

# PGECON 2020 Report

Virtual meeting, 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> October



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## **Introduction**

The Planning Group on Economics Issues (PGECON) was established as a subgroup of the Commission Expert Working Group on Data Collection according to Commission Decision (2016)3301 to assist the Commission in the implementation of the Data Collection Framework (DCF). During the PGECON 2019, it was agreed that the PGECON 2020 would be held in Sophia (Bulgaria) from 18-22th of May. Due to the Covid-19 situation, it was not possible to meet in Sophia and the meeting took place in a virtual way from 5th October to 7th October 2020, with 67 experts (Annex I) representing 26 Member States and DG MARE. The meeting was chaired by the PGECON chairs.

## **Terms of Reference (ToR) for PGECON**

The ToR for the meeting were drafted in advance of the meeting by the chairs with consultation from DG MARE and session moderators.

- 1 PGECON Governance and Rules of Procedure: State of play, pros&cons of the change of status, approval process
- 2 DG MARE/JRC presentation - Identification of data needs in 2020/2021 and use of data
- 3 Revision of EU Map
- 4 Round table on effects on DC of COVID 19
- 5 Results from PGECON Workshop on Capital Value
- 6 Future developing of Regional Work Plans and role of PGECON in the process. Discussion on the future work between the group, RCG's and NCs.
- 7 Next steps in PGECON work and possible needs for subgroups or workshop.

The detailed agenda is reported in ANNEX II.

## List of Recommendations

A summary list of recommendations can be found in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of Recommendations**

<b>Rules of procedure for the RCG ECON</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 1</b>	PGECON 2020 recommends a follow-up to the draft Rules of Procedure, in Annex III to the report. During the plenary it was agreed that all MS may need more time to commit with the text produced, acknowledging at the same time that further delays on this issue could jeopardize the functioning and the work carried out in the RCG ECON.
<b>Justification</b>	Article 9(5) of EU Regulation 2017/1004 of the EP and of the Council, on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management, and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008 (recast).
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	Provide the draft text attached to this draft report to the Liaison Meeting (LM). After providing to the LM, the draft text to be circulated to the national correspondents (NC) with a deadline to send additional comments (10 November 2020). This should lead to the final adoption by a written procedure of the ROPs for the RCG ECON by beginning of 2021 with an extended deadline.
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	Chair of PGECON 2020 to provide the final draft to LM. Chair of PGECON 2020 to circulate the draft by RoPs to all NC.  NC to review the draft, send comments if necessary, and finally adopt RoPs by beginning of 2021.
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2021
<b>Comments</b>	After voting "in favour" by all NCs for changing of status of PGECON from subgroup to the COM Expert Working group to an RCG ECON the draft Rules of Procedure for RCG ECON were discussed by the NCs and a final draft version of RoPs was produced by PGECON 2020. However, because of some pending issues with the RoPs, it was difficult to get the final version for the written procedure.

<b>Adaptation of Rules of Procedure by other RCGs</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 2</b>	PGECON 2020 recommends adaptation of Rules of Procedures of all regional coordination groups.

<b>Justification</b>	The draft RoPs for RCG ECON, in Annex III to the PGECON 2020 report, require close cooperation between RCG ECON and other RCGs in drafting the regional work plans and the future workflow.
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	RCGs to consider the possibility of adaptation of their RoPs in accordance with the finally adopted RoPs of RCG ECON during the next annual meetings.
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	RCGs chairs
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2021/2
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Revision of EU Map delegated tables</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 3</b>	PGECON recommends accepting the revisions and comments in tables 6, 8, 10 and 11 of the EU MAP delegated tables as attached to this report.
<b>Justification</b>	<p>Clarify definitions of variables <i>Number of fishing operations</i>; <i>Number of nets/Length</i>, <i>Numbers of pots, traps</i> in Table 6 - Fishing activity variables. Clarify note (d) in Table 6.</p> <p>Delete the variable group and variables of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Production value per species</i> from Table 7 - Fleet economic variables;</li> <li>• Review Length classes (<i>0 - &lt; 6/8/10 m</i>; <i>6/8/10 - &lt; 12 m</i>) in Table 8 - Fleet segmentation;</li> </ul> <p>Ask on voluntary basis <i>Employment by education level</i> in Table 10 - Social variables for the fishing and aquaculture sectors.</p> <p>Review nomenclature of the variable groups <i>Personnel costs</i> and <i>Debts in</i> Table 11 - Economic variables for the aquaculture sector.</p> <p>Add variables <i>Total assets</i> in the new variable group <i>Financial position of</i> table 11.</p>
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	EC/DG MARE to revise tables 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 of the EU MAP delegated tables as attached to this report in Annex IV.
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	EC/DG MARE
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2020
<b>Comments</b>	

