

**Subgroup of Fisheries Data Collection Experts Group
6th Planning Group on Economic Issues – PGECON
Report**

15-19 May 2017

Vilnius, Lithuania

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1. BACKGROUND

The 'Planning Group on Economic Issues' (PGECON) was established as a subgroup of the Commission Expert groups according to Commission Decision C(2016)3301 developed to assist the Commission in the implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF). PGECON 2017 was held in Lithuania (Vilnius) during 15th-19th of May 2017.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PGECON 2017

ToR 1: Development of quality assurance framework for DCF data.

ToR 2: Development of guidelines for social variables data collection in fisheries.

ToR 3: Structure, governance and mandate of PGECON.

ToR 4: Concept of integrated dissemination of DCF data.

ToR 5: Presentation of results from Subgroup workshop on Statistical Issues and Methodologies.

ToR 6: Planning and development of ToR's for upcoming Subgroup workshops.

3. LIST OF RECCOMENDATIONS

Reference Number	Recommendation
<u>ToR 1 Development of quality assurance framework for DCF data.</u>	
1	PGECON recommends that the reporting on the economic data collection and its resultant quality could be best organized by the following documentation: • Methodological document, including a detailed description of methods of surveys, structured in accordance with the ESS guidelines (Annex 7) and has references to selected ESS QAF Principles (Annex 6) listed in optimized WP Table 5B. This document can be either incorporated in the WP or used as a standalone document of the WP (Annex 8). • Annual Quality report, with tables and specified quality indicators, taking into account the checklist for quality reporting and structured according to the ESS guidelines (Annex 6).
2	PGECON recommends that during the STECF EWG on quality assurance, the collected documentation and developed checklist and outline should be used as a basis for further development of the methodological report and the quality report.
<u>ToR 2 Development of guidelines for social variables data collection in fisheries.</u>	
3	To avoid duplication when fishers are moving from one vessel to another during the year it is recommended that social data should refer to a certain point in time. In cases of use of administrative sources when data is available for all fishers MS should follow Eurostat practice. In case of surveys it is recommended to organise national surveys around the same time of the year to avoid duplication (the same employee working at different boats during

	the year) and keep stability and comparability of the time series.
4	PGECON recommends to stratify employment data by supra region and major groups of fleets. It is suggested to follow three main AER group definitions as close as possible. However in cases where the link to fishing activity is missing groups based on the size of vessels, e.g. <12m for small scale fleet (SSF), and fishing operation (distant water fleet) might be used.
5	PGECON recommends to follow Eurostat practice and separate social variable "Employment by gender" to the following groups: - "M – male"; - "F – female"; - "Unknown" (only if needed).
6	Taking into account national needs and EU requirements it is recommended to separate social variable "Employment by nationality" to at least the following groups: - "National"; - "EU"; - "EEA (non EU)"; - "Other" (Non-EU/EEA).
7	Taking into account needs of EMMF for monitoring of employment by age classes and Eurostat practice, PGECON recommends to separate social variable "Employment by age" at least into the following age classes: - <15; - 15-24; - 25-39; - 40-64; - 65+.
8	PGECON recommends for data collection of social variable "Employment by employment status" to do separation at least between two categories: - "Owner/employer" (vessel owner involved in vessel activity/operation); - "Employee" (all engaged workers on-board, excluding owners).
9	PGECON recommends to use the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), defining social variable "Employment by education level". Data collected under EUMAP by MS should allow to provide data at least for the following groups at EU level: - "Low education" levels 0-2 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997);

	- “Medium education: levels 3-4 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997); - “High education” levels 5-8 (ISCED2011), levels 5-6 (ISCED1997).
<u>ToR 3 Structure, governance and mandate of PGECON</u>	
10	It is recommended that defined structure and governance of the PGECON meeting should be kept consistent over time to ensure the steady distribution of responsibilities and share of tasks. PGECON meeting is structured to separate sessions representing particular term of reference and lead by appointed moderators. In case of presentation of outcomes from specialized PGECON Subgroups, the moderator should be the chair of particular specialized PGECON Subgroup. Chairs of PGECON should be appointed for at least two consecutive years.
11	PGECON recommends compiling a list of end-users in order to involve them in the coordination and development of data collection framework and expand data applicability. It would follow the example of the RCMs who invite the main end-users to their meeting so they can inform the group about their data needs.
<u>ToR 5 Presentation of results from Subgroup workshop on Statistical Issues and Methodologies</u>	
12	PGECON recommends that variables “Engaged crew”, “Personnel costs” and “Value of unpaid labour” from Table 5A of EU MAP, in the guidance should be amended with clarification as follows: “People working only onshore and paid from vessels could be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations”.
13	PGECON recommends that variable “Long/short” debt from Table 5A of EU MAP should not necessary to specify and should be amended to “Gross debt”.
14	In the guidance of Methodologies for estimation of economic variables for the fleet, concerning the method for estimation “Value of unpaid labour” PGECON recommend to remove the Size Method as it was not appropriate and more specific country orientated.
15	In the guidance of Methodologies for estimation of economic variables for the fleet, concerning value of quota and other fishing rights it was recognized that there were problems raised with the estimation of fishing rights because it is a marginal market price, fishers can buy expensive fishing rights on certain circumstances. Therefore estimation methods are hard to generate. PGECON concluded that additional expertise is needed on calculating value of quota and other fishing rights and suggested that the guidance text should be amended as follows: “tradable intangibles could be valued at current market price (or a multi-year average), independently of the question whether they have or have not been acquired or whether they are or not linked to specific tangible (e.g. vessel)”.
16	SIM considered that the rules for assigning a vessel to a fleet segment applied so far and explained in EU Decision n. 93/2010 should continue to be applied to ensure consistency among MS and continuity in time series.

17	In segments where assumption concerning the annual working hours per crew member exceed the reference level (the FTE equals 1 per crew member) is not valid, an additional adjustment of the calculation may be required, if it can be expected that the result will be significantly affected (Study No FISH/2005/14).
<u>ToR 6 Planning and development of ToR's for upcoming Subgroup workshops</u>	
18	PGECON do not have the competence at this meeting to establish a specific PGECON Subgroup on aquaculture sustainability data collection, but recognizes the need for a workshop on these issues. PGECON recommends to Commission Expert group to establish a separate sub-group on the same level as PGECON to deal with aquaculture sustainability data collection.

4. ToR 1 Development of quality assurance framework for DCF data. (Moderator Jarno Virtanen)

Objectives

- To assess the main principles and requirements for Quality Assurance Framework and to define recommendations on quality requirements and procedural aspects.
- Review the existing information on quality assurance and reporting for the Data Collection Program as well as comment on practical implementation issues for the quality assurance framework.
- To propose a structure and setup of guidelines for quality assessment and reporting and accordingly adjust Table 5 of EU MAP Work Plan (WP).

Achievements

Multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019 adopted by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 (hereinafter EU MAP) and accordingly laid down requirements and rules for the submission of work plans (hereinafter WP) for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, adopted by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1701 require to establish a framework for quality assurance and quality control to ensure adequate quality of collected data. In order to meet this requirement and further develop quality assurance and quality control framework (hereinafter QAFC) for data collection, PGECON 2017 established specialized Subgroup on QAFC. Prior to PGECON 2017 meeting, in order to assess main principles and requirements for Quality Assurance Framework in Data Collection Program, as well as provide recommendations on practical implementation of QAFC and propose a setup of guidelines for Quality assessment and reporting, Subgroup on QAF proceeded with workshop chaired by Jarno Virtanen. The workshop started with an assessment of the main quality issues and review of previous work carried out in DCF concerning this topic. Based on these results a proposed roadmap to be followed for QAFC development was presented at PGECON 2017 ([Annex 11](#)).

After review of recent STECF and PGECON reports the subgroup on QAFC presented following list of documents that (partially) describes and cover DCF quality reporting and could be used as information background to proceed with further development of the framework:

- STECF EWG SG-ECA 0902: This EWG defined the quality indicators that have been implemented for the last DCF quality reporting. It contains a limited number of indicators of the statistical quality of the outcomes. ([STECF SG-ECA 0902](#)) Summary is provided in [Annex 3](#).
- STECF EWG 16-07: This EWG reviewed the proposed EU Map and the included information on the set up of a QAFC (Quality assurance and Quality Control Framework) ([STECF 16-07](#))
- Moura, C. 2016 (Ed.) Quality Guidelines For the DCF (Further – Report on QAFC) This report from an ad hoc contract by the Commission specified the guidelines for quality reporting in the context of the DCF, based a comparison of the DCF QAFC and the ESS QAF. ([QUALITY GUIDELINES FOR THE DCF](#)). Summary is provided in [Annex 4](#).
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – 52nd Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-16-02). Commented on the ad-hoc report and the possibilities for implementation of the QAFC. Summary is provided in [Annex 5](#).
- REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SUBGROUP OF DCF/PGECON ON STATISTICAL ISSUES AND METHODOLOGIES (SIM) Edited by Heidi Pokki and Evelina Sabatella (12-14 December 2016). This report commented on the practical implementation of the QAFC.

The current version of the WP contains a table 5B where methods related to quality shall be described for fishing activity variables, economic and social data for fisheries, economic and social data for aquaculture and economic and social data for the processing industry. The structure of Table 5B was developed according to the Report on QAFC (Moura, C. 2016 (Ed.) and it consists of the all principles of European Statistical System (ESS) Quality Assurance Framework (QAF). The STECF plenary (PLEN-16-02) concluded that although the Report on the QAFC can be used as a starting point for the development of a quality reporting system, more discussion is needed and the quality reporting system should be consistent for both biological and economic information collected. Moreover STECF proposed to delay the implementation of the QAFC by one year. Despite this recommendation, the QAFC table was included in the template for the WP. Taking into consideration the very extensive content of table, applicability issues was raised and discussed in The PGECON Subgroup on SIM (12-14 December 2016). It was concluded that the purpose of the current extensive QAFC is not clear and that the framework is too broad for the quality assurance of the data collection within the DCF framework. More specifically it was concluded that:

- Institutional environment and timely delivery: these questions also apply partly to the biological data and as such these should be documented for the whole National data collection program.
- Are methodologies consistent at MS, regional and EU level? This evaluation can only be done on a regional/EU level. The question for the MS would be how they ensure consistency with other MS.
- Confidentiality issues are obligatory to be accounted for by all institutions involved. Thus the topic should not be addressed in order to avoid duplication.

Subgroup on SIM suggested that each MS should prepare a methodological report that describes in detail the data collection process. The methodological report should be a self-standing document describing the

methods and procedures used to conduct economic data collections (surveys, results, analysis) and thus also cover quality assurance aspects. It aims to ensure transparency and to promote collaboration between MS data collection institutes and researchers.

The PGECON Subgroup on QAFC (15-16 May 2017) reviewed the quality assurance table 5B, agreed that it provides good general assessment framework, but it is not very applicable in its current form, being too broad and without traceability. Therefore the Subgroup on QAFC suggested to PGECON 2017, that for the next reporting period, the table could better be replaced with the more specific checklist of ESS QAF Principles ([Annex 6](#)), relevant to current data collection framework and incorporated in the proposed guidelines for the methodological and the quality report. During the discussion it was noted that currently the removal of the table 5B is not possible, as it is approved in the WP for the period of 2017 – 2019. Furthermore, the problem lies not in the table of quality assurance, but in the lack of methodological documents, complementing, detailing and explaining the essence and structure of the table. Consequently Subgroup on QAFC suggested that quality assessment and development of QAFC in data collection could be achieved by the use of two associated documents – Methodological document for WP and annual data Quality report. It was concluded that the Methodological document should contain the data collection and estimation methodologies, quality assessment procedures with a references to particular ESS QAF Principles. It's recommended that the Methodological document be a standalone part of WP, submitted once and would not be resubmitted on a regular basis barring unforeseen circumstances. The outcomes of quality assessments and justification for deviation from the objectives and actions taken should be detailed in annual Quality report (currently available as Annual Report on the National Data Collection Programme) that would need to be structured according to the ESS QAFC and consistent with Table 5B ([Annex 7](#)). These quality reports could be assessed using a framework similar to the structure of Table 5B from the WP. In this way the achievable accuracy of quality assessments could be traced and the framework of quality assurance could be gradually improved.

According to the reviewed currently available DCF reports on methodology reporting and quality assurance Subgroup on QAFC developed outline for a Methodological document ([Annex 8](#)). This methodological document needs to be developed further and should be readily available to end users, through data collection webpage (<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>). The Subgroup did not develop a setup of the quality report, but collated examples that can be used to develop the guidelines for such a setup. This quality report could replace the annual report document. This method would also provide the tools for auditing of the modified table 5B for internal or external or audit.

PGECON 2017 once again stressed the need for the “Handbook on sampling design and estimation methods for fleet economic data collection” as suggested several times before. It would provide a comprehensive reference for MS, thus facilitating the harmonization and comparability of data collection amongst MS

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
1	PGECON recommends that the reporting on the economic data collection and its resultant quality could be best organized by the following documentation: • Methodological document, including a detailed description of methods of surveys, structured in accordance with the ESS guidelines (Annex 7) and has references to selected ESS QAF Principles (Annex 6) listed in optimized WP Table 5B. This document can be either

	incorporated in the WP or used as a standalone document of the WP (Annex 8). Annual Quality report, with tables with specified quality indicators, taking into account the checklist for quality reporting and structured according to the ESS guidelines (Annex 6).
2	PGECON recommends that during the EWG on quality assurance, the collected documentation and developed checklist and outline should be used as a basis for further development of the methodological report and the quality report.

5. ToR 2 Development of guidelines for social variables data collection in fisheries. (Moderator Arina Motova)

Objectives

- Identify the end user needs;
- Review MS experience and methodology of social data collection;
- Identify possible issues with social data collection;
- Propose the best practice / guidelines.

Achievements

In the EU MAP data collection of socio-economic data was extended with new requirement to include social variables for fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing industry. The presence of such statistics could enable monitoring of the impact of fisheries policy on fishing communities during transition to MSY. Initially a social dimension had been part of the original Common Fisheries Policy and was included within the Europe 2020 strategy and furthermore a range of support measures are permitted under Article 29 of the EMFF Regulation ((EU) No 508/2014) which deals with “Promotion of human capital, job creation and social dialogue”. As data collection of social variables currently is on the primary stage it is evidently has many uncertainties concerning definitions, population, stratification and other methodological aspects. To deal with clarifications of these issues, PGECON 2017 established Subgroup on Social variables in fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing (hereinafter Subgroup on SV). Initial workshop of Subgroup on SV took place prior the PGECON meeting on 15-16 of May 2017 and was chaired by Arina Motova.

The first objective of Subgroup on SV was to identify possible end-users. In PGECON Subgroup presented that in addition to scientific organizations, DG MARE is currently considered as the main end user of social data in fisheries specifically oriented to implementation of EMFF measures, for example socio-economic compensations, support for young fishermen, regional development and etc. Data on structure of workforce, age, nationality across marine sector are also important for other policy makers as well as fisheries business.

In PGECON 2017 Subgroup on SV presented results ([Annex 12](#)) from review of MS experience and practices on preparation and collection of social variables taking into account such points: what kind of data is collected; how the population is defined; how are variables defined; what stratification is used and how survey is performed. Furthermore, Cornilius Chikwama (Scottish Government) presented the outcome of a survey conducted on their behalf by Seafish to assess the structure of the workforce in the fisheries sector in UK. This included an assessment: of age; nationality; remuneration practice; working patterns; education level and also mobility across the marine sector. The detailed information on the each MS presentations

and other results from Subgroup on SV is available through the report (Social Data Collection, sharing experience and identifying the best practices. 2017). Based on best practice examples and discussions, recommendations on methodological guidelines were presented in PGECON 2017.

