, VIIj, VIIaS	30-50%	Oceanography, marine mammals, biological parameters, mapping distribution	1
WCBTS	VIIe BTS	UK(Eng, Sco)	VIIe	4th quarter	D	Recruit and tuning indices, sole, plaice	biological parameters; temp/sal; non-commercial finfish spp	8	58	SSDS WG; WG BEAM	Plaice, Sole	Depending on age and assessment model used	Survey is main fishery independent source of information on most stocks in the area.	1
DARD groundfish (now AFBI groundfish)	FBI Q1 GF	UK(NI)	VIIa	Mar	D	Recruit and tuning indices, gadoids	biological parameters;ecosyst app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp	19	60	WGNSDS	Cod, Whiting, Haddock	Depending on age and assessment model used	Contributes to assessment of effectiveness of cod recovery plan	1 *
DARD groundfish (now AFBI groundfish)	FBI Q4 GF	UK(NI)	VIIa	Oct	D	Recruit and tuning indices, gadoids	biological parameters;ecosyst app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp	19	60	WGNSDS	Cod, Whiting, Haddock	Depending on age and assessment model used	Contributes to assessment of effectiveness of cod recovery plan	1
Nephrops TV survey (Inshore) - FU 11/12		UK(Sco)	VIa	1st quarter (derogation)	D	Nephrops abundance indices	biological parameters;	15	3/45	WGNEPH, WGNSDS				2
Nephrops TV survey (Offshore) - FU 11/12/13		UK(Sco)	VIa	3rd quarter	D	Nephrops abundance indices	biological parameters;	12	10/120	WGNEPH, WGNSDS				2
Nephrops Survey	Nephrops Q2	UK(NI)	VIIa	Apr	B	nephrops abundance index	biological parameters;ecosyst app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp	5	24	WGNSDS	Nephrops	Depending on age and assessment model used	By-catch data and <i>Hematodinium</i> levels in <i>Nephrops</i>	2
Nephrops in FU 28+29	CTVS	PT	IX a	June	B/D	Abundance indices of Nephrops (under recovery plan)and other crustaceans	Abundance estimation from video survey, sediment characterization and biological data from other crustaceans; Ecosystem data	25	76 bottom trawl	WGBBI, WGEF, WGDEEP	Nephrops FU 28+29		Biological data from other species	1 *
Rockall Survey (biennial odd years)		UK(Sco)	VIIb	3rd quarter	D	Haddock abundance	parameters;ecosyst app; temp/sal; non-commercial	14	42	WGNSDS - VIIb haddock	Haddock			2
AFBI (previously DARD) herring larvae		UK(NI)	VIIa	Nov	P	larval herring abundance	biological parameters;	12	62	HAWG	VIIa herring	Depending on age and assessment model used		2
AFBI (previously DARD) Mik-net		UK(NI)	VIIa	May / June	P	abundance indices , pre-recruit gadoids, <i>Nephrops</i>	Larval and juvenile fish abundance	22	68 Gulf/ 24 MIK	WGNSDS	Cod, Whiting, Haddock	Depending on age and assessment model used	Contributes to assessment of effectiveness of cod recovery plan	1 *