Revision of EU Map delegated tables and delegated Annex - data on the fish processing sector		
<b>PGECON</b>	<b>2020</b>	<p>PGECON <b>recommends</b> to revise the text of Draft Commission Delegated Decision (new EU MAP), Chapter II paragraph 7 and to include under that paragraph the reference to a revised current binding Table 11 COM 2016/1251) in order to allow MSs to collect the data for the fish processing sector on an optional basis, as fish processing data collection is established by the currently binding Regulation (EC) 2017/1004.</p> <p>Hence, PGECON recommends to include in the requirements for the optional provision of data on raw materials under the proposed Table (13) of the Commission Delegated Decision (Economic and social variables for the processing industry sector):</p> <p>Volume and value by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species</li> <li>• Production environment (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector)</li> <li>• Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU or non-EU)</li> <li>• Type of processed material (fresh, frozen and semi-processed materials) – where possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Justification</b>		<p>In order to fulfill the objectives of the CFP, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the ongoing discussion on methods for defining sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (next STECF EWG 20-05), PGECON has a serious concern that the EUROSTAT's Structural Business Statistics (SBS) data will not be appropriate for this task due to the following reasons:</p> <p>Eurostat data are collected for all the economic activities (but the primary sectors), and as such they are not detailed enough to capture the specificities of the fish processing sector as required for policy and analysis purposes. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurostat data do not cover, in some countries, small enterprises (e.g. below 10 or 20 employees). For example, Eurostat data for Greece and Croatia and Ireland do not cover the overall population, contrary to the DCF that covers all the population. In Greece, enterprises below 10 employees represent around 70% of the overall population, in the case of Ireland 50%.</li> <li>• Eurostat data are not published for all the size classes for confidentiality issues. For each reference year two size classes are obscured for all the variables: one for primary confidentiality, another one for secondary confidentiality (e.g. for Italy size class &gt;250 for primary confidentiality, 50-249 in 2016 and 20-49 in 2017 for secondary confidentiality).</li> <li>• Eurostat data are not collected at more geographical disaggregated levels (e.g. NUTS2) and/or segment level (e.g. canning/frozen), as it is planned in the data collection system of some MSs. For example, the Italian Work Plan foresees fish processing data collection at NUTS2 level while the Danish data provided under DCF divide the industry into species group segments for a more detailed understanding of industry dependence of different species.</li> <li>• Eurostat data do not cover some relevant economic variables, e.g. Subsidies, important for IA analysis of the CFP (EMFF efficiency) as well as depreciation and value of assets, hence not allowing the</li> </ul>

	<p>estimation of important indicators as net profits, net value added, return on investments (RoI), etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurostat data do not cover the social aspects, relevant for the profiling of the overall fisheries sector (fleet, processing and aquaculture).</li> <li>• Eurostat data do not cover the raw material used by the fish processing companies, which is a key to understand the linkages with the wild-capture fisheries, aquaculture and external trade.</li> </ul> <p>PGECON has also serious concerns about the possibility to leave room for “additional” to Eurostat data collection. Combining different data sources (e.g. Eurostat for economic and DCF for social) would mean combining datasets with different coverage of population, and therefore the datasets will not be comparable. Overcoming this problem is hindered by the fact that Eurostat and DCF data collections are carried out, in many MSs, by different bodies.</p>
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	<p>EC/DG MARE to replace the text of the delegated decision annex, article 7. Socioeconomic data on the fish processing sector, CHAPTER II with the following text: <u>Socio-economic data on the fish processing industry may be collected on an optional basis, when data collected under the European business statistics regulation as published by Eurostat are not at the correct resolution or are not of sufficient quality or coverage for the intended scientific use. In the latter case, appropriate alternative data collections should be used.</u></p> <p><u>The optional data collection should cover variables indicated in former Table 11 (new 13).</u></p> <p><u>Economic data may be collected on an annual basis and social every three years, on the preceding year, counting from 2018.</u></p> <p>EC/DG MARE to include in the revised EU MAP delegated Tables the revised Table 11 (now table 13), presented below as Annex V, including the list of economic and social variables for the fish processing sector as attached to this report.</p> <p>MSs to provide appropriate justification in their Work Plan for extensive or complementary to Eurostat data collection.</p> <p>PGECON to revise the Guidance document for better definition of socio-economic variables for fish processing.</p> <p>PGECON to discuss on age categories for social variables during the planned workshop.</p>
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	EC/DG MARE, MS
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2020-21
<b>Comments</b>	

Revision of the PGECON guidance on definition and methodologies for the fleet	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 5</b>	PGECON 2020 recommends revising the PGECON document on definition and methodologies for the EU MAP variables to include the results of the 2019 Capital WS and the discussion during the plenary PGECON meeting.