PGECON 2017 recommendation for ToR 2 will be provided by separate subparagraphs representing each aspect of guidance on data collection for social variables.

Population and observation unit

The population of social data collection depends on the data sources used by MS. Some MS are using administrative sources and fisher's registers, while others are sampling vessels (skippers), vessel owners or enterprises.

In some MS, especially in countries using fisher's registers, the link between fishers and vessels are missing.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
3	To avoid duplication when fishers are moving from one vessel to another during the year it is recommended that social data should refer to a certain point in time. In cases of use of administrative sources when data is available for all fishers MS should follow Eurostat practice. In case of surveys it is recommended to organise national surveys around the same time of the year to avoid duplication (the same employee working at different boats during the year) and keep stability and comparability of the time series.

Stratification of the population

PGECON 2017 agreed that there is no need to stratify data collection and/or submission to any particular fleet segments or groups of employees for social variable in the EUMAP as in general would be difficult to link social indicators to any particular fishing activity. The compromise for stratification was found to split up population to:

- Small-scale fleet (SSF): vessels less than 12 meters LOA using static gears.
- Large-scale fleet (LSF): segment includes all vessels over 12 meters using static gears and all vessels using towed gears (includes: 'dredgers', 'demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners', 'other active gears', 'polyvalent active gears only', 'purse seiners', 'beam trawlers', 'pelagic trawlers').
- Distant-water fleet (DWF): includes EU registered vessels over 24 metres operating in 'other fishing regions' including EU outermost regions.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
4	PGECON recommends to stratify employment data by supra region and major groups of fleets. It is suggested to follow three main AER group definitions as close as possible. However in cases where the link to fishing activity is missing groups based on the size of vessels, e.g. <12m for small scale fleet (SSF), and fishing operation (distant water fleet) might be used..

Definitions of variables

Employment by gender. No major issues was observed in defining this variable as most of MS are already collecting this information.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
5	PGECON recommends to follow EUROSTAT practice and separate social variable “Employment by gender” to the following groups: • “M – male”; • “F – female”; • “Unknown” (only if needed).

Employment by nationality. Most of the MS which are currently collecting data on “Employment by nationality” are already separating their own nationals into the separate groups. EU MAP Table 6 requires separating into EU, EEA and Non-EU/EEA.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
6	Taking into account national needs and EU requirements it is recommended to separate social variable “Employment by nationality” to at least the following groups: • “National”; • “EU”; • “EEA (non EU)”; • “Other” (Non-EU/EEA).

Employment by age. From the end user perspective the EMMF under some financial measures define a young fishermen, as eligible for the financial support as a fishermen <40 years old. This implies a necessity to have as a minimum a split at age 40, when defining the age groups of fishermen for EMFF monitoring needs. On the other hand active labour force/population is defined as population above 15 years old and <65 years old.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
7	Taking into account needs of EMMF for monitoring of employment by age classes and EUROSTAT practice, PGECON recommends to separate social variable “Employment by age” at least into the following age classes: • <15; • 15-24; • 25-39;

	• 40-64; • 65+.
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Employment by employment status. It was considered that the classification to full time / part time as employment status, which is most commonly used by MS at present, is not very relevant for DGMARE as this information is indirectly available through comparison of hours worked, FTE and number of employees. However from a management and social security point of view classification of professional employment status might be more relevant. EMFF socio-economic compensations of permanent cessation for fishers should only be available for the hired crew and not the owner of the vessel, which gets compensation for the permanent cessation of the boat. In PGECON, Subgroup presented different possible approaches for classification employment by status. One of possible classification was presented and agreed as suitable to be adjusted to data collection of socio-economic variables in EU MAP is from Labour Force Survey on Social Data Collection. This classification is based on ILO classification of status in employment, ICSE-93. ([Annex 9](#)). However, during the PGECON discussions, there was no consensus found for the group's definitions to be used due to differences in MS employment rules and national particularities, therefore simplified classification model was agreed.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
8	PGECON recommends for data collection of social variable "Employment by employment status" to do separation at least between two categories: • "Owner/employer" (vessel owner involved in vessel activity/operation); • "Employee" (all engaged workers on-board, excluding owners).

Employment by education level. After reviewing different approaches, applied in MS for data collection on education level, PGECON agreed on setting a minimum level of disaggregation according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) ([Annex 10](#)) and more detailed disaggregation is either acceptable as could be used for better analytical purpose.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
9	PGECON recommends to use the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011), defining social variable "Employment by education level". Data collected under EUMAP by MS should allow to provide data at least for the following groups at EU level: • "Low education" levels 0-2 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997); • "Medium education: levels 3-4 (ISCED2011 and ISCED1997); • "High education" levels 5-8 (ISCED2011), levels 5-6 (ISCED1997).

6. ToR 3 Structure, governance and mandate of PGECON. *(Moderator Edvardas Kazlauskas)*

Objectives

- To introduce Rules of procedures for subgroup of the DCF expert group for Data Collection to the PGECON group;
- To prepare and present structure and governance of PGECON.
- To assess communication channels and links with Regional Coordination Groups (RCG's), data end users and other stakeholder for better intersectoral coordination.

Achievements

DG MARE presented the Rules of procedures for the subgroup of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) expert groups ([Annex 13](#)). Commission Expert groups were established by Commission Decision C(2016)3301 with the purpose to assist the Commission in the implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) concerning the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy. The scope of expert groups is:

- Assisting the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals;
- Providing expertise to the Commission when drafting delegated acts or implementing measures;
- Sharing information between Member States' representatives on the implementation of DCF and providing a platform for coordination;
- Addressing specific issues of biological data collection, management and use under the DCF, collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry, and of data storage, exchange and dissemination;
- Providing advice to the Commission in relation to any issues linked to the implementation of the DCF.

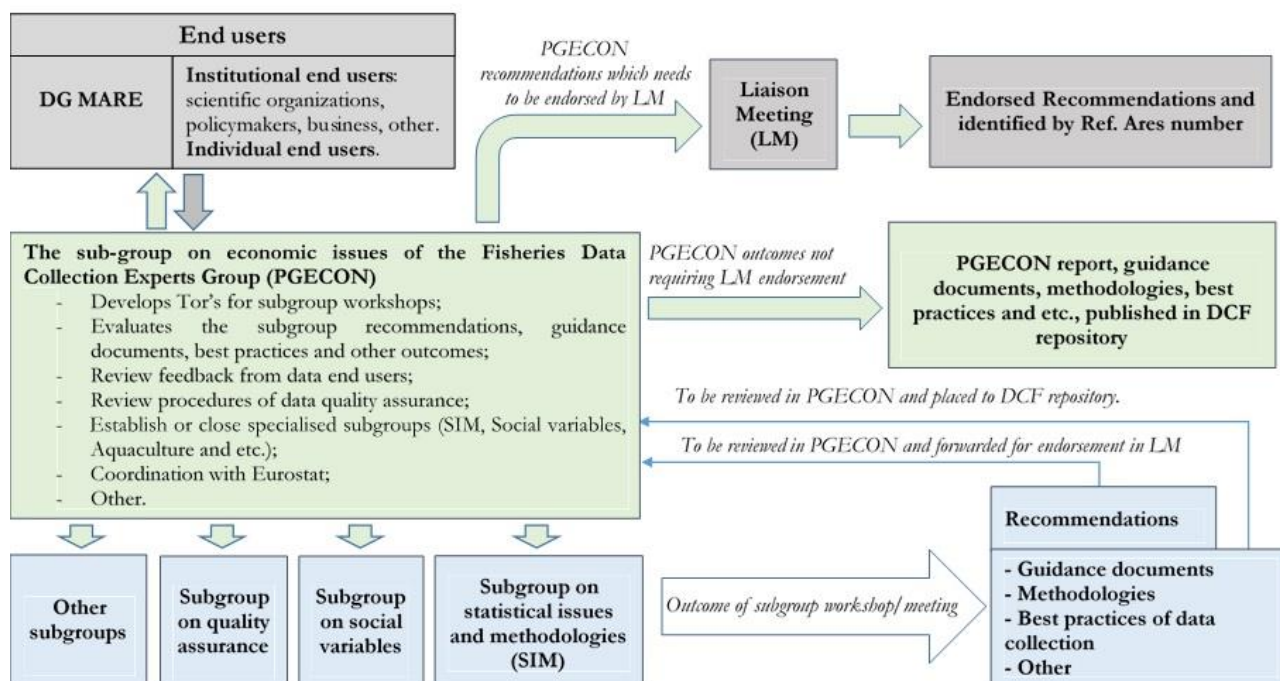
According to the particular scope, and agreement with DG MARE, the Expert group may set up sub-groups to examine specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the group. Concerning the specific question to assist Commission with coordination of collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry, the Subgroup on Planning Group on Economic Issues (PGECON) was established. In the meeting, specific objectives and tasks ([Annex 14](#)) of PGECON as well as governance and structure of PGECON meetings were presented and discussed.

Schematic governance of PGECON was firstly presented in the ToR 1 of Subgroup on SIM (12-14 of December 2016) to illustrate structure and linkage between separate PGECON structural parts, validation of outcomes starting from initiation of needs, detection of issues, development of ToR's, taken measures with relation to it and further rationalization of outcomes through recommendations.

At the beginning of meeting, group was introduced with the organizational structure of the PGECON. Defined structure is recommended to be consistent over time to ensure the steady distribution of responsibilities and share of tasks. In the organizational structure PGECON meeting is fragmented to separate sessions representing particular term of references (ToR's). Each session is leaded by appointed moderator. As in most cases PGECON sessions are related to the presentation of outcomes of specialized

PGECON Subgroups, moderator have to be the chair of particular Subgroup. The responsibilities of moderators are:

- To introduce the PGECON group with ToR of the session, to present objectives, tasks and expected outcomes of session. This part of information should be prepared prior PGECON meeting in cooperation with PGECON chair and DG MARE.
- To organize workflow of session and lead discussions towards expected outcomes.



As article 11 of Rules of procedures for the subgroup of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) expert groups require preparation of meeting protocol on each point of agenda, for each session rapporteurs should be appointed to take notes during the session workflow and if possible to summarize results from session discussions according to the outline, defined in the Minutes of the meeting. List of moderators and rapporteurs including their tasks should be prepared and added in repository folder before the meeting by PGECON chair, which also prepare agenda in coordination with DG MARE and moderators, organize and chair the meeting, prepare PGECON report and present it to Liaison and other relevant meetings. To facilitate the chairing of the meeting a co-chair might be appointed.

There was a discussion about the requirement for PGECON to define end-user needs. For now, DGMARE is the major data user, but increasing interest in fisheries economic and social data among scientific community, policy making bodies and business, encourage data collection framework to adjust to the needs from miscellaneous end users. During the process, from data collection to its dissemination it is important to have coordination and involvement of other data users. This issue could be solved in PGECON. It was suggested that PGECON should compile a list of end-users in order to invite them to the meetings following the example of the RCMs. The RCM invite the main end-users to their meetings so they can inform the group about their data needs. It was also noted that there is a need to distinguish between institutions and individual end-users. The end-user feedback was also mentioned in the discussion of PGECON governance scheme.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
10	It is recommended that defined structure and governance of the PGECON meeting should be kept consistent over time to ensure the steady distribution of responsibilities and share of tasks. PGECON meeting is structured to separate sessions representing particular term of reference and led by appointed moderators. In case of presentation of outcomes from specialized PGECON Subgroups, the moderator has to be the chair of particular specialized PGECON Subgroup. Chairs of PGECON should be appointed for at least two consecutive years.
11	PGECON recommends to compile a list of end-users in order to involve them into coordination and development of data collection framework and expand data applicability. It would follow the example of the RCMs. The RCM invite the main end-users to their meeting so they can inform the group about their data needs.

7. ToR 4 Concept of integrated dissemination of DCF data. (Moderator Pavel Salz)

Objectives

- Presentation of Concept of integrated dissemination of DCF data

Achievements

Development of a pilot interface (FishHub - Study on Availability and Dissemination of DCF Data) for integrated dissemination of DCF economic, transversal and biological data was presented by Pavel Salz (Framian, Netherlands). The project is funded by the Commission and implemented by consortium of Sogeti, Devstat, Framian, Cofad and CLS. The objective of the study is to analyse and demonstrate the feasibility of the permanent establishment of the FishHub through a prototype, which can be scaled up in the future for the entire DCF ecosystem. The FishHub will be a layer dedicated to the dissemination of fishery statistics connecting supra-national databases and offering access to various end-users to different aggregation levels of the data. It is expected to play a complementary role to existing systems and should allow improving the quality of the data, disseminating more widely the DCF data, combining different kinds of data and reducing administrative burden on the Member States. The purpose of the presentation was to provide information to stakeholders and to receive feedback from the PGECON 2017 group which represented by MS involved in data collection framework, researchers and end-user (DG MARE). The group was introduced with 2 completed projects - Monitoring implementation of DCF (2011-2014) and DC-MAP feasibility study. Tender on implementation of DCF in 12 MS reviewed programme monitoring, data storage and access, data completeness and quality, data processing and transmission. The recommendation from the first project was to improve interoperability between databases, ensure the security of the primary data and also of the backups, full documentation of the databases and user request management. Greater attention to documentation of the databases should be taken for risk management. It was suggested that further the improvement of DCF could be achieved by:

- Fishing: full use of detailed data (confidentiality is not unique to DCF);
- Fishing: EU cooperation;
- Aquaculture: Add monitoring of innovations;
- Fish processing: Greater reliance on SBS;
- Transversal: Develop software to exploit detailed control data.

The second project presented was DC-MAP Feasibility Study. The objectives of this study were to describe current situation, formulate scenarios for the future and assess the effectiveness and feasibility. Four different scenarios were presented:

- Supra-regional database (Eurostat model). Central funding as advantage, but new software must be developed and new set up is needed;
- Regional nodes (RDB model – ICES FishFrame). Positive side is that strong link to regional DB exists. Weakness is that EU level consistency not certain, coordination among DB is required.
- Network (E-platform model, e.g. EMODnet). Data only in one place and no data upload is needed. Cons are that weakest DB determines value of the system, coordination among MS increase.
- Fisheries data hub (combination). Starts from present situation, mirrors national DB's. Sensitivity of primary data must be ensured.

Recommendation to the European Commission was that the way to proceed is the Fisheries data hub (Fishhub). Here the primary data would be in national databases, while a copy of these DB, but anonymized, (detailed data) would be centralised. A third level of aggregated data would then be in international databases. Platform could be a focal point of scientific data so that it can be combined for different purposes. It will facilitate the current push system to move to a pull system where information is continuously updated. Pulling can be automated. The aim is to reduce the burden on MS, once there are secure connections of national and international databases data calls could be eliminated or made easier for MS. For access Interface for the end users will be developed. Following objectives of FishHub platform was presented:

1. Analyse the current system and possibilities for adaptation into the FishHub.
2. Specify the requirements for implementation and smooth transition.
3. Develop specifications for data exchange between supra-national databases.
4. Develop a working prototype to demonstrate the feasibility of data exchange.
5. Estimate costs and duration of the transition, specify the needed changes and relate these to the expected benefits.
6. Align the proposal for FishHub with legal and policy requirements of DCF, IFDMP, INSPIRE.
7. Investigate solutions for access to detailed data, while ensuring confidentiality.
8. Investigate solutions for access to fisheries activity data from Control Regulation.
9. Develop a system to ensure correct data protection.
10. Investigate possible data sources, in particular in relation to data on fleet activity.
11. Investigate solutions for timely access to end-users, under the constraints of data providers.