Name of the survey	Acronym	Member States/Institutes involved in the survey (leader in bold)	Area	Period (Months)	Demersal / Benthic/Pelagic/ Icthyo (D/B/P/ I)	Objectives for scientific advice/stock assessments (Targetted stocks)	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes Name of the Stock Assessment WG	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning fleet	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
								days	hauls					
Tuna Tagging	TunaTag	IRL	VI	Q3/Q4	P	Refine tuning series	Tagging/investigation of migration patterns	30	target 5 blue fin	PGTT/ ICCAT	Blue Fin Tuna	Depending on age and assessment model used	Lif history Research	1
Tuna Tagging		PT	IX a South	April-Sep	P	Bluefin tuna and Swordfish	tuna ecology and the reinforcement of fisheries management	5 (tuna); opportunistic	target 5 blue fin	PGTT/ ICCAT	Blue Fin Tuna and Swordfish	Depending on age and assessment model used	Lif history Research	1
Tuna tagging	ROJOCAN	SP	Bay of	July	P	Tuna tagging for ageing purposes	Stock assessment			ICCAT				
Gadoid fecundity study		UK(NI)	VIIa	Jan	D	cod, haddock, whiting	biological parameters;	10	30	WGNSDS			Part of egg / larval project on assessment of effectiveness of VIIa cod recovery plan	2
Deep Water (biennial even years)		UK(Sco)	VIa	3rd quarter	D	abundance indices of deepwater species	biological parameters;ecosyst app; temp/sal; non-commercial spp	12	36	WGDEEP - time series too short				2
Deep Sea Fish Survey	PPROF	PT	IX a	Summer	D (commercial Long-liner)	Abundance indices of black scabbard fish, deep sharks and several others deep sea species	improve the knowledge on bottom sea topography and habitat of species	45	130	WGDEEP, WGBBI,WGEF	Black scabbard fish		Biological data from other species, environmental parameters	2
DEEP	DEEP	PT	X	3rd quarter	D (Long-line)	Distribution and abundance of deep sea fish	improve the knowledge on bottom sea topography and habitat of species	30	20	WGDEEP, WGEF	Deep sea fish and elasmobranch		Distribution and Abundance indices-other species	2
Egg production Survey		UK(NI,Eng)	VIIa	Feb/Mar	P	Abundance index for cod, haddock, whiting	biological parameters; temp/sal;	12	110 Gulf	WGNSDS			Part of egg / larval project on assessment of effectiveness of VIIa cod recovery plan	2 for 2008
Egg production Survey		UK(NI,Eng)	VIIa	Q2	P	Abundance index for cod, haddock, whiting	biological parameters; temp/sal;	12	110 Gulf	WGNSDS			Part of egg / larval project on assessment of effectiveness of VIIa cod recovery plan	2 for 2008
Egg production Survey		UK(NI,Eng)	VIIa	Jan / Feb	P	Abundance index for cod, haddock, whiting	biological parameters; temp/sal;	10	Gulf / 20 T	WGNSDS			Part of egg / larval project on assessment of effectiveness of VIIa cod recovery plan	2 for 2008
Egg production Survey		UK(NI,Eng)	VIIa	Mar	P	Abundance index for cod, haddock, whiting	biological parameters; temp/sal;	10	110 Gulf	WGNSDS			Part of egg / larval project on assessment of effectiveness of VIIa cod recovery plan	2 for 2008
Egg production Survey		UK(NI,Eng)	VIIa	Mar / Apr	P	Abundance index for cod, haddock, whiting	biological parameters; temp/sal;	10	110 Gulf	WGNSDS			Part of egg / larval project on assessment of effectiveness of VIIa cod recovery plan	2 for 2008
Biomass of Anchovy	BIOMAN	SP	Bay of Biscay	May	P/I	Achovy SSB (DEP)	Ecosystem approach, environmental parameters	25	30	WGMHSA, SGSBSA				1
Groundfish Survey for Hake	ESCADA-B	PT	IX a	March	D	Abundance Recruitment indices and SSB of Hake (under a recovery plan)	Abundance indices of Hake, Horse Mackerel, Mackerel, Monkfish, Megrin; Ecosystem data	28	75	WGBBI, WGMHSA, WGNPBW, WGEF, WGCEPH, IBTSWG	Southern Hake		environmental parameters	1 *
South Atlantic Bottom Trawl Survey	ARSA	SP	Ixa South	March	D	Abundance Indices for Demersal Stocks	biological parameters;ecosyst app; environmental parameters; non-commercial spp	12	40	WGCEPH, WGHMM				1 *
ARQDAÇO	ARQDAÇO	PT	X	Apr/May	D (Long-line)	Abundance of bluemouth, rockfish, forkbeards, alfonsinos, conger, sea breams	improve the knowledge on bottom sea topography and habitat of species	50	35	WGDEEP, WGEF	Deep sea fish		Distribution and Abundance indices	2
PELAGICOS	PELAGICOS	PT	X	4th quarter	D (Long-line)	Distribution and abundance of tuna and sharks	oceanography data	30	20	ICCAT			Distribution and Abundance indices-other species	2
SURVEYS NOT LISTED IN CURRENT DCR														
Irish Monk survey	IMAS	IRL,UK(Sco)	VI,VII	Q4 (November)	D	Abundance estimate/ CPUE for stock assessment	Tagging/investigation of migration patterns	20	100	WGHMM		Survey results to be presented in 2007	biological parameters, life history research	