<b>Justification</b>	<p>WS Capital (Salerno, 2019) highlighted that standardized methodology for capital value and depreciation costs are important to ensure consistency. However, present version of the guidance document is misleading in the methodology section because it allows subjective estimations not consistent with the definition.</p> <p>According to European System of National Accounts and to international standards, the PIM method is the more appropriate methodology. PGECON concludes that PIM approach should be the preferable method, but a certain degree of flexibility is needed to allow a better compliance of MS to EU MAP requirements.</p> <p>PGECON concluded that the guidance document should be amended to reflect this conclusion.</p>
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	<p>Text in the guidance document to be changed as follows:</p> <p>Consumption of fixed capital:</p> <p><i>The methodological framework for the estimation of consumption of fixed capital should be coherent with the one applied for the estimation on the value of physical capital.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Application of the perpetual inventory method (PIM, cross reference: <a href="https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055">https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055</a>). The key parameters to be considered in order to estimate the consumption of fixed capital within the PIM methodological framework are: the asset service life (that determine the economic depreciation rates), the retirement distribution and the depreciation function. The depreciation functions that can be applied in a PIM are: arithmetic (straight-line method) or geometric (degressive method).</i></li> <li><i>2. Alternative methods based on company surveys. These alternative methods may be used if the derived estimates reflect the actual definition of net capital stock (depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year).</i></li> </ol> <p><i>In case the PIM is not used, MS should explain and justify the application of alternative methods in the WP and in the AR.</i></p> <p>Value of physical capital:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Application of the perpetual inventory method (PIM, cross reference: <a href="https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055">https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055</a>)</i></li> <li><i>2. Alternative methods based on company surveys. These alternative methods may be used if the derived estimates reflect the actual definition of net capital stock (depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year).</i></li> </ol> <p><i>In case the PIM is not used, MS should explain and justify the application of alternative methods in the WP and in the AR.</i></p> <p>The updated guidance document to be published on the DCF Web page.</p>
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	Chairs of RCG ECON DG MARE
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	By the end of 2020
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Implementation of the guidelines for the valuation of the fishing rights</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 6</b>	<p>PGECON recommends accepting the conclusions from the WS on capital value regarding the implementation of the guidelines for the valuation of the fishing rights.</p> <p>PGECON recommends a transition period in which MS explore the possibilities to apply the guidelines in their situation. During this transition period the obligation to gather information on the value of intangible assets should only include the transferable fishing rights.</p> <p>PGECON also recommends that in the meantime possibilities are sought to facilitate the sharing of experiences with the application of the guidelines in the various MS and the further development of the methodology.</p>
<b>Justification</b>	<p>Although the usefulness of the value of intangible assets in economic analysis is evident, the evaluation of not transferable fishing rights is a data intensive exercise that is not easily implemented.</p> <p>In order to take this issue forward, the PGECON concluded that optimally the value of intangibles should include the value of all (transferable and not transferable) fishing rights, but that in the current situation this is not possible as valuation of all rights need additional data collection and methodological development to be carried out.</p>
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	<p>MS should use the guidelines in the coming period, adapt them to the specific fisheries (in terms of the basic assumptions to be used) and provide estimation of fishing rights.</p> <p>Because some methods (like the hedonic model for the evaluation of the intangibles) require additional data collection, the MS WP should be adapted to include additional data collection for the implementation of the methods proposed by the guidelines.</p> <p>The guidelines for the valuation of the fishing rights has to be included in the guidance document on definition and methodologies for the fleet and published on the DCF Web page.</p>
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	<p>Chairs of RCG ECON</p> <p>DG MARE</p> <p>MSs</p>
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2021-22
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Regional coordination in the drafting of RWP</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 7</b>	PGECON 2020 recommends establishment of coordination process between all RCGs in regards to the drafting of Regional Work Plan (RWP).
<b>Justification</b>	<p>During PGECON 2020, the drafting of the Regional Work Plan process was presented. The main tools for achieving good coordination of the drafting process will be consultations and communication with all involved bodies and stakeholders.</p>