Benefits from this platform would be simplification and cost reduction for MS, quality assessment, harmonization between subjects, improved accessibility and different applications. Portal could be an improvement when research and consultancy provides information to a user, increasing the interest of aggregated data to fishing industry, managers and other end users.

The major discussions in PGECON 2017 meeting concerning the FishHub platform was related with the availability of primary data taking into consideration assurance of confidentiality. It was given example that different types of end user exists dealing with anonymized primary data as Eurostat and FADN. It was further argued that even if the anonymized primary data of fishing fleet would be available, there is still a problem related to the sample design and estimation design. Another issue is the linkage of primary economic and transversal data. DCF economic variables are linked to the technical data from fleet register,

therefore, having the combination of these there is no way you can assure confidentiality as technical data in Fleet register is publically available and primary economic data could be disclosed.

However, input data for FishHub might be altered to higher aggregation level and be used for the more efficient dissemination and to achieve various objectives.

8. ToR 5 Presentation of results from Subgroup workshop on Statistical Issues and Methodologies.

(Moderator Evelina Sabatella)

Objectives

- Presentation of conclusions from Sub-group meeting, review of methodological documents (definitions and methodologies).
- Preparation of PGECON recommendations.

Achievements

PGECON reviewed work conducted by the PGECON Subgroup on Statistical Issues and Methodologies (Subgroup on SIM) which was established in PGECON 2016 ([Annex 15](#)). Subgroup had a meeting in 12-14 December 2016, Rome, Italy and was chaired by Evelina Sabatella and Heidi Pokki. The aim of the SIM subgroup was to assist MS with the collection of economic and social data for the fleet, aquaculture and processing sectors. Three ToR's were covered during the Subgroup meeting:

- 1) Definition of SIM within the PGECON governance and suggestion of ToR's to ensure a more continuous and systematic approach.
- 2) Final amendments on methodological and definitions documents to implement EUMAP work plans in 2017. Additional work to set up and evaluate the Quality Assurance Framework.
- 3) Preliminary assessment on the collection of social variables as foreseen in EUMAP.

During the review of the Subgroup outcome, it was decided to focus on the second ToR, as the outcomes from the first and third ToR's were analysed during other sessions on PGECON 2017. As the Subgroup on SIM meeting was short it focussed on methodologies and definitions related to the fishing sector, however, some of the conclusions could be assigned to the processing and aquaculture sectors.

Prior to the Subgroup meeting MSs were asked to complete a template which requested details on data collection. According to the completed templates by MS during major critical issues in collecting fleet economic data were summarized and presented in the PGECON meeting:

- Most MS use 'combined data collection' which is based on survey data and registry based data. Therefore a possibility of collecting data through other sources rather than by questionnaires is possible. For example, there could be some variables such as Energy costs which can be estimated using data from other sources and using the knowledge obtained throughout the years. An example was given from the field of agriculture where the "typical farm approach" is applied (agribenchmark.org).
- Issues related to Small Scale Fisheries: sampling size, probability calculations as well as some definitions related to the financial position, employment and value of unpaid labour.

- Issues with applying PIM method for calculating capital value and related variables. The sub-group suggested, that MS should adjust and/or update the assumptions of the method according to the fleet and actual (market/legislative, etc.) conditions of its country.

The group then addressed the changes for methodologies and definitions within the EU MAP proposed by the sub-group meeting. The majority of the definitions were in line with EU MAP and did not raise controversial opinions among the participants during the Subgroup on SIM as well as PGECON 2017 meeting, and were therefore approved. However, several suggestions to modify definitions were proposed. Some of the amendments on definitions, made during Subgroup work was not accepted by PGECON 2017 meeting and only approved clarifications will be provided below in this report:

- *Value of quota and other fishing rights.* Conclusion of the Subgroup was that this variable would be limited to the value of quota and other tradable rights, and in the meantime, some methodologies should be developed so that all information on value of quota and other tradable or non-tradable rights should be collected. PGECON 2017 commented that such methodologies would be assumption based and would not correctly represent the required results. Therefore it was agreed that for data completeness and in regards to the difficulty of calculating/estimating of non-tradable rights, the definition should remain unchanged from its first version and would state that data could be collected only when fishing rights are tradable and thus data on the value of fishing rights are available. Further analysis would be needed for calculation methodologies.
- *Total assets.* During the Subgroup on SIM meeting the definition of total assets was suggested to be amended as it should be coherent with the definition for aquaculture and fish processing and thus for the fleet it should also be taken from the balance sheet instead of including only the value of physical capital and value of quota and other fishing rights. The definition of total assets was proposed to change from Sum of "Value of physical capital" and "value of quota and other fishing rights" to "Balance sheet total", fixed assets and financial assets, because the value of fishing rights and capital value are already collected, so the suggestion was to collect balance sheet data on the value of capital. This kind of definition would lead to the calculation of financial position. But PGECON 2017 noted that as value of capital from the balance sheets also includes value of capital on shore, or other capital not related to fishing, the definition of value of long/short debt states, that the value of debt should exclude finance obtained for land-based business activities. This results in inconsistency with the definition between these two variables, furthermore it would be very hard to disseminate value of assets or debts to fishing and non-fishing related.
- *Long/short debt.* During the meeting PGECON 2017 agreed to change the definition of Long/short Debt to Gross debt.
- *Engaged crew.* It was proposed to change the definition considering that people working only onshore and paid from vessels should not be excluded from data collection if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations. It was proposed to edit the guidance to read as follows: "People working only onshore and paid from vessels could be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations". This proposition could be applied also to the variables as "Personnel costs" and "Value of unpaid labour".

PGECON 2017 also discussed the changes proposed by the Subgroup on SIM group for the methodologies for the fleet economic variables. In the meeting it was agreed that when possible more than one method of collecting or calculating specific variables should be offered. It is not appropriate to restrict MS to one methodology because MS in the absence of choice might be forced not to provide data if the method listed

was not possible. Therefore it was suggested to make the methodology document less strict and provide only best and recommended practices for data collection.

Some problematic methodologies:

- Value of unpaid labour. PGECON 2017 decided to approve the removal of the size method for the estimation of the imputed value of unpaid labour, as it was not appropriate and more specific country orientated.
- Value of quota and other fishing rights. It was noted that there were problems raised in estimation of fishing rights because it is a marginal market price, fishers can buy expensive fishing rights on certain circumstances. Therefore estimation methods are hard to generate. The group concluded that additional expertise is needed on calculating value of quota and other fishing rights. It was suggested that the guidance text be changed to read “tradable intangibles could be valued at current market price (or a multi-year average), independently of the question whether they have or have not been acquired or whether they are or are not linked to specific tangible (e.g. vessel)”.
- FTE national. Experts approved the change suggested by the Subgroup as follows. In segments where assumption concerning the annual working hours per crew member exceed the reference level (the FTE equals 1 per crew member) is not valid, an additional adjustment of the calculation may be required, if it can be expected that the result will be significantly affected (Study No FISH/2005/14).

PGECON 2017 agreed with the Subgroup suggestion that the rules for assigning a vessel to a fleet segment applied defined in EU Decision n. 93/2010 should continue to be applied to ensure consistency among MS and continuity in time series.

Subgroup on SIM suggested that MS, depending on availabilities, should implement in 2017 some analysis and testing on specific issues (derived estimates versus annual data collection, PIM method to estimate investments, impact on profitability indicators according to different methods to estimate capital value). Results should be presented at the 2017 SIM or PGECON meetings.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
12	PGECON recommends that variables “Engaged crew”, “Personnel costs” and “Value of unpaid labour” from Table 5A of EU MAP, in the guidance should be amended with clarification as follows: “People working only onshore and paid from vessels could be included if their activity has a direct link with the fishing operations”.
13	PGECON recommends that variable “Long/short” debt from Table 5A of EU MAP should not necessary to specify and should be amended to “Gross debt”.
14	In the guidance of Methodologies for estimation of economic variables for the fleet, concerning the method for estimation “Value of unpaid labour” PGECON recommend to remove the Size Method as it was not appropriate and more specific country orientated.
15	In the guidance of Methodologies for estimation of economic variables for the fleet, concerning Value of quota and other fishing rights it was recognized that there were problems raised in estimation of fishing rights because it is a marginal market price, fishers can buy expensive fishing rights on certain circumstances. Therefore estimation methods are hard to generate. PGECON concluded that additional expertise is needed on calculating

	value of quota and other fishing rights and suggested that the guidance text should be amended as follows: “tradable intangibles could be valued at current market price (or a multi-year average), independently of the question whether they have or have not been acquired or whether they are or not linked to specific tangible (e.g. vessel)”.
16	SIM considered that the rules for assigning a vessel to a fleet segment applied so far and explained in EU Decision n. 93/2010 should continue to be applied to ensure consistency among MS and continuity in time series.
17	In segments where assumption concerning the annual working hours per crew member exceed the reference level (the FTE equals 1 per crew member) is not valid, an additional adjustment of the calculation may be required, if it can be expected that the result will be significantly affected (Study No FISH/2005/14).

9. ToR 6 Planning and development of ToR's for upcoming Subgroup workshops. (Moderator Edvardas Kazlauskas)

Objectives

- Presentation of terms of reference for Small Scale Fleet Sub-group meeting, foreseen in 2017 (*Presentation by Evelina Sabatella*).
- Presentation of terms of reference for Application of thresholds Sub-group meeting foreseen in 2017 (*Presentation by Hans van Oostenbrugge*).
- Planning of Sub-group meeting on aquaculture sustainability (*Presentation by Matt Elliott*).
- Planning of other Sub-group meetings, by demand, selection of chairing persons, venue and dates.
- Establishment of Sub-group meeting calendar for 2017-2018.

Achievements

One of the tasks of PGECON is to identify the needs for further development of data collection framework through the specialized subgroups by defining the major issues, terms of references and tasks for these subgroups. PGECON 2017 scheduled to review and approve prepared terms of references for two related Subgroups covering Small scale fleet (SSF) and Application of activity levels in fleet economic data. In order to prepare MS for the collection of new data concerning aquaculture sustainability development of ToR's and planning of workshop for Subgroup on aquaculture was also foreseen.

Workshop for Subgroup on SSF

The proposal for SSF workshop came from last year PGECON and the 2nd workshop on Activity levels of fleet economic variables. It was clear from these meetings that there is a need to investigate issues linked to SSF. In PGECON 2017 Evelina Sabatella presented ToR's for the workshop on SSF. In the recent reform of Common Fisheries Policy, particular attention was given to small-scale fishing as it plays an important role in Europe's fishing sector. However, these fisheries are undergoing a serious crisis in Europe, due to conflict or competition with other users of coastal living resources and limited economic profit. The main objective of the workshop is to highlight peculiarities of small vessels in the EU regions to provide a comparison in terms of activity, social and economic profile and management measures. Also, as 2nd Workshop on transversal variables (Nicosia, Cyprus 2016) suggested, additional work needed to devise common methodology on calculation of Fishing Days and Days at Sea based on data sources other than logbooks.

The workshop will highlight the data collection methodologies for small scale fisheries with specific reference to fishing vessels with an overall length less than 12 metres using passive gears.

Terms of references for the workshop of Subgroup on SSF:

1 ToR. Description of the small-scale fisheries and fishing habits per macro-area (North Sea, Med. Sea, Atlantic, Baltic, etc.). SSF are typically “artisanal”, labour intensive and coastal, using small boats, targeting multiple resource species using traditional gears, and participating with low volumes of catches with low economic importance. These are also highly diverse. This diversity is reflected in a plethora of definitions and terms and in the wide variety of fisheries activities which should be considered separately with respect to both economic and transversal data collection. Moreover, there could be differences between regions, in terms of characteristics, importance of the SSF in fishing fleet and the regional social and economic role of the SSF. Therefore, to get a comprehensive description and analysis of SSF, a regional approach should be considered.

2 Tor. Management measures per macro-area. In many MS, SSF is submitted to specific national legislations on fisheries which are mainly aimed at resource conservation by means of control of the fishing effort and landings. Usually a great number of technical measures apply to the various gears used by the small-scale fishermen. These measures concern the mesh sizes of the nets, the characteristics of some particular gears and, in some cases, the number of gear units deployed. A comparative analysis at national and regional level could highlight differences and similarities existing in this sector in order to individualize main technical, economic and social characteristics of small vessels and common criteria of classification and reveal data needs

ToR 3. Data needs in relation to peculiarities of small scale vessels. The new EUMAP specifies the mandatory fishing activity variables. Based on the information already collected from control regulations and considering the minimum requirement that is common to all MS, the relevant effort measures for passive gears are: Number of trips, Days at Sea, Fishing Days, Total length of nets/Total number of pots/traps/Total number of hooks (for vessels with logbooks) (2nd Workshop on transversal variables, Nicosia, Cyprus 2016). This list should be considered as the essential data to be collected as mandatory for vessels <10 m. Also, different MS data collection methodologies should be considered.

ToR 4. Methodologies for collecting socio-economic variables in SSF. The meeting on statistical issues and methodologies (SIM subgroup of DCF/PGECON, 12-14 December 2016, Rome) concluded that some definitions as those related to the financial position, employment and value of unpaid labour for small scale fisheries shall be further discussed at small scale subgroup in order to address several critical issues by various Member States. It was also proposed to overview employment definitions and assess impact of under-coverage of employed part of population, directly related to fishing activities but working on shore. It is needed to assess the methodologies applied by each MS to estimate economic variable for SSF and possible suggestion for common approaches will be carried out.

ToR 5. Suggested data collection procedures for SSF. The legal references (Articles 19, 23, 65 of Reg. (EC) 1224/2009) underlying landing declaration states the possibility of exemption from landing declarations and sales notes for fishing vessels of less than 10 meters' length overall which are monitored by a sampling plan. In addition administrative information such as balance sheets are not available for small scale vessels. The need of a sample plan tailored to the characteristics of SSF represents a fundamental issue for a correct and complete management of the sector. Focus in the SSF workshop should be on vessels <10 m. Information will be collected on the basis of a format previously distributed among all national

correspondents with the objective to highlight peculiarities of small vessels in the EU regions and to provide a comparison in terms of activity, social and economic profile and management measures.

Workshop for Subgroup on Activity Level Application

Application of Activity levels in the analysis of economic variables in fishing fleet was long debated topic and first time has been particularly addressed in DCF Workshop “Using fishing activity levels in economic data collection” which was organized in 2014 and chaired by Hans van Oostenbrugge (The Hague). The terms of references for first workshop was to:

- Identify differences in activity levels for fleet segments covering all regions;
- Develop consistent methodology to distinguish between: - “Commercial” and “non-commercial” fishermen (revenue) - Normally active and less active fishermen (effort/revenue);
- Test the effects of application of these two approaches to the fleet segments;
- Investigate possible implementation procedures (esp. in cases where no/little auxiliary information is available);
- Develop advice on the issues concerned with the application of different thresholds and ways forward.

The group came to the number of findings and conclusions as some of them indicate considerable differences between different vessels in terms of economic importance, social importance and behaviour to management changes, resulting from differences in local context. In order to take into account these differences in the data collection a distinction between low active vessel and high active vessels could be useful and this distinction should be made between thresholds for data collection and for reporting (reporting threshold). The application of a reporting threshold will lead to more transparency of the importance (economic and social) of low active and high active vessels in specific cases. General conclusions were also presented PGECON 2017 ([Annex 16](#)), stating that there shouldn't be a threshold for data collection but rather for data reporting. The issue is mainly for SSF but not exclusively. It was concluded that income could be used as an indicator of activity level. It was also noted that there were large differences between countries so a regional approach is necessary. The results from first workshop built a sufficient background for the further necessary work needed to be done in successive workshop which terms of references were presented and agreed by PGECON 2017. Following ToR's for second workshop of Subgroup on Activity Level Application were developed:

ToR 1. Provide an overview of the technique to adjust reporting thresholds that could be used to ensure comparability of the resulting economic data from different MS (FADN, PPP, etc.) and define a number of possible thresholds for testing.