Name of the survey	Acronym	Member States/Institutes involved in the survey (leader in bold)	Area	Period (Months)	Demersal / Benthic/Pelagic/ Icthyo (D/B/P/I)	Objectives for scientific advice/stock assessments (Targetted stocks)	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes Name of the Stock Assessment WG	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning fleet	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
								days	hauls					
Nephrops UWTV Aran Grounds	UWTV(FU 17)	IRL	VIIb	May/June	B	Nephrops FU 17 abundance indices for stock assessment	Benthic impacts, Nephrops ecology, Habitat mapping, Phy. Oceanography	8	70 UWTV tracks & 10+ Beam trawl Hauls	Survey partially used as basis for advice for FU 17 in 2006 WGHMM	Survey & Trends assessnet only. No tuned age based assessment	Length data & Observed Survey CVs range from 6-8%	Habitat mapping, benthos survey, biological parameters, life history research	
Nephrops UWTV Survey Celtic Sea	UWTV(FU 20-22)	IRL	VIII f,g,h	July	B	Nephrops FU 20-22 abundance indices for stock assessment	Benthic impacts, Nephrops ecology, Habitat mapping, Phy. Oceanography	10	71 UWTV tracks & 10+ Beam trawl Hauls	New survey to be presented to WGSDDS in 2007	beginning of time series	Survey results to be presented in 2007	Habitat mapping, benthos survey, biological parameters, life history research	
Biological Sampling Survey	BSS	IRL	VI, VII	Q1	D/P/B	Groundfish survey (estimate biological parameters like maturity, sex ratio)	Ecosystem approach, Benthic invertebrates	10	45	WGSDDS, WGNSDS, WGHMM			Stock structure, Habitat mapping, benthos survey, oceanographic data	
Hake tagging	GENISOL E, MARMER	FR	Southern Brittany	may to july	D	Hake tagging (growth, migrations)	Living fishes for further asore experiments in controlled conditions	45	not relevant				Biological parameters of hake	
Hake tagging	MARMER	SP	Galician waters	September-October	D	Hake tagging for ageing purposes	Stock assessment	10	40	WGHMM				
Hake tagging	MARMER	SP	Goulf of Cadiz	July	D	Hake tagging for ageing purposes	Stock assessment	10	40	WGHMM				
Sardine, Anchovy, Horse Mackerel acoustic survey	PELACUS 10	SP, FR	Bay of Biscay	October	P/I	Anchovy abundance indices and Recruitment Mechanism Studies	Ecosystem approach; biological parameters; fish abundance from acoustics and fishing; geographic distribution of eggs by CUFES;environmental parameters; primary and secondary production; top predators	na	na	WGMHSA	anchovy			
Anchovy DEPM	BOCADE VA	SP	IXa South	June (triennial)	P/I	Anchovy SSB and use CUFES to impruve estimates	Ecosystem approach; biological adult parameters; sampling eggs by paiovet; geographic distribution of eggs by CUFES;environmental parameters;	14	31	WGMHSA, SGSBSA, WGACEGG				
Bay of Biscay benthic resources trawl survey	ORHAGOSOLE	FR	Bay of Biscay	nov	B	Bay of Biscay sole abundance indices	Ecosystem approach of exploited benthic resources	23	70-80	new survey series			Biological parameters	
Bay of Biscay benthic resources trawl survey	ORHAGOLANG	FR	Bay of Biscay	may	B	Bay of Biscay Nephrops abundance indices	Ecosystem approach of exploited benthic resources	21	70-75	new survey series			Biological parameters	
Scallops surveys (national level)	COPER, COSB	FR	Bay of Biscay , Western Channel	various	B	Abundance index for scallops	Environment data, Competitors	10 each	not communicated	for regional management at national level				
Coastal nurseries surveys (national level)	CREBOUR, PECOS, NURVIL	FR	Bay of Biscay	various	D/B	Abundance index for sole	Ecosystem approach, trends in species composition and species distribution	5-7 each	30-40					
Juvenil of Anchovy	JUVENA	SP	Bay of Biscay	October	P/I	Anchovy abundance								
Anchovy Acoustic Survey (Gulf of Cadiz)	ECOCADIZ	SP	IXa South	June	P/I	Anchovy abundance	Ecosystem approach; biological parameters; fish abundance from acoustics and fishing; geographic distribution of eggs by CUFES;environmental parameters;	14	39	WGMHSA, SGSBSA, WGACEGG				
Hatton Bank	ECOVUL/ARPA	SP	Hatton Bank	October	D/B	Study of vulnerable ecosystems	Ecosystem s approach: spatial distributions deep water habitats;cold waters corals; geology	30	20	WGDEEP, WGFE			To define thebenthic communities in the study area and to attempt to obtain estimates of abundance and biomass of main benthic invertebrate megafauna. Accoustic and geofisic study of Hatton Bank slope	