<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	All stakeholders and relevant bodies, as well as all relevant MSs, should interact to create good coordination and ensure the unobstructed drafting of RWP.
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	RCGs, MSs, DG MARE
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2020/2021
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>RCG ECON workshop on social variables</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 8</b>	PGECON recommends RCG ECON workshop on social variables, which should include, where possible, the presence of experts with different areas of scientific expertise (specifically social scientists) in order to investigate the current and future social data collection, system of social indicators and their use for assessment in different economic sectors.
<b>Justification</b>	A refinement of existing variables with reference to breakdown and definition (employment status, education level, enterprise number; unpaid labour) and addition of new ones (payment structure; retirement age and pensions; new economic and social indices). The EU MAP Guidelines, definition and methodologies on social variables should be separated by sectors (fishing fleet, aquaculture and fish processing) in order to take into account the specificities of social variables by sectors.
<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	A workshop on social data collection should be established.
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	Chairs of RCG ECON 2020
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2021
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Conducting of postponed workshops</b>	
<b>PGECON 2020 Recommendation 9</b>	PGECON 2020 recommends all postponed workshops to be held in 2021 with the possible timeframe before the annual RCG ECON meeting.
<b>Justification</b>	Due to the situation with COVID-19 in 2020, a number of WSs were postponed. However, PGECON 2020 stressed the importance of work that should be done and the need for conducting of postponed WSs.

<b>Follow-up actions needed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on the fisheries-based approach of fleet segmentation;</li> <li>• Workshop on aquaculture issues;</li> <li>• Quality Assurance Framework Subgroup Workshop.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</b>	Chairs of RCG ECON
<b>Time frame (Deadline)</b>	2020 and 2021
<b>Comments</b>	

## **ToR 1. PGECON Governance and Rules of Procedure: State of play, pros & cons of the change of status, approval process**

### **Objectives**

The aim of this ToR was to give an update on the state of play and decision process on PGECON status, and a discussion on the Rules of Procedure that PGECON could adopt. Kolyo Zhelev gave a summary of the work conducted to date on this ToR which was followed by input from Monika Sterczewska Unit C.3 - Scientific Advice and Data Collection (DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries).

To have a clear picture of the up-to-date attitude of the Member States in regards to the final decision for the PGECON status, a consultation process was conducted in 2020. Some of the MS did not provide an answer, while other MS fully support the changing of the PGECON status into a pan-European Regional Coordination Group. It could provide more flexibility for the data collection planning process and facilitate the decision-making process, and it would reinforce PGECON role giving the possibility to formally fix definitions and data provisions in case they are not fully covered by the legal text (i.e. categories for social variables).

In the 2020 National Correspondents meeting, a week before the PGECON annual meeting, the state of play of the PGECON status was presented with further information about the consequences of becoming an RCG. During the meeting it was pointed out that further clarification by the legal unit of DG MARE regarding the voting procedure is needed; the NC were asked for their opinion only. 17 MS expressed their opinion on the changing of PGECON status and all of them were in favour of RCG.

### **Achievements**

After the presentation of the state of play document regarding the PGECON status, an opportunity was given to all MS to express their comments and concerns. A number of issues were discussed. Els Torreele, the Belgian national correspondent, expressed support for the transformation of PGECON. Other questions regarded the subgroups and how PGECON would be involved in intersessional subgroups, and what will be the interaction with other RCGs. It was also proposed to align future Rules of Procedure with other RCGs RoPs.

It was pointed out that the scope will be amended to some extent but in general, the focus will remain on assisting the Commission and all MS to coordinate their work in socio-economic data collection. Also, the communication process with all RCGs is already planned as well as becoming a part of the future intersessional subgroup.

Heikki Lehtinen, the Finnish national correspondent, supported the idea of further improving the RoPs to be absolutely clear that the coordination work on economic issues will continue within the regional coordination group only, and not anymore within the Commission Expert subgroup. The need for improvement was stressed by Evelina Sabatella. She mentioned that the RoPs still refer to the Commission Expert Group (set up by the Commission in 2012, later covered by 2016 decision on expert groups) and this should be corrected.