ToR 2. Address the regional adjustment for member states.

ToR 3. Test the effects of implementation of different levels of thresholds for the aggregated economic data for the Baltic and North Sea region for the data reporting of the AER, in terms of changes in cost structure, quality of estimates, regional comparability.

ToR 4. Develop a time frame for implementation of further stratification on activity levels and reporting thresholds on a regional basis.

Workshop on Aquaculture sustainability

As defined in EU MAP, in order to enable assessment of the social, economic and environmental performance of Union aquaculture sector, MS have to collect social, economic and environmental data on marine aquaculture and optionally on freshwater aquaculture. Environmental data may be collected on the basis of pilot studies and extrapolated to indicate totals relevant to the total volume of fish produced in MS. PGECON 2016 recommended the workshop on aquaculture sustainability data – mortalities and medicines with aim to identify the already collected data under existing legislation and develop consistent core EU data collection (metadata, data structure, etc.). Terms of reference would need to be developed with the Commission services responsible for data collection (whether JRC or Eurostat) and end users. In PGECON 2017 planning session, Mathew Elliot presented UK practice for data collection – both what is useful for the UK as well as EU mandated ([Annex 17](#)). He stated that the data collection burden is quite low in the UK because of regulations. A pilot study on environmental sustainability will take place in 2017. Concerning medicines, there is considerable interest in antibiotic resistance and environmental impacts of anti-microbial agents. In UK, Fish Health Inspectors visit farms annually so additional data collection costs will be low. There will be some costs for changes to be made to systems (CEFAS Starfish). Producers tended to have electronic medicine books, often using templates provided by CEFAS. In foreseen study information on quantity of both product and active ingredient will be wanted. Deriving active ingredient from product information should be straightforward. Fraser can supply a list of registered products, details of their classification and active ingredient content. Some data currently exists on mortality but mainly for finfish. Fish mortality data legal requirements are: National production from data recorded under Council Directive 2006/88/EC (L328, 24.11.2006, p.14), Article 8, Paragraph 1 (b)” and Aquaculture Animal Health Regulation which states that Member States shall ensure that aquaculture production businesses keep a record of the mortality in each epidemiological unit as relevant for the type of production. Currently existing fish mortality data in UK was also presented:

- Mortalities observed by finfish farmers (partially recorded) but not collated.
- FHIs inspect records but do not collect data.
- MSS already calculate & publish annual “mortality” rates by year for whole Scottish salmon industry based on annual census data.
- Supposedly better environmental indicator than disease mortality – counts as include other losses – escapes, predation, accidents, plankton/jellyfish kills, etc.

PGECON 2017 was asked to draft term of reference and set up workshop regarding data collection on aquaculture sustainability. Despite intensive discussions the PGECON 2017 was not able to find any suggestions for starting position and guidance on the term of references concerning this issue since the most participants were economist and did not have the right competence at this meeting to decide on environmental questions. There was a discussion about the need to discuss it further with the Commission. The possibility of arranging a separate PGECON meeting just for aquaculture were also discussed as well as the establishment of a separate subgroup under the DCF Expert group dealing specifically with the issues related to data collection on sustainability of aquaculture.

PGECON 2017 Recommendations:

Ref. No.	Recommendation
18	PGECON do not have the competence at this meeting to establish a specific PGECON Subgroup on aquaculture sustainability data collection, but recognizes the need for a

	workshop on these issues. PGECON recommends to Commission Expert group to establish a separate sub-group on the same level as PGECON to deal with aquaculture sustainability data collection.
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10. Meeting calendar for 2017-2018

No.	Meeting	Date	Venue	Chairing persons
1.	<i>Workshop for PGECON Subgroup on Small Scale Fleet</i>	2017 09 25-29	The Hague, Netherlands	Monica Gambino, Sebastian Demaneche
2.	<i>Workshop for PGECON Subgroup on fishing activity levels in economic data collection</i>	2017 09 25-29	The Hague, Netherlands	Hans van Oostenbrugge
3.	PGECON 2018	2018 05 14-18	Gent, Belgium	Edvardas Kazlauskas, Emmet Jackson

11. ANNEXES

Annex 1. Agenda for PGECON 2017

Agenda for PGECON 2017

Venue: Vilnius, Lithuania

Date: 15-19 May 2017

Monday 13:00 – 14:00

Welcoming of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Monday 14:00 – Tuesday 18:00 (in separate groups)

(Coffee breaks at 10:00 and 16:00; lunch time on 13:00-14:00)

1. Preparatory work for STECF EWG 17-04 Quality assurance for DCF data. (ToR 1)
(Moderator Jarno Virtanen)

2. Preparation to social data collection and sharing the best practice in data collection. Discussion on methodological aspects with regard to collection of social variables for the fishing and aquaculture sectors. (ToR 2) *(Moderator Arina Motova)*

Wednesday

(Coffee breaks at 10:00 and 16:00; lunch time on 13:00-14:00)

9:00 – 10:30

3. Presentation of Sub-group of group of experts on Fisheries Data collection coordinating collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry (PGECON). Introduction of PGECON tasks, structure and governance. (ToR 3)
(DG MARE, Edvardas Kazlauskas)

10:30 – 13:00

4. Development of a pilot interface (FishHub) for integrated dissemination of DCF economic, transversal and biological data *(Moderator Pavel Salz)*. (Tor_4)

14:00 – 18:00

5. Presentation of results from the Sub-group of PGECON on Statistical Issues and Methodologies (SIM) (12-14 December 2016, Rome, Italy). (ToR 5)
(Moderator Evelina Sabatella)

Thursday

(Coffee breaks at 10:00 and 16:00; lunch time on 13:00-14:00)

9:00 – 11:00

6. Presentation of results from preparatory work for STECF EWG 17-04 Quality assurance for DCF data. (ToR 1)
(Moderator Jarno Virtanen)

11:00 – 13:00

7. Presentation of results from Preparatory work for establishment of methodological requirements on data collection of social variables for the fishing and aquaculture sectors. (ToR 2) *(Moderator Arina Motova)*

14:00 – 18:00

8. Planning of 2017-2018 PGECON Sub-group meetings. (ToR 6)

(Moderator Edvardas Kazlauskas)

- Presentation of terms of reference for Small Scale Fleet Sub-group meeting, foreseen in 2017 *(Presentation by Evelina Sabatella)*.
- Presentation of terms of reference for Application of thresholds Sub-group meeting foreseen in 2017 *(Presentation by Hans van Oostenbrugge)*.
- Planning of Sub-group meeting on aquaculture sustainability *(Presentation by Matt Elliott)*.
- Planning of other Sub-group meetings, by demand, selection of chairing persons, venue and dates.
- Establishment of Sub-group meeting calendar for 2017-2018.

Friday

(Coffee breaks at 10:00 and 16:00; lunch time on 13:00-14:00)

9:00 – 13:00

- Revision of text, preparation of draft PGECON report.
- Adoption of final recommendations written and approved from the group

Annex 2. List of participants

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Annex 3. Summary of STECF EWG SG-ECA 0902

Table 2: Defined quality indicators of accuracy to be presented by MS in the TR

Type of error	Type of data	collection (1)	Accuracy indicators
Bias		A – B – C	Response rates - unit response rate (2) - item response rate (3)
		B – C	Coverage rates : planned and achieved coverage rates
		C (6)	Representativeness of the sample before and after reweighting (4): deviations in terms of main characteristics (5) of sampled units compared with the population (for instance hypothesis tests on mean values)
Variability		A	None
		B	Coefficient of Variation (CV)
		C	Variability of the estimates (7)

Footnotes:

(1) A: Census which attempts to collect data from all members of population

B: Probability Sample survey

C: Non-Probability Sample survey

(2) unit response rate: the ratio of the number of units for which data for at least some variables have been collected to the total number of units designated for data collection.

(3) item response rate: the ratio of the number of units which have provided data for a given variable to the total number of designated units or to the number of units that have provided data at least for some data items

(4) re-weighting could be necessary when the sample is judged not sufficiently representative

(5) technical characteristics (GT, age, etc.), effort and landings, where these data are available for each vessel in the fleet segment

(6) in case of low response rate (<70%), MS should evaluate the representativeness of the sample/census also under A and B

(7) methods to assess such variability should be presented in the methodological report (see Annex I)

This information is to be used by the STECF EWG1704 on quality assurance for DCF data

Annex 4. Summary of QAFC report (Carlos Moura, 2016) combined with the ESS guidelines

1. Synthesis of the quality report, introduction to the statistical process and its outputs – an overview to provide the context of the report;

No specific input for quality reporting

2. Relevance, assessment of user needs and perceptions – an output quality component;

No specific input for quality reporting

3. Accuracy and reliability- an output quality component;

Overall Accuracy

- Identification of the main sources of error for the main variables. If micro-data are accessible for research purposes, it may be necessary to make additional comments to assist such uses. A summary assessment of all sources of error with special focus on the key estimates. An assessment of the potential for bias (sign and order of magnitude) for each key indicator in quantitative or qualitative terms.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *Describe the main sources of random and systematic error in the statistical outputs and provide a summary assessment of all errors with special focus on the impact on key estimates. The bias assessment can be in quantitative or qualitative terms, or both. It should reflect the producer's best current understanding (sign and order of magnitude) including actions taken to reduce bias. Revision aspects should also be included here if considered relevant.*

Sampling Errors (Sampling Surveys)

- As far as possible sampling error should be presented for estimates of change in addition to estimates of level. If necessary, reasonable assumptions can be used. If the estimators include adjustments for non-sampling errors, for example non-response, this should be explained and included also in the accuracy assessment.

1) If probability sampling is used:

- There should be a presentation of sampling errors calculated according to formulas that should also be made available. The most appropriate presentational device should be chosen, normally CVs, ranges of CVs, or confidence intervals. If outliers have received special treatment in estimation, this must be clearly described.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *If probability sampling is used, the range of variation, among key variables, of the A1: Sampling error – indicator should be reported. It should be also stated if adjustments for non-response, misclassifications and other uncertainty sources such as outlier treatment are included. The calculation of sampling error could be also affected by imputation. This should be noted unless special methods have been applied to deal with this.*

2) If non-probability sampling is used:

- For sampling with cut-off an assessment of the accuracy due to the cut-off procedure should be included in addition to the presentation of sampling error for the sampled portion of the population. For other forms of non-probability a sampling model can be invoked for the estimation of sampling error. A motivation for the chosen model and a discussion of sampling bias should be included.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *If non-probability sampling is used, the person responsible for the statistical domain should provide estimates of the accuracy, a motivation for the invoked model for this estimation, and brief discussion of sampling bias.*

Non sampling errors

ESS Guidelines: *For users, provide a user-oriented summary of the (preferably quantitative) assessment of the non-sampling errors, non-response rates and the bias risks which are associated with them (coverage error: over/under*

coverage and multiple listings; measurement error: survey instrument, respondent and interviewer effect where relevant; non-response error: level of unit (non)response including causes and measures for non-response, level of item non-response for key variables; processing error: data editing, coding and imputation error where relevant; model assumption error: specific models used in estimation) and actions undertaken to reduce the different types of errors. For producers of statistics, not to be reported, information to be included in the following sub-concepts:

Coverage Errors

- Quantitative information on over coverage and multiple listings. An assessment, preferably quantitative, on the extent of under coverage and the bias risks associated with it. Actions taken for reduction of under coverage and associated bias risks. Information on the frame: reference period, updating actions, and references to other documents on frame quality.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *Some information on the register or other frame source should be reported upon (this assists in understanding coverage errors and their effects): reference period, frequency and timing of frame updates, updating actions, eventual discrepancies between the units reported in the frame and the target population unit, references to other documents on frame quality and effects of frame deficiencies on the outputs. Provide an assessment, whenever possible quantitative, on over coverage and multiple listings, and on the extent of under coverage. Report also an evaluation of the bias risks associated with the latter.*

Measurement errors

- Identification and general assessment of the main risks in terms of measurement error. If available, assessments based on comparisons with external data, re-interviews, experiments or data editing. The efforts made in questionnaire design and testing, information on interviewer training and other work on error reduction. Questionnaires used should be annexed if possible.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *Identification and general assessment of the main sources of measurement error should be reported. The efforts made in questionnaire design and testing, information on interviewer training and other work on error prevention should be described. If available, assessments based on comparisons with external data, re-interviews or experiments should be stated. Also results of indirect analysis, e.g.: based on the results on editing phase, could be reported. Describe actions taken to correct measurement errors.*

Non-response errors

- Non-response rates according to the most relevant definitions for the whole survey and for important sub-domains. Item non-response rates for key variables. A breakdown of non-respondents according to cause for non-response. A qualitative statement on the bias risks associated with non-response. Measures to reduce non-response. Technical treatment of non-response at the estimation stage.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *Provide a qualitative assessment on the level of unit non response. Highlight the presence of variables that are more subject to item non response (e.g. sensitive questions). Provide a qualitative assessment on the bias associated with non-response. Describe the breakdown of nonrespondents according to cause for non-response. Report efforts and measures, including response modeling, to reduce non-response in the primary data collection and follow-ups and technical treatment of nonresponse at the estimation stage.*

Processing errors

- Identification of the main issues regarding processing errors for the statistical process and its outputs. Where relevant and available, an analysis of processing errors affecting individual observations should be presented; else a qualitative assessment should be included.
- **ESS Guidelines:** *Identification of the main issues regarding processing errors for the statistical process and its outputs should be taken into consideration. Where relevant and available, an analysis of processing errors affecting individual observations should be presented; else a qualitative assessment should be included. The treatment of micro-data processing errors needs to be Eurostat ESS Handbook for Quality Reports 33 proportional to their importance. When they are significant, their extent and impact on the results should be evaluated. Describe linking and coding errors if applicable.*

References:

<https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/10213/994708/Quality+of+socio+economic+variables+described+in+EU+MAP.pdf>

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/6651706/KS-GQ-15-003-EN-N.pdf>

https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/44851/09-05_SG-ECA+09-02+-+Economic+Data+_JRC57575.pdf

4. Timeliness and punctuality - output quality components;

5. Accessibility and clarity - output quality components;

- A description of the conditions of access to data: media, support, pricing policies, possible restrictions, etc.
- A summary description of the information (metadata) accompanying the data (documentation, explanation, quality limitations, etc.).
- The description should refer to both less sophisticated and more advanced users and how their needs have been taken into account.
- A summary of user feedback on accessibility, clarity and dissemination format.

6. Coherence and comparability - output quality components;

General

- Brief descriptions of all conceptual and methodological metadata elements that could affect coherence/comparability.
- An assessment (preferably quantitative) of the possible effect of each reported difference on the output values.
- Differences between the statistical process and the corresponding European regulation/ standard and/or international standard (if any).

Comparability – geographical

- A quantitative assessment of comparability across regions based on the (weighted) number of differences in metadata elements.
- At EU level, a coherence/comparability matrix summarizing by region the possible sources of lack of comparability relative to a specified standard.
- Mirror data: Assessment of discrepancies (if any).

Comparability – over time

- Reference periods at which series breaks (if any) occurred, its reasons and treatments.

Internal Coherence

- Any lack of coherence in the output of the statistical process itself.