1 * - At present Priority 1 due to the existence of a recovery plan

NAFO Surveys

Name of the survey	Acronym	Member States/Institutes involved in the	Area	Period (Months)	Demersal / Benthic/Pelagic/Icthyo	Objectives for scientific advice/stock assessments (Targetted stocks)	Other main objectives (Ecosystem approach, etc.)	Survey effort		Use of the survey outcomes	Stocks for which the survey is used as tuning fleet	Age group and variance explained by the survey (in %)	Other outcomes/uses	Current Priority
								days	hauls					
Pelagic Redfish Survey		DE, Iceland, Russia	XIV,XII,V,NAFO SA1+2	June/July	P	Abundance and Biomass of Pelagic Sebastes Mentella	length distribution, individual weights, sex, maturity and	na	na	GRS, NWWG	Pelagic redfish		hydrographic (CTD) and	not listed DCR
Greenland Groundfish Survey	GGS	DE	XIV, NAFO SA1	Oct/Nov	D	Cod, redfish	Hydrography, groundfish assemblage, biological parameters	40-45	100-150	NWWG, NAFO SC	Cod		only fishery independent information on Greenland cod	2
EU Flemish Cap Survey		SP, PT	NAFO SA 3	June/July	D	shrimp, redfish, American plaice and cod, Greenland halibut and roughhead grenadier	length distribution, individual weights, sex, maturity and hydrographic data	na	na	NWWG, NAFO SC	redfish, cod, Greenland halibut and roughhead grenadier			1
3NO Spanish Survey		SP	3NO - NAFO		D	species distribution in Grand Ba	biological data	na	na	NAFO SC	3LNO yellowtail flounder, 3NO cod, 3NO American plaice, 3NO skates, 3LNO white hake, Greenland halibut and roughhead grenadier			2

na - not available to this meeting

RCM Mediterranean Area

List of current Mediterranean acoustic surveys (included or not in the DCR), countries involved, areas and periods.

Survey name	Country	Area	Period	Current Priority
ECOMED	Spain	West	Nov-December	2
ANCHOVY	Greece	Aegean Sea (3.1)	June-July	2
ANCHOVY	Italy + Malta	Straits of Sicily+Malta Island	June-July	2
JUVENILE	Italy + Malta	Straits of Sicily+Malta Island	September-October	
PELMED	France	Gulf of Lion	July-August	2
N/A	Cyprus			
N/A	Slovenia			