7. Cost and burden – process quality components;

8. Confidentiality – a process quality component; (Not applicable)

Annex 5: Summary from STECF plenary PLEN-16-02

5.12 Quality assurance procedures for biological and economic variables

Background

In accordance with Article 7.2 of Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008, STECF is requested to evaluate the Annual Reports of Member States submitted annually, in terms of execution and quality. Quality of DCF data was formerly evaluated by the use of the coefficient of variation (CVs). However, this is no longer the case, as previous STECF EWGs have come to the conclusion that the levels of CVs, as requested by EU MAP (COM Decision 2010/93/EU), are not realistic and therefore cannot be met by Member States. As a result, this quality indicator has been removed from the Annual Report templates of Member States (for an example, see the guidelines produced in STECF EWG 15-15 and reviewed by STECF written procedure). In addition, the revised EU MAP, currently under discussion, no longer prescribes specific quality indicators for the reporting of Member States under the DCF. Instead, there is a more general reference to quality assurance in the Work Plan template (to replace the National Programmes), which is also currently under discussion. Under the future legal setup, Member States will be expected to follow guidelines provided by the Commission or scientific bodies, like ICES, STECF and expert bodies to the European Commission, in order to meet the quality standards for the DCF.

Request to the STECF

The STECF is requested to:

1. Review the background documents whether they will serve as appropriate guidance on quality standards for Member States, when they prepare their Work Plans and Annual Reports. These will in turn assist STECF in the evaluation of the quality of Annual Reports, in line with the DCF Regulation. These documents are the following: (i) Ad-hoc contract report on data quality for DCF socio-economic data, and (ii) two reports on quality assurance for DCF biological data for North Sea & Eastern Arctic and for Med & Black Sea (as part of 'MARE/2014/19 - Strengthening regional cooperation in the area of fisheries data collection'). Both documents have been discussed during STECF EWG 16-08.
2. Indicate whether additional guidance should be provided to Member States in terms of quality. If this is the case, indicate whether existing guidelines from scientific bodies like ICES and STECF, can be used as reference or new work needs to be conducted.

STECF observations and comments

Review of the background documents

STECF observes that in the agreed EUMAP, there are no quality indicators set as target for the data collection. The general principles on quality assurance and quality control are laid down in Article 5 of the Commission Implementing Decision laying down rules on the format for the submission of work plans (WP) for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. MS are requested to provide information in their WP about the quality assurance framework using Table 5A for biological data and Table 5 B for economic data presented in the Section 5 of the Annex. Both tables shall provide overview whether documentation in the data collection process exists and identify where relevant documentation can be found. The Table 5A for biological data to be compiled by MS for each sampling scheme and region includes following sections:

- Sampling design;
- Sampling implementation;
- Data capture;
- Data storage;
- Data processing

STECF observes that the quality assurance framework defined for the socio-economic (Annex Table 5B of rules for submission of WP) is more detailed than the Annex Table 5A on biological data in terms of documentation and it follows the structure of the Report on "Quality guidelines for DCF" (ad-hoc contract report) in defining quality control for the institution responsible for data collection. Table 5B includes a description of the institutional environment,

statistical processes and statistical outputs. The table describes 10 detailed principles of the quality assurance framework that are to be addressed by documentation of the Member States procedures for quality assurance.

STECF observes that the EWG 16-08 reviewed the two project reports containing procedures for data quality checks for DCF biological data collected in the regions “North Sea and Eastern Arctic” and “Mediterranean and Black Sea” as well as the report on data quality for DCF socio-economic data (ad-hoc contract report).

STECF observes that these reports can be considered as good starting points for the development of the necessary quality assurance framework guidelines for biological and socio-economic data defining a detailed list of necessary administrative procedures and documentation.

Indicate whether additional guidance should be provided to Member States in terms of quality. Indicate whether existing guidelines from scientific bodies like ICES and STECF, can be used as reference or new work needs to be conducted

STECF notes that the Planning Group on Economic Issues (PGECON) and Regional Coordination Meetings/Groups (RCMs/RCGs) are the major bodies within DCF framework responsible for the methodological support of the data collection.

STECF observes that during the last PGECON meeting most of MS agreed with the proposed quality assurance framework for economic data, which could in the long term enable MS and PGECON to develop best practice guides increasing comparability and coherence of economic data collection at the EU level, and serve as a tool for all Member States in order to find the best methods for the collection of economic data using limited resources.

STECF observes that the description of the quality assurance framework as defined by the Commission implementing Decision on Work Plans (Annex Tables 5A and 5B) is based on national efforts on quality assurance. At the same time, quality checks and quality requirements are also set by end users, e.g. ICES has repository of data quality assurance¹⁰, JRC implemented quality checking procedures, etc. MS should be encouraged to incorporate quality checks implemented by different end users in national data quality checking procedures.

<http://www.ices.dk/community/Pages/PGCCDBS-doc-repository.aspx>

STECF observes that the data collected should fit the purpose and the resources used to collect the data as well as methods employed are appropriate and follows available best practice guides and recommendations of relevant bodies. RCGs and PGECON should be used as main platform to discuss quality of the data collected, changes in methods and data calls. 99

STECF observes that there is a tight deadline this year (31 October) regarding Member States preparation and submission of the Work Plans (WP).

STECF observes that a common repository on the Data Collection website with the best practices and methods as a start of the Quality Assurance Framework could provide a useful tool in relation to secure knowledge sharing between the parties involved. The repository could for instance contain the following:

- a section with methodological guidelines by thematic area, best practices identified so far, scripts used for data processing, quality assurance procedures imposed by end users and MS as well as quality checks and their scripts
- a master file, structured in a similar way as national WPs, with links to documents and methodological guidelines already available and the the most useful documents and summary reports on these matters. Preferably, such a file should be available before October to aid MS during preparation of the WPs.

STECF conclusions

STECF concludes that the two project reports on the regional collection of DCF biological data for the regions “North Sea and Eastern Arctic” and for the “Mediterranean and Black Sea” (as part of 'MARE/2014/19 - Strengthening regional cooperation in the area of fisheries data collection) as well as the “Quality guidelines for the DCF” (ad-hoc contract report) are useful for the preparation of the Quality Assurance Framework and should be circulated to MS by the Commission.

Furthermore, STECF also concludes that the quality assurance framework for economic and biological data should be harmonized, by merging Table 5A and Table 5B into one providing core requirements for the quality assurance framework without differentiating the quality assurance framework between biological and economic data.

STECF concludes that because of the tight deadline regarding submission of Work Plans, the Commission should consider to postpone the complete introduction of the Quality Framework for one year to allow a more in-depth review of requirements in order to prepare comprehensive guidelines to support the MS implementation in relation to quality indicators.

STECF suggests that the Commission organises an EWG on Quality Assurance in the spring 2017 with the main objective to improve the guidelines on data quality for MS and set the main principles for evaluation of data quality and results of data collection as well as establish minimum/meaningful requirements. End users, statisticians, economists and biologists as well as external experts should be invited.

STECF suggests that the RCGs as well as PGECON should take a lead on the development of standard guidelines and best practice guides in the long term at the regional level (EU level in the case of economic data). Given the possibility of differing requirements in the various RCGs, there is a need for harmonization/standardization at both the regional level and across RCGs.

Creation of documentation under Quality Assurance Framework and absence of clear quality targets in the EU MAP should not be considered as absence of quantitative quality control. Indicators of coverage, variability and bias should still be requested with the data during the data calls by end users and might be evaluated by STECF or RCGs/PGECON depending on the outcomes and proposals of STECF EWG on Quality.

STECF suggests that the Commission encourage Member States to provide at least basic documentation with description of sampling schemes and fill in the standard tables 5A and 5B based on the current documentation of procedures in place.

A timeline for the development and implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework could be as follows:

31 October 2016, Submission of WPs

31 October 2017, Update of WPs

Spring 2017, STECF EWG on quality (before plenary). Clear guidelines for MS and evaluation.

Autumn 2017, STECF EWG on WP evaluation (review of quality Compilation of methodological guidelines made

June 2018 first evaluation of the quality of the data submitted and AR by STECF.

Annex 6. Checklist for Overall Quality Assurance: Methodological and Quality report

Sound methodology

- Is sound methodology documented?
- Does it follow international standards, guidelines and best practices?
- Are methodologies comparable at MS, regional and EU level?
- Are all relevant definitions in place: statistical unit, population, derived data calculations etc.

Appropriate statistical procedures

- Is there consistency between administrative and other statistical data?
- Is there a set protocol for access and use of alternative data sets, intra or inter-agency?
- Are data collection, entry and coding checked?
- Are editing and imputation methods used and checked?
- Are revisions documented and available?
- Is duplication of data collection avoided?

Accuracy and reliability

- Are raw data inputs, intermediate results and outputs regularly assessed and validated?
- How are errors dealt with; if measured then how? documented? Corrected? Where in the process?

Accessibility and Clarity

- Are methodological documents publicly available?
- Are data stored in databases?
- Where can documentation be found?

Annex 7. ESS Quality Report guidelines

ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (release 2, December 2014)

The ESS Standard for Quality Reports Structure (ESQRS) contains the description and representation of statistical metadata concepts to be used for providing detailed information for assessing data quality. The broad concepts used are compatible with the SDMX cross-domain concepts and with the common terminology as published within the SDMX "Metadata Common Vocabulary" (2009). The detailed quality concepts are based on the ESS Standard for Quality Reports (ESQR) from 2009.

The ESQRS is addressed to the European Statistical System. It is implemented at Eurostat and at national level: the application of the concepts and sub concepts at European level and at national level are provided in the ESS Handbook for Quality Reports (EHQR) from 2014 and the ESS Guidelines for the implementation of the ESS Quality and Performance Indicators from 2014.

	Concept Name	Concept Code	Descriptions
1	Contact	CONTACT	Individual or organisational contact points for the data or metadata, including information on how to reach the contact points.
1.1	Contact organisation	CONTACT_ORGANISATION	The name of the organisation of the contact points for the data or metadata.
1.2	Contact organisation unit	ORGANISATION_UNIT	An addressable subdivision of an organisation
1.3	Contact name	CONTACT_NAME	The name of the contact points for the data or metadata.
1.4	Contact person function	CONTACT_FUNCT	The area of technical responsibility of the contact, such as "methodology", "database management" or "dissemination".
1.5	Contact mail address	CONTACT_MAIL	The postal address of the contact points for the data or metadata.
1.6	Contact email address	CONTACT_EMAIL	
1.7	Contact phone number	CONTACT_PHONE	The telephone number of the contact points for the data or metadata.
1.8	Contact fax number	CONTACT_FAX	Fax number of the contact points for the data or metadata.
2	Introduction	INTRODUCTION	A general description of the statistical process and its outputs, and their evolution over time.
3	Quality management - assessment	QUALITY_ASSMNT	Overall assessment of data quality, based on standard quality criteria.
4	Relevance	RELEVANCE	The degree to which statistical information meets the real or perceived needs of clients.
4.1	Relevance - User Needs	USER_NEEDS	Description of users and their respective needs with respect to the statistical data.
4.2	Relevance - User Satisfaction	USER_SAT	Measures to determine user satisfaction.
4.3	Completeness	COMPLETENESS	The extent to which all statistics that are needed are available.
4.4	Data completeness - rate	COMPLETENESS_RATE	The ratio of the number of data cells provided to the number of data cells required.
5	Accuracy and reliability	ACCURACY_RELIABILITY	Accuracy: closeness of computations or estimates to the exact or true values that the statistics were intended to measure Reliability: closeness of the initial estimated value to the subsequent value.

5.1	Accuracy - overall	ACCURACY_OVERALL	Assessment of accuracy, linked to a certain data set or domain, which is summarising the various components into one single measure.
5.2	Sampling error	SAMPLING_ERR	That part of the difference between a population value and an estimate thereof, derived from a random sample, which is due to the fact that only a subset of the population is enumerated.
5.3	Sampling error - indicators	SAMPLING_ERR_IND	Precision measures for estimating the random variation of an estimator due to sampling.
5.4	Non-sampling error	NONSAMPLING_ERR	Error in sample estimates which cannot be attributed to sampling fluctuations.
5.5	Coverage error	COVERAGRE_ERR	Divergence between the frame population and the target population.
5.6	Over-coverage - rate	OVERCOVERAGE_RATE	The proportion of units accessible via the frame that do not belong to the target population.
5.7	Measurement error	MEASUREMENT_ERR	Error in reading, calculating or recording numerical value.
5.8	Non response error	NONRESPONSE_ERR	The difference between the statistics computed from the collected data and those that would be computed if there were no missing values.
5.9	Unit non-response - rate	UNIT_NONRESPONSE_RATE	The ratio of the number of units with no information or not usable information to the total number of in-scope (eligible) units.
5.10	Item non-response - rate	ITEM_NONRESPONSE_RATE	The ratio of the in-scope (eligible) units which have not responded to a particular item and the in-scope units that are required to respond to that particular item
5.11	Processing error	PROCESSING_ERR	The error in final data collection process results arising from the faulty implementation of correctly planned information methods.
5.12	Imputation - rate	IMPUTATION_RATE	The ratio of the number of replaced values to the total number of values for a given variable.
5.13	Common units - proportion	COMMON_UNIT_SHARE	The proportion of common units covered by both the survey and the administrative sources in relation to the total number of units in the survey.
5.14	Model assumption error	MODEL_ASSUMP_ERR	Error due to domain specific models needed to define the target of estimation.
5.15	Data revision	DATA_REV	Any change in a value of a statistic released to the public.
5.16	Data revision - policy	REV_POLICY	Policy aimed at ensuring the transparency of disseminated data, whereby preliminary data are compiled that are later revised.
5.17	Data revision - practice	REV_PRACTICE	Information on the data revision practice.
5.18	Data revision - average size	DATA_REV_AVGSIZE	The average over a time period of the revisions of a key item. The 'revision' is defined as the difference between a later and an earlier estimate of the key item.
5.19	Seasonal adjustment	SEASONAL_ADJ	The statistical technique used to remove the effects of seasonal calendar influences operating on a series.
6	Timeliness and punctuality	TIMELINESS_PUNCT	Timeliness and punctuality
6.1	Timeliness	TIMELINESS	Length of time between data availability and the event or phenomenon they describe

6.2	Time lag - first result	TIMELAG_FIRST	The number of days (or weeks or months) from the last day of the reference period to the day of publication of first results.
6.3	Time lag - final result	TIMELAG_FINAL	The number of days (or weeks or months) from the last day of the reference period to the day of publication of complete and final results.
6.4	Punctuality	PUNCTUALITY	Time lag between the actual delivery of the data and the target date when it should have been delivered.
6.5	Punctuality - delivery and publication	PUNCTUALITY_RELEASE	The number of days between the delivery/release date of data and the target date on which they were scheduled for delivery/release.
7	Accessibility and clarity	ACCESSIBILITY_CLARITY	The conditions and modalities by which users can obtain, use and interpret data.
7.1	Dissemination format - News release	NEWS_REL	Regular or ad-hoc press releases linked to the data.
7.2	Dissemination format - Publications	PUBLICATIONS	Regular or ad-hoc publications in which the data are made available to the public.
7.3	Dissemination format - online database	ONLINE_DB	Information about on-line databases in which the disseminated data can be accessed.
7.4	Data tables - consultations	DATATABLE_CONSULT	Number of consultations of data tables within a statistical domain for a given time period displayed in a graph.
7.5	Dissemination format - microdata access	MICRO_DAT_ACC	Information on whether micro-data are also disseminated.
7.6	Documentation on methodology	DOC_METHOD	Descriptive text and references to methodological documents available.
7.7	Metadata completeness - rate	METADATA_COMPLETE	The ratio of the number of metadata elements provided to the total number of metadata elements applicable.
7.8	Metadata - consultations	METADATA_CONSULT	Number of consultations within a statistical domain for a given time period.
7.9	Quality management - documentation	QUALITY_DOC	Documentation on procedures applied for quality management and quality assessment.
7.10	Dissemination format - other	DISS_OTHER	References to the most important other data dissemination done.
8	Comparability	COMPARABILITY	The extent to which differences between statistics can be attributed to differences between the true values of the statistical characteristics.
8.1	Comparability - geographical	COMPAR_GEO	Extent to which statistics are comparable between geographical areas.
8.2	Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics - coefficient	ASYMMETRY_COEFF	The difference or the absolute difference of inbound and outbound flows between a pair of countries divided by the average of these two values.
8.3	Comparability - over time	COMPAR_TIME	Extent to which statistics are comparable or reconcilable over time.
8.4	Length of comparable time series	COMPAR_LENGTH	The number of reference periods in time series from last break.
8.5	Comparability - domain	COMPAR_DOMAIN	The extent to which statistics are comparable between statistical domains.
9	Coherence	COHERENCE	Adequacy of statistics to be combined in different ways and for various uses.
9.1	Coherence - cross domain	COHER_X_DOM	Extent to which statistics are reconcilable with those obtained through other data sources or statistical domains.

9.2	Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics	COHER_FREQSTAT	The extent to which statistics of different frequencies are reconcilable
9.3	Coherence - National Accounts	COHER_NATAACCOUNTS	The extent to which statistics are reconcilable with National Accounts.
9.4	Coherence - internal	COHER_INTERNAL	Extent to which statistics are consistent within a given data set.
10	Cost and Burden	COST_BURDEN	Cost associated with the collection and production of a statistical product and burden on respondents.
11	Confidentiality	CONF	A property of data indicating the extent to which their unauthorised disclosure could be prejudicial or harmful to the interest of the source or other relevant parties.
11.1	Confidentiality - policy	CONF_POLICY	Legislative measures or other formal procedures which prevent unauthorised disclosure of data that identify a person or economic entity either directly or indirectly.
11.2	Confidentiality - data treatment	CONF_DATA_TR	Rules applied for treating the data set to ensure statistical confidentiality and prevent unauthorised disclosure.
12	Statistical processing	STAT_PROCESS	Statistical processing
12.1	Source data	SOURCE_TYPE	Characteristics and components of the raw statistical data used for compiling statistical aggregates.
12.2	Frequency of data collection	FREQ_COLL	Frequency with which the source data are collected.
12.3	Data collection	COLL_METHOD	Systematic process of gathering data for official statistics.
12.4	Data validation	DATA_VALIDATION	Process of monitoring the results of data compilation and ensuring the quality of the statistical results.
12.5	Data compilation	DATA_COMP	Operations performed on data to derive new information according to a given set of rules.
12.6	Adjustment	ADJUSTMENT	The set of procedures employed to modify statistical data to enable it to conform to national or international standards or to address data quality differences when compiling specific data sets.
13	Comment	COMMENT_DSET	Supplementary descriptive text which can be attached to data or metadata

Annex 8. Description of Data Collection Methodological Document

1. Introduction:

Purpose of the survey, surveying Agency and contact details

2. Survey planning:

Describe definitions: population, statistical unit, data segmentation etc.

Describe survey parameters: frame population, time line- phases of data gathering, data input, processing, summarising and time to availability of output data.

3. Survey design and strategy:

List **data sources**; population itself, Other agencies, Registers, log books, sales notes, VMS, Financial accounts etc.

Describe **survey vehicles and deployment**; questionnaire forms by post, by email, on website, by phone etc. access to other datasets etc.

Declare **direct or indirect survey** technique, by **census**, by **sampling**, random or non-random, other (with explanation).

If sampling then outline **Sampling design** (appropriate sample size, representative fitness).

Describe the role of **auxiliary information**, if any, in your strategy. Eg. For validation, cross referencing, fall back data source etc.

4. Estimation design:

Describe treatment of nonresponse:

- Unit nonresponse
- Item nonresponse

Describe method of calculating population estimate from sample

Describe method of calculating derived data (eg. imputed values).

5. Error checks

Describe the errors that can occur and how and where in the process, these are avoided, detected and eliminated. Eg. Data; duplication, double counting, respondent error, upload error, processing error etc.

6. Data Storage.

Describe how the data is stored and processed, storage security level.

7. Documentation.

Where is this document stored, what is its level of availability (select group to public level scale).

8. Revisions.

Frequency of methodology review; revision of; segmentation, survey method per segment, per variable etc. and why.

Annex 9. ILO classification of status in employment, ISCE-93

Definitions

The following classification is based on the ILO classification of status in employment, ICSE-93.

Self-employed persons with employees (code 1) are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who employ at least one other person.

Self-employed persons without employees (code 2) are defined as persons who work in their own business, professional practice or farm for the purpose of earning a profit, and who do not employ any other person.

Employees (code 3) are defined as persons who work for a public or private employer and who receive compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, payment by results or payment in kind; non-conscripted members of the armed forces are also included.

Family workers (code 4) are persons who help another member of the family to run an agricultural holding or other business, provided they are not considered as employees.

Implementation rules The professional status requested here refers to the main job.

Code 1: Self-employed with employees

If people working in the business, professional practice or farm, are **not paid** then he/she should be considered as self-employed without staff.

Code 2: Self-employed without employees

People who **engage members of his/her own family** or **apprentices without payment** should be classified in code 2. In this category one can find farmers working alone or using the assistance of members of family.

A person who looks after one or more children that are not his/her own on a private basis and receiving a payment for this service should be considered as self-employed, excepted when he/she works for a single employer and receives employment rights from that employer; in that case he/she should be considered as employee (code 3).

A **freelancer** should in general be classified as self-employed. However in situations where freelancer works for a single employer and receives employment rights from that employer (e.g. holiday pay) he should be classified as an employee (code 3).

A **person who gives private lessons** should be considered as self-employed if he/she is directly paid by his/her students.

Members of producers' co-operatives should be considered as self-employed. In the case co-operative hired workers and these workers have an employment contract that gives them a basic remuneration (which is not directly dependent upon the revenue of the co-operative), these workers are identified as employees of the co-operative. Even if the co-operative has employees (e.g. an accountant) the members of the co-operative should be considered as "self-employed without employees" because the co-operative as an institution (and not any of its members) is the employer.

Code 3: Employee

An employee is usually working for an outside employer, but a son or daughter, for example, who is **working in a parent's farm** and receives a regular monetary wage is classified here as an employee.

A **person looking after children in his/her own home** is classified as an employee if he/she is paid to do this by the local authority (or any other public administration) and if he/she doesn't take any decision affecting the enterprise (e.g. schedules or number of children) but should be classified as self-employed if he/she does it privately (code 2).

Apprentices or trainees receiving remuneration should be considered as employees.

Priests (of any kind of religion) are considered employees

Code 4: Family worker

Persons working in a family business or on a family farm **without pay** should be living in the same household as the owner of the business or farm, or in a slightly broader interpretation, in a house located on the same plot of land and with common household interests. Such people frequently receive remuneration in the form of fringe benefits and

payments in kind. However, this applies *only* when the business is owned or operated by the individual themselves or by a relative. Thus, unpaid voluntary work done for charity should *not* be included.

The category includes:

- A son or daughter living inside the household and working in the parents' business or on the parents' farm without pay.

- A wife who assists her husband in his business, e.g. a haulage contractor, without receiving any formal pay. The category does not include:

- A relative living elsewhere but coming to help with the business, e.g. during the harvesting season, without pay in money or kind should not be included. If the relative receives any remuneration (including benefits in kind) the professional status should be coded as **3** (Employee).

Annex 10. International Standard Classification of Education, ISCED

Definition

There are two categories of orientation of educational programmes – general and vocational:

General: programmes that are designed to develop learners' general knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as literacy and numeracy skills, often to prepare participants for more advanced education programmes at the same or a higher ISCED level and to lay the foundation for lifelong learning. These programmes are typically school- or college-based.

General education includes education programmes that are designed to prepare participants for entry into vocational education but do not prepare for employment in a particular occupation, trade or class of occupations or trades, nor lead directly to a labour market-relevant qualification.

Vocational: programmes that are designed for learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies specific to a particular occupation, trade, or class of occupations or trades. Such programmes may have work-based components (e.g. apprenticeships, dual system education programmes). Successful completion of such programmes leads to labour market-relevant vocational qualifications acknowledged as occupationally-oriented by the relevant national authorities and/or the labour market.

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/isced-2011-en.pdf>

The ISCED classification consists of parallel coding schemes for education programmes (ISCED Programmes or ISCED-P) and levels of educational attainment (ISCED-Attainment or ISCED-A). Within both schemes, nine separate levels are identified. Within each level, complementary dimensions are used to identify further categories and sub-categories, if applicable. Three-digit coding systems are used to codify both education programmes and educational attainment.

0 Early childhood education	0 Less than primary education
1 Primary education	1 Primary education
2 Lower secondary education	2 Lower secondary education
3 Upper secondary education	3 Upper secondary education
4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education	4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education
5 Short-cycle tertiary education	5 Short-cycle tertiary education
6 Bachelor's or equivalent level	6 Bachelor's or equivalent level
7 Master's or equivalent level	7 Master's or equivalent level
8 Doctoral or equivalent level	8 Doctoral or equivalent level
9 Not elsewhere classified	9 Not elsewhere classified

Educational attainment level – highest level of education successfully completed

Definition

The **educational attainment** level of an individual is the highest ISCED level successfully completed, the successful completion of an educational programme being validated by a recognised qualification (or credential), i.e. a qualification officially recognised by the relevant national education authorities.

In countries where educational programmes belonging, in particular, to ISCED levels 1 and 2 do not lead to a qualification, the criterion of full attendance in the programme (giving access to a higher level of education) may have to be used instead.

Certain qualifications obtained through non-formal education and training programmes or by validation of competences might be considered as educational attainment, provided that they are recognised by the formal

education system authorities as equivalent to the qualification from a formal programme (allowing access to higher education levels in the formal education system, if relevant).

Educational attainment level – highest level of education successfully completed

Codes

000 No formal education or below ISCED 1

100 ISCED 1

200 ISCED 2 (incl. ISCED 3 programmes of duration of less than 2 years)

302 ISCED 3 programme of duration of 2 years and more, sequential (i.e. giving access to next ISCED 3 programme only) – partial completion of ISCED 3

303 ISCED 3 programme of duration of 2 years and more, terminal or giving access to ISCED 4 only

304 ISCED 3 with access to ISCED 5, 6 or 7 (to tertiary education)

300 ISCED 3 programme of duration of 2 years and more, without possible distinction of access to other ISCED levels

400 ISCED 4

500 ISCED 5

600 ISCED 6

700 ISCED 7

800 ISCED 8

999 Not applicable (child less than 15 years)

Blank No answer

Definition

The **educational attainment** level of an individual is the highest ISCED level successfully completed, the successful completion of an educational programme being validated by a recognised qualification (or credential), i.e. a qualification officially recognised by the relevant national education authorities.

In countries where educational programmes belonging, in particular, to ISCED levels 1 and 2 do not lead to a qualification, the criterion of full attendance in the programme (giving access to a higher level of education) may have to be used instead.

Certain qualifications obtained through non-formal education and training programmes or by validation of competences might be considered as educational attainment, provided that they are recognised by the formal education system authorities as equivalent to the qualification from a formal programme (allowing access to higher education levels in the formal education system, if relevant).

Implementation rules

- From 2014, the educational attainment level is coded according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 2011) (for more information please see UNESCO site: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/international-standardclassification-of-education.aspx>)
- The "ISCED 2011 Operational manual", the "Joint Eurostat-OECD guidelines on the measurement of educational attainment in household surveys" as well as the ISCED mappings are available (see annex). Coding should be based on the ISCED integrated mapping which is elaborated in each country. It is a table including information of national educational programmes and qualifications - their main characteristics and coding in ISCED. One column of this table provides coding of the qualification (educational attainment) to be used in the EU-LFS.

- All questions about implementation of ISCED in the LFS may be addressed to the national ISCED coordinator who was nominated in each country to ensure coherence of the variable “Educational attainment” in different sources (in particular with AES and SILC).
- When determining the highest educational level, both general and vocational education should be taken into consideration. In case of double qualifications obtained at the same highest educational level (and concerning especially ISCED level 3), the most recent qualification should be reported (see also explanatory notes for HATVOC).
- Persons who have not successfully completed their studies should be coded according to the highest level they have completed before and should not be coded with a blank.
- Code 300 should only be used for those cases where a distinction of different ISCED level 3 programmes giving (or not giving) access to other levels is not possible.
- Qualifications from old educational programmes (not existing anymore) should be classified on the basis of their characteristics at the time of completion.

Good practices

“Diploma approach” – asking about the diplomas instead of level of education – is strongly recommended, and to be applied, if possible, in all household surveys. It might require some investment– (e.g. creation of a specific tool for computer assisted interviews) but would improve quality and comparability of data on educational attainment. For more information, please see the guidelines mentioned above.

ISCED 2011 Educational attainment levels:

- 0 Early childhood education
- 2 Lower secondary education
- 3 Upper secondary education
- 4 Post-secondary non-tertiary education
- 5 Short-cycle tertiary education
- 6 Bachelor’s or equivalent level
- 7 Master’s or equivalent level
- 8 Doctoral or equivalent level
- 9 Not elsewhere classified

Annex 11. Presentation from Subgroup on QA

TOR 1: Preparatory work for STECF EWG 17-04 Quality assurance for DCF data

Terms of reference

Objectives:

- To assess the main principles and requirements for quality assurance scheme and to define minimum quality requirements in quantitative terms (quality indicators as CV, coverage rate, etc.) and procedural aspects.
- Review Table 5B of WP, adjust structure and content to the principles ensuring quality of data collected.
- To define a structure and content of guidelines on data quality for Member States.

Objectives of review

- Review of existing documentation:
 - ESS Handbooks
 - Report of SGECA 0209, STECF EWG Barcelona 2009
 - Carlos report on Quality Guidelines for DCF
 - Etc.
- Intention is to condense all preceding literature on methodology and QA to a format that are more readily digestible and therefore more likely to be implemented by MS

The Quality Assessment Framework

Quality assessment in data collection is a measurement that is possible by comparing two associated processes;

- data collection methodology and
- the observed quality of the data collected.

To enable this, two documents are required;

- Data collection Methodology and
- Data quality report.

The Quality Assessment Framework



The resulting documents from the review are

- A methodological report template
- A suggested quality assessment template and accompanying checklist.

Next steps

- Develop clear guidelines for Methodological document and Quality report
 - After these are implemented by MS
 - Quality assessment of MS data collection procedures
- Achievable accuracy

Annex 12. Presentation from Subgroup on SV

SEAFISH

SOCIAL DATA COLLECTION sharing experience and identifying the best practices in EUMAP

PGECON
Vilnius
15-16 May 2017

Arina Motova
Seafish, UK

SEAFISH

EUMAP obligation

Table 6
Social variables for the fishing and aquaculture sectors

Variable	Unit
Employment by gender	Number
FTE by gender	Number
Unpaid labour by gender	Number
Employment by age	Number
Employment by education level	Number per education level
Employment by nationality	Number from EU, EEA and Non-EU/EEA
Employment by employment status	Number
FTE National	Number

Social data shall be collected every three years starting in 2018.

Data on employment by education level and employment by nationality may be collected on the basis of pilot studies.

SEAFISH

Objectives of the WS

- Identify end user needs
- Review MS experience and methodology of social data collection
- Identify the main issues of social data collection
- Propose the best practice / guidelines

SEAFISH

End users needs

DGMARE:

- Mapping and analysis of fisheries communities;
- EMFF implementation and evaluation (equal opportunities, socio-economic compensations, support for young fishermen, regional development, training needs);
- Social impacts of move towards MSY - inclusion of the social aspects when evaluating fisheries management plans.

SEAFISH

End users needs

Marine Scotland:

- **Overview of the social situation in the sector** - structure of workforce, age, nationality mobility across marine sector, etc.
- **Remuneration practices** – particularly for non EEA crew, which represent a significant share of force.
- The need to monitor social situation, especially when social policy measures applied, e.g. attraction of young fishermen.

Report: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00507777.pdf>

SEAFISH

Highlights and issues discussed

- Population and stratification;
- Variables already collected and definition of variables:
 - Gender and nationality
 - Age classes
 - Employment status
 - Education level
- Data collection methods and examples of questionnaires

SEAFISH

Review of MS experience and practices

20 participants, representing 16 MS
+1 MS presentation (no participation in WS)
+2 MS provided short explanations by email
In total 20 MS covered.

12 hours to present, discuss and agree

→ **Table with practice overview**

SEAFISH

Population and observation unit

- Depends on the data sources used. Some MS are using administrative sources and fishers registers, while others are sampling vessels (skippers), vessel owners or enterprises.
- In some MS the link between fishers and vessels are missing.

Recommendation

- Social data should refer to the point in time. In cases of use of administrative sources when data is available for all fishers MS should follow EUROSTAT practice. In case of surveys it is recommended to organise national surveys around the same time of the year to avoid duplication (the same employee working at different boats during the year) and keep stability and comparability of the time series.

SEAFISH

Stratification

Results

- Some MS are planning to make stratification by EUMAP fleet segments, some by regions and size of vessels, however there are MS where link between fisher and vessel is not established (no stratification applied) and it might be very difficult to link social indicators to any particular fishing activity

Recommendation

- Supra region + SSF / LSF / DWF
 - MS are recommended to follow the definitions of AER, however in case the link to fishing activity is missing at least create a groups based on the size of vessels, e.g. <12m for SSF; >40m DWF.

SEAFISH

Gender and nationality

Recommendation

- Gender:
 - M** – male
 - F** – female
 - Unknown
- Nationality (at least for the following groups):
 - National**
 - EU**
 - EEA**
 - Other (third countries)**

SEAFISH

Age groups

Results

- In some MS the data is collected for each individual fishermen, while in the others predefined age groups are used to collect information on the age structure of fishers.

Recommendation

- At least the following groups are recommended:
 - <15
 - 15-24
 - 25-39 – all fishers <40 years are young fishers according to EUMAP
 - 40-64
 - 65+

SEAFISH

Employment status

Results

- At least 3 different interpretations of the employment status are used by MS. It was considered that classification to full time / part time as employment status is not very relevant for DGMARE as this information is indirectly available through comparison of hours worked and number of employees.
- LFS is using following professional status classification:
 - Self-employed with employees** – Owner of fishing boat
 - Self-employed without employees** – Crew members under crew share agreement
 - Employee**
 - Family worker**

Recommendation

- At least separation between
- owner / employee (vessel owner involved in vessel activity/operation)
 - employed including contract workers (all workers on-board) needed for EMFF (permanent cessation and socio-economic compensations)

SEAFISH

Education level

Results

- MS are doing their best, but there is a difference in approach. Some MS are considering professional training more important than academic education, some think that academic education is as much important. Some MS are covering all types of education.
- It's not clear how to assess education level, which is not relevant for the fishing fleet, e.g. medical doctor, or master in chemistry.

Recommendation

Use ISCED 2011, at least:

	ISCED 2011 (data from 2014 onwards)	ISCED 1997 (data up to 2013)
Low education	Levels 0-2	Levels 0-2
Medium education	Levels 3-4	Levels 3-4
High education	Levels 5-8	Levels 5-6

+ not elsewhere classified

SEAFISH

Education level

+ Broader fields of education (not obligatory):

- 00 – Generic programmes and qualifications
- 01 – Education
- 02 – Arts and humanities
- 03 – Social sciences, journalism and information
- 04 – Business, administration and law
- 05 – Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics
- 06 – Information and Communication Technologies
- 07 – Engineering, manufacturing and construction
- 08 – Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary
- 09 – Health and welfare
- 10 – Services
- Not elsewhere classified

Annex 13. Presentation from DG MARE concerning Rules of Procedure



Expert Group on Fisheries Data collection
Subgroup: Planning Group on Economic Issues (PGECON)

Rules of Procedures

15-19 May 2017
Vilnius, Lithuania

V. Kostopoulou
Unit C3 – DG MARE

Rules of Procedures

General – set for all COM Expert Groups

Specific – should follow the general, but can specify, based on type of subgroup



Register of Commission Expert Groups

Expert Group on Fisheries Data collection (E02750)

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2750>




REGISTER OF COMMISSION EXPERT GROUPS and Other Similar Entities

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Details	Additional Information	Subgroups	Statistics	Members
Name: Expert Group on Fisheries Data collection (EEZF750) Active				
Policy Area: Other				
Lead DG: MARE - DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries				
Type: Informal, Temporary				
Scope: Broad				
Mission: Expert group to assist the Commission in the implementation of the (OCF) Data Collection Framework concerning the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy.				
Tasks: - assist the Commission in relation to the implementation of existing union legislation, programmes and policies - assist the Commission in the preparation of legislative acts - Assist the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives - Coordinate with Member States, exchange of views				
Other				
Provide expertise to the Commission when preparing implementing measures, i.e. before the Commission issues these draft measures to a regulatory committee.				
•Coordinates and shares information with Member State representatives in the implementation of OCF, with experts on social and economic data for Fisheries, bioeconomy and the processing industry, with experts on regional coordination of biological data collection, management and use under the OCF, whenever advice to the Commission in relation to specific issues linked to the implementation of OCF.				
Contact: HARE-CPG@ec.europa.eu				
Publication in Register: 24 Feb. 2012				
Last updated: 20 Dec 2016				



European
Commission

Expert groups explained

Why does the Commission need to have recourse to outside experts?

Although the Commission has considerable in-house expertise, it needs specialist advice from outside experts as a basis for sound policymaking. This may be provided by groups of experts or external consultants, or take the form of studies.

What is a Commission expert group?

A consultative body:

- set up by the Commission or its departments to provide them with advice and expertise
- composed of public and/or private sector members
- which meets more than once.

Gathering expertise from various sources may include gathering the views of various stakeholders.

There are 2 types of Commission expert groups:

- **formal** - set up by Commission decision
- **informal** - set up by an individual Commission department that has obtained the agreement of the Commissioner and Vice-President responsible and of the Secretariat-General,

What are the rules on setting up administering Commission expert groups?

Commission expert groups are subject to the horizontal rules established by Commission decision [C \(2016\)3301](#). This decision should be read in conjunction with the Commission Communication [C \(2016\)3300](#).

What do we mean by other similar entities?

Advisory bodies set up by the European Union legislator, which have a similar or identical role to that of Commission expert groups. They are administered and managed financially by the Commission.

The rules on Commission expert groups also apply to 'other similar entities', without prejudice to the provisions included in the legislative acts which set up those entities.

Rules of procedures

REGISTER OF COMMISSION EXPERT GROUPS
and Other Similar Entities

European Commission > Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities > Group Details

Home
How is the register organised
Expert groups explained
Quick search
Advanced search
News
Calls for applications
Contact the register
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Group Details - Commission Expert Group

Details **Additional Information** Subgroups Statistics Members

Active Expert Group on Fisheries Data collection (102750)

Activity Report

8. Meeting of 02/05/2016 (Invitation - Power Point Presentations - EU MAP documents - WP Template - Rules of procedures - Minutes)

2016-04-28 Regional grants for the 2nd Expert group.pdf (approx. 220 kb)

2016-04-28 Work plan template for the 2nd Expert group.pdf (approx. 337 kb)

2016-05-02 - EU MAP map comments.pdf (approx. 163 kb)

Article 1

Scope

The role of the group of experts on Fisheries Data Collection is to assist the Commission in the implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) concerning the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy by:

- Assisting the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals;
- Providing expertise to the Commission when drafting delegated acts or implementing measures;
- Sharing information between Member States' representatives on the implementation of DCF and providing a platform for coordination;
- Addressing specific issues of biological data collection, management and use under the DCF, collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry, and of data storage, exchange and dissemination;

PGECON

Article 7

Sub-groups

In agreement with DG MARE, the group may set up sub-groups to examine specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the group. Sub-groups shall report to the group.

Subgroups may be established on specific questions such as:

- sharing of information and coordination of the implementation of DCF;
- regional coordination of biological data collection, management and use under the DCF;
- coordination of collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry;

PGECON

Article 3

Convening a meeting

Meetings of the group are convened by the Chair, with the agreement of the Commission services either on its own initiative, or at the request of a simple majority of members after the Commission services have given its agreement.

Meetings of sub-groups are convened either by the Commission services or the Chair of the sub-group.

Joint meetings of the group with other expert groups may be convened to discuss matters falling within their respective areas of responsibility.

Meetings of the group shall, in principle, be held on Commission premises.

RCMs/ RCGs?

Agenda

The secretariat shall draw up the agenda of each meeting under the responsibility of the Chair and send it to the members of the group.

The agenda shall be adopted by the group at the start of each meeting.

Article 5

Documentation to be sent to group members

The secretariat shall send the invitation to the meeting and the draft agenda to the group members no later than twenty calendar days before the date of the meeting.

All National Correspondents


Article 6

Opinions of the group

The group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by **consensus**.

↙

What if not?

Liaison Meeting Report 2016:
through consensus. The rules of procedures should accommodate for decision making procedures, by consensus or **not**, and also describe what to do if a (single) MS doesn't agree. Formally there is no


Article 11

Minutes of the meetings

Minutes on the discussion on each point on the agenda and the opinions delivered by the group shall be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair. The minutes shall not mention the individual position of the members during the group's deliberations.

↙

Template available


Background work done at:

Regional grants reports
RCMs 2016
Liaison Meeting 2016

What should be the next steps?
What do you expect from DG MARE as support?


... and some ideas

discuss recurrent issues from STECF reports
overview of transmission of data to end users
define end user data needs – possible gaps
discuss problematic areas and provide input to STECF/
COM
define 'best practices'

Thank you

Annex 14. Presentation on PGECON governance and structure

Governance and structure of PGECON 	Establishment of Planning Group on Economic Issues (PGECON) The Subgroup of group of experts on Fisheries Data Collection coordinating collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry The group of experts on Fisheries Data Collection was established to: ▪ assist the Commission in the implementation of the multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (EU MAP); 
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Article 7 of Rules of Procedure of the group of experts on Fisheries Data Collection

Subgroups

1. In agreement with DG MARE, the group may set up subgroups to examine specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the group. Subgroups shall report to the group.

Subgroups may be established on specific questions such as:

- sharing of information and coordination of the implementation of EU MAP;
- regional coordination of biological data collection, management and use under the EU MAP;
- **coordination of collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry;**
- sharing of information and coordination on data storage, exchange and dissemination.

Governance and structure of PGECON 

Objectives of PGECON

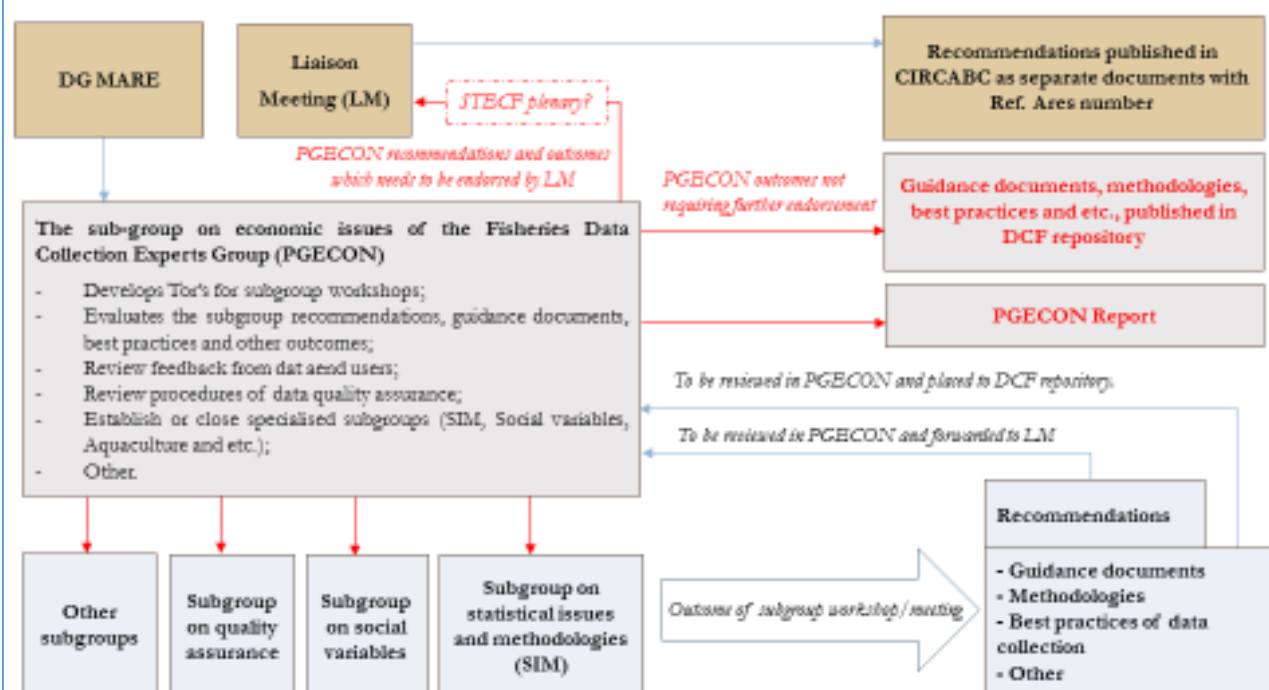
1. to coordinate collection of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry;
2. assist the Commission in the implementation of EU MAP concerning the collection, management and use of social and economic data for fisheries, aquaculture and the processing industry;
3. support CFP for scientific advice regarding on definitions, methodologies and best practices for the collection of economic, social, transversal and environmental (for aquaculture) data;
4. to ensure improved availability of fisheries data and reduce the burden of data calls on Member States in line with the objectives of EU MAP.

Governance and structure of PGECON 

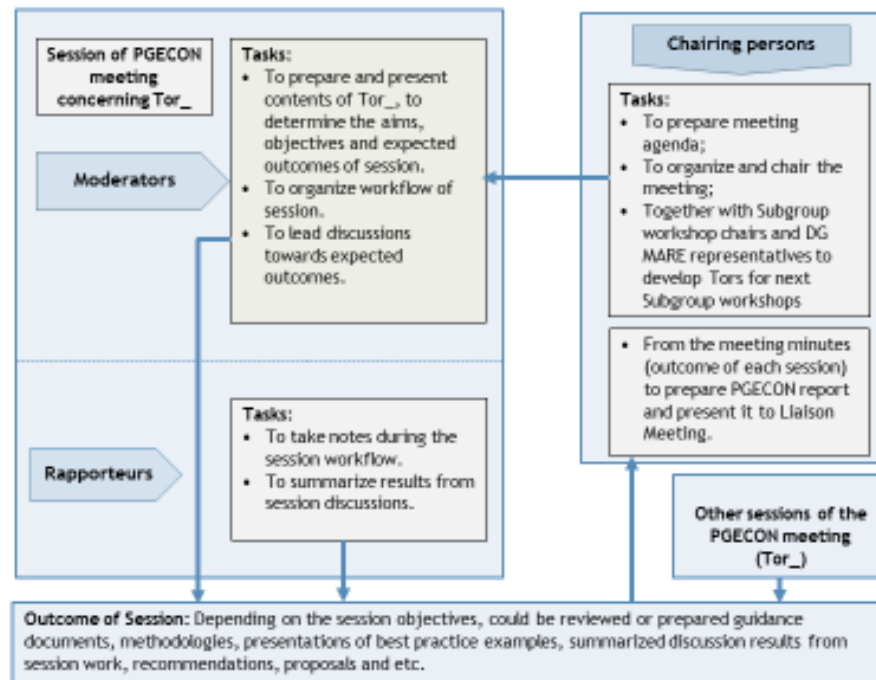
To achieve these objectives we have tasks:

- Taking into account systematic issues, to establish specialized PGECON Subgroups on particular issues, to define their tasks and to draft terms of references for Subgroup workshops.
- Evaluate the outcomes of Subgroup workshops/meetings, and prepare final methodological and other type of recommendations to be applied in the implementation of EU MAP.
- Review feedback and recommendations from data end users.
- To follow up data quality assurance, review procedures and suggest any changes for improvement.
- With regard to data management and dissemination, to promote technological developments in order to ensure data access and availability as well as to facilitate MS data submission to end users.

Governance of PGECON



Structure of PGECON meeting



Annex 15. Presentation from Subgroup on SIM

Presentation of results from the Sub-group of PGECON on Statistical Issues and Methodologies (SIM) (12-14 December 2016, Rome, Italy)

DCF PLANNING GROUP ON ECONOMIC ISSUES (PGECON) Vilnius, 15-19 May 2017

Evelina Sabatella 

Introduction

The meeting was hosted and organized by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, General Directorate for Fisheries and Aquacultures.

19 experts from 11MS and from JRC

Evelina Sabatella and Heidi Pokki chaired the meeting

Terms of Reference for SIM

Aim of the SIM subgroup:

to assist MS in the collection of economic and social data for the fleet, the aquaculture and the processing sectors.

SIM subgroup was established during the 2016 PGECON which also identified the chairpersons.

The TORs for the meeting were defined at a later stage during skype meetings among the chairs of PGECON and SIM. TORs were also discussed with DGMARE.

Terms of Reference for SIM

1. Definition of SIM within the PGECON governance and suggestion of ToRs to ensure a more continuous and systematic approach
2. Final amendments on methodological and definitions documents to implement EUMAP work plans in 2017. Additional work in order to set up and evaluate the Quality Assurance Framework
3. Preliminary assessment on the collection of social variables as foreseen in EUMAP

The SIM meeting only discussed the methodologies for the fleet sector.

Presentation by each participant/MS of the major critical issues in collecting fleet economic data

Template previously distributed among participants

↓
list of issues

Template for the presentation of critical issues in collecting fleet economic data	
Critical issues in collecting fleet economic data	
Critical issues in collecting fleet economic data	
1	Definition of critical issues in collecting fleet economic data
2	Definition of critical issues in collecting fleet economic data
3	Definition of critical issues in collecting fleet economic data
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19	Definition of critical issues in collecting fleet economic data
20	Definition of critical issues in collecting fleet economic data

Presentation of the major critical issues in collecting fleet economic data

Data collection scheme:

most MS use 'combined data collection' which is based on survey data and registry based data

Possibility of collecting data *through other sources rather than by questionnaires*. For example, there could be some variables such as Energy costs which can be estimated using data from other sources and using the knowledge obtained throughout the years. An example was given from the field of agriculture where the "typical farm approach" is applied (agribenchmark.org).

Presentation of the major critical issues in collecting fleet economic data

Issues related to Small Scale Fisheries: sampling size, probability calculations as well as some definitions related to the financial position, employment and value of unpaid labour

Application of the PIM method. The group suggested Member States to adjust and/or update the assumptions of the Method according to the fleet and actual (market/legislative, etc.) conditions of its country

Definitions of variables listed in table 5A of EUMAP

- Presentation of the document: "Definitions of the variables collected under the DCF socioeconomic modules for the fleet, aquaculture and fish processing"
- Review of the report of definitions finalized at the PGECON 2016
- Check for the consistency with the EU MAP (all the variable names from the definition report were compared against EU MAP)
 - the majority of the definitions were in line with EU MAP and did not raise controversial opinions among the experts.
 - however, several suggestions to modify definitions were proposed

Definitions of variables listed in table 5A of EUMAP

- Definition of *consumption of fixed capital* was simplified
- *Value of quota and fishing rights* and why this variable should be collected only when fishing rights are tradable
- Definition of *total assets* which should include fixed assets (capital value plus fishing rights of the vessel in the fleet case) as well as financial assets
- Definition of *engaged crew* was discussed and amended
- What is considered as '*investment*' and what is included in the "*repair and maintenance costs*".

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Methodologies for the fleet economic variables of EUMAP: clarification of critical issues

Basic assumption:

SIM considered that it is not appropriate to define only one methodology for each variable.

As discussed in the workshop in the DCF WS on statistical issue (Helsinki, 2013) and in the STECF SGECA 2010 and as considered during the last PGECON (Zagreb, 2016), *MSs try to choose the best data collection approach available and most suitable for the country specific needs and conditions.*

The best method to use depends on which sources of data and other information are available at Member State level.

Methodologies for the fleet economic variables of EUMAP: clarification of critical issues

The final amended tables with proposed methodologies for each variable is reported in [annex 5 SIM REPORT 2016](#).

SIM underlined that this table should be used as a reference document for *best practices*.

If a MS considers that other approaches are more appropriate, these could be used providing that MS explain the reasons in their Annual Report.

Methodologies for the fleet economic variables of EUMAP: clarification of critical issues

SIM went through each variable and checked if the proposed methodologies are clear and consistent with the requirement of the EUMAP.

SIM amended methodologies for the following variables :

- Value of unpaid labour
- Value of quota and other fishing rights
- Investments in tangible assets, net
- Long/short Debt
- Total assets
- FTE national
- Value of physical capital and consumption of fixed capital

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Other methodological issues

SIM discussed the [definition of population for the fleet economic surveys](#) that in the new EUMAP is as follows:

"The population shall be all active and inactive vessels registered in the Union Fishing Fleet Register as defined in Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 (2) on 31 December of the reporting year and vessels that do not appear on the Register at that date but have fished at least one day during the reporting year."

This definition is different from the one applied since now in the DCF (all vessels in the Community Fishing Fleet Register on the 1st of January).

However, participants did not raise any specific methodological issues linked with this change in the definition. The impact in terms of time series could be eventually tested once the data referred to 2017 will be available.

Other methodological issues

Another important issue to be considered is the [classification of vessels into fleet segments](#) according to the "dominance" criteria.

The EUMAP defines the fleet segment as: "group of vessels with the same length class (LOA, length overall) and predominant fishing gear during the year", chapter I, Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1251 of 12 July 2016.

SIM considered that the rules for assigning a vessel to a fleet segment applied so far and explained in EU Decision n. 93/2010 should continue to be applied to ensure consistency among MS and continuity in time series.

The procedure is the following (EU Dec. 93/2010):

The dominance criteria shall be used to allocate each vessel to a segment based on the number of fishing days used with each gear. If a fishing gear is used by more than the sum of all the others (i.e. a vessel spends more than 50 % of its fishing time using that gear), the vessel shall be allocated to that segment. If not, the vessel shall be allocated to the following fleet segment:

- (a) "Vessels using Polyvalent active gears" if it only uses active gears;
- (b) "Vessels using Polyvalent passive gears" if it only uses passive gears;
- (c) "Vessels using active and passive gears".

Other methodological issues: analysis and data testing by MS

The discussion on methodological issues related to the collection of economic variables highlighted the need to develop some analysis and data testing on the following issues:

- Some MS and participants considered that much effort is spent on annual data collection. Most factors determining costs (which are the central items to sample) could be estimated or assessed through different information (e.g. fuel cost based on fuel price and fuel consumption, or on HP and effort). MS could test the use of derived estimates versus complete annual sampling and assess the impacts in terms of data reliability and costs reduction
- Estimation of investments through the PIM method and comparison with the alternative approach of data derived from survey
- Calculation of value of capital on the basis of different alternative methods (PIM, balance sheets, accounting values, etc.) and assessment of the impacts in profitability indicators

These analysis should be implemented by MS on a voluntary basis and results should be presented in future SIM or PGECON meetings.

Other issues discussed by SIM 2016

Quality assurance framework

- Presentation by participant/MS of procedures and tools used to implement the economic survey and to evaluate quality of data
- Discussion on the quality assurance table for the work plan (table 5B) and the Annual report. Suggestions for amendments and improvements

Identification of critical issues for the collection of social data under the EUMAP

Annex 16. Presentation of Tor's for workshop on Activity levels in fishing fleet

Threshold meeting

May 2017,
Hans van Oostenbrugge,



Background

- Large differences in activity levels within some segments:
 - Different ways of data collection
 - Differences in data quality
 - Differences in cost structure
 - Differences in fisheries operations and effects of management
- Ongoing discussion about low activity fishermen



First workshop on activity levels

- TOR
 - Overview of activity level differences
 - Test Various indicators of activity
 - Implementation issues of thresholds
- Conclusion:
 - No threshold for data collection, distinction in data reporting.
 - Issue is mainly connected to small scale fisheries but not exclusively
 - Income could be used as an indicator of activity level
 - Large differences between countries
 - Regional approach is necessary



TOR

- Provide an overview of the technique to adjust reporting thresholds that could be used to ensure comparability of the resulting economic data from different MS (FADN, PPP, etc) and define a number of possible thresholds for testing.
- Address the regional adjustment for member states.
- Test the effects of implementation of different levels of thresholds for the aggregated economic data for the Baltic and North Sea region for the data reporting of the AER, in terms of changes in cost structure, quality of estimats, regional comparability.
- Develop a time frame for implementation of further stratification on activity levels and reporting thresholds on a regional basis.



Planning

- TOR 1-2 done in the preparation phase of the meeting
- MS asked to do the agregation of their data taking into account the proposed thresholds.
- Meeting:
 - MS present the results of aggregation
 - The results will be discussed during the meeting



Annex 17. Presentation of Tor's for workshop on Aquaculture sustainability



PG ECON 2016

- PGECON noted that **environmental variables did not fit naturally with the remit of any governance group** but that was closest to that of the aquaculture sub-group.
- Highlighted that whilst producers had an obligation to record information, there was **no required standard or requirement for the data to be submitted to national authorities**.
- Agreed that **further work was needed** to define a common framework for data collection.

Recommendations:

- PGECON recommends convening two short (2 day max) workshops for (1) social variables and (2) aquaculture sustainability
- Terms of Reference would need to be developed with the Commission services responsible for data collection (whether JRC or Eurostat) and end users. The workshops would need to be held in 2017 to inform work to be undertaken in 2018.

EU MAP – COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2016/1251 of 12 July 2016 adopting a multiannual Union programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors for the period 2017-2019

Social, economic and environmental data on marine aquaculture, and optionally on freshwater aquaculture, to enable the assessment of the social, economic and environmental performance of the Union aquaculture sector:

- Environmental data may be collected on the basis of pilot studies and extrapolated to indicate totals relevant to the total volume of fish produced in the Member State. Environmental data shall be collected **every two years**.
- No environmental data on aquaculture need to be collected where the total aquaculture production of the Member State is **less than 2,5 % of the total Union aquaculture production volume and value**.
- No starting year – assume 2018 (2016 data).

EU MAP Table 8: Environmental variables for the aquaculture sector

Variable	Specification	Unit
Medicines or treatments administered ¹	By type	Gram
Mortalities ²		Percent

Medicines or treatments administered

- ¹ "1. Extrapolated from data recorded under Annex I, point 8 (b), of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1)"
- Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 - Hygiene of Foodstuffs Regulation: "Food business operators rearing animals or producing primary products of animal origin are, in particular, to keep records on ... **veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to the animals, dates of administration and withdrawal periods**;"

EMFF Results indicators - Aquaculture

Objective 3 - Protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and enhancement of ecosystems related to aquaculture and promotion of resource efficient aquaculture

- Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture
- Change in the volume of production recirculation system
- **Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes**
- **Aquaculture farms providing environmental services**

Objective 4 - Promotion of aquaculture having a high level of environmental protection, and the promotion of animal health and welfare and of public health and safety

- Change in volume of aquaculture production
- Change in value of aquaculture production
- Change in the volume of production organic aquaculture
- Change in the volume of production recirculation systems
- **Change in the volume of aquaculture production certified under voluntary sustainability schemes**
- **Aquaculture farms providing environmental services**

Medicine Use - Plans

- Important to collect what is useful for the UK as well as mandated by the EU. For medicines there is considerable interest in antibiotic resistance and environmental impacts of anti-microbial agents.
- Fish Health Inspectors visit farms annually so additional data collection costs will be low. There will be some costs for changes to be made to systems (CEFAS Starfish). Producers tended to have electronic medicine books, often using templates provided by CEFAS.
- Information on quantity of both product and active ingredient will be wanted. Deriving active ingredient from product information should be straightforward. Fraser can supply a list of registered products, details of their classification and active ingredient content..

UK Finfish medicines and treatments

From VMD compendium of animal medicines 2017 (also http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/Search.aspx)				Prescribed under cascade	Other chemicals used that may be discharged
	Prescription Only Medicine -V prescribed by Vet	POM – VPS prescribed by Vet, Pharmacist or Suitably qualified person	Small (pet) Animal Exception Scheme		
Antimicrobial	Aquatet (Oxytetracycline) Floroclorfenicol (Florfenicol) Fyccol (Fronipol) Vetremox fish (Amoxycillin)		Chloramine T		(Disinfectants*)
Ectoparasiticide	AMX (Deltamethrin) Salmosan Vet (Azamethiphos) Sllice (Emamectin benzoate)		Fluke-Solve (Praziquantel) Lice-Solve (Emamectin)		Hydrogen peroxide Formaldehyde Salt
Endoparasiticide				Panacur (Fenbendazole)	
Vaccine	AquaVac PD3 AquaVac Relera Norvax Compact PD	Alpha Ject 2-2 AquaVac ERM (dip) AquaVac ERM oral			
Anaesthetic		Tricaine PHARMAQ	Aqua-Sed (Phencyethanol)		
Slipping promoter	Receptal (Buserelin)				
Gender control					Methyl-testosterone

Medicine Use – Plans (cont.)

FHIs meeting (9/5/17) decisions

- Focus on POM-V x Antimicrobials & Ectoparasiticides
- Only collect for finfish for **human consumption** - salmon, trout (tilapia, marine fish)
- Exclude: coarse, cleaner & ornamental fish + bivalve hatcheries
- Pilot study in 2017/2018
- Useful opportunity to establish process (future-proofing)

Mortality – Legal requirements

- *Extrapolated as a percentage of national production from data recorded under Council Directive 2006/88/EC (L328, 24.11.2006, p. 14), Article 8, Paragraph 1 (b)*
- **Aquaculture Animal Health Regulation:** "Member States shall ensure that aquaculture production businesses keep a record of ... the mortality in each epidemiological unit as relevant for the type of production;"

Existing UK Mortality Data

- Mortalities observed by finfish farmers (partially recorded) but not collated. **Shellfish? – Oysters only?**
- FHIs inspect records but do not collect data
- MSS already calculate & publish annual "mortality" rates by year for whole Scottish salmon industry based on annual census data
 - For FW salmon: Ratio ova laid down: smolts produced (by calendar year)
 - For SW salmon: Total % of year class harvested (by year of smolt input)
- Better environmental indicator than disease mortality? –
 - counts as include other losses – escapes, predation, accidents, plankton/jellyfish kills, etc.

Next steps

- **Questions – do we want/need to standardise collection?**
- **Is a Workshop needed now or follow from pilots?**
- **Who, what, when?**
 - Roles of Commission services – JRC, DG Eurostat, DG MARE
 - Clarify end-user requirements
 - Workshop – Lead/location(2017, Luxembourg/UK?)