### **PGECON status:**

Due to the absence of some NCs DG MARE explained possibilities for the voting procedure with present NCs and participants with a mandate for voting or continuation by written procedure. Another proposal was made in order to go ahead – to spend effort on urgent communication to missing NCs and getting their vote by e-mail or during the round table if they could join the meeting. This proposal was legally acceptable and turned out a very pragmatic approach for the transformation of PGECON to RCG, and at a later stage, the voting procedure was conducted. After the voting and the fundamental and very significant discussion regarding concerns of landlocked countries (LLC) finally all NCs agreed that the status of PGECON will be changed to RCG and in the RoP of the RCG the exact responsibilities of LLC as participants in the group will be mentioned. The participants decided in a survey to name the new RCG “RCG ECON”.

**Rules of Procedure:**

The draft RoPs were presented during the first day of the meeting and deeply discussed among all participants. A number of changes were made and it was concluded that additional time is needed in order to draft the text correctly.

After the fruitful discussion, the rules of procedure were adapted, and during the last day of the meeting they were presented to the participants. The text was well discussed in detail and amended as much as possible. The draft text of rules of procedure which was forwarded to the national correspondents for additional comments before a written procedure is attached to this report as Annex III.

**Recommendations:**

Taking into account the discussion mentioned above, PGECON **recommends** the draft text of RoPs to be circulated to NC with a deadline to send additional comments (10 November 2020). This should lead to the final adoption by a written procedure of the RoPs for RCG ECON by the beginning of 2021.

PGECON 2020 also recommends all RCGs to consider the possibility of adaptation of their RoPs in accordance with the finally adopted RoPs of RCG ECON during the next annual meetings.

**ToR 2 - DG MARE/JRC presentation - Identification of data needs in 2020/2021 and use of data****Objectives**

Angel Calvo and Javier Villar-Burke, from Unit A4 DG MARE, gave an overview of main data needs for the period 2020-21 and use of socio-economic data. Social and economic data play a fundamental role in supporting policy analysis in the CFP in particular for the evaluation of structural policies. An increasing number of policies analyses and uses is based on social and economic data, particularly to support Impact Assessment Analyses (e.g. I.A. on future EU tax directive in terms of fuel exemptions), balance indicators analysis, analysis of conservation measures, and evaluation of management plans. For the end users, comparable, scientifically sound, high quality and solid data are of paramount importance.

In this regard, the socio-economic data collection is considered a well-established system which made a lot of progress since the first data collection regulation (DCR). However, there is still some room for improvement. With reference to economic data for the fishing fleet, DG MARE emphasized the need of further simplification (in terms of concepts and nomenclature) and the importance to keep stability in time series in order to facilitate trend analyses and the evaluation of structural policies. In this perspective DG MARE also stressed the need to fine-tune some economic variables e.g.: capital value, intangible assets, production value per species.

Also for the variable group 'personnel costs' of the EU MAP table of economic variables for the aquaculture sector, DG MARE expressed the need to update the nomenclature in order to be consistent with categories used for the fishery sector and in EUROSTAT Structural Business Statistics (SBS).

For the social data, DG MARE expressed the intention to make compulsory data at level of fleet category and to ask data at fleet segment on voluntary basis. Another aspect to be further explored in future data calls for social variables refers to community profiling which should be also

differentiated by fleet, aquaculture and processing taking in due account of characteristics and specific features of data collection for these three sectors.

For fish processing data, DG MARE expressed the necessity to overcome inefficiencies concerning overlaps with EUROSTAT Structural Business Statistics and inconsistencies among data collections. DG MARE also stressed the usefulness of the collection of data on raw material although it revealed to be very challenging.

Jordi Guillen, from the JRC, explained that in the 2020 data call, two extra fields were added: GEAR and FISHERY. These two new fields have a similar function as the Geographical Indicator field, in the sense that they can be used on a voluntary basis by the MS to differentiate the data submitted for their fleets. The Geographical Indicator is mainly used to report the origin of the fleets when they do not come from the main land (e.g. Azores, Canary Islands, Reunion).

The field GEAR allows to distinguish differences in the gears belonging to the same fleet segment (e.g. to distinguish between surface and bottom longlines, that otherwise would be reported together under HOK). The field FISHERY allows to distinguish fisheries that are operating in different regions or RFMOs (e.g. NAFO).

### **Achievements**

Participants discussed suggestions from DG MARE and endorsed recommendations concerning a more consistent and rational nomenclature and definition of social and economic variables for fishery, aquaculture and fish processing sectors. They also recognised the need for harmonised data and a wide coverage of the dataset and, for this, decided to update the Guidance document for definitions of both social and economic variables as described under TOR 3 and TOR 5 of this report. There was also a lively and interesting debate on the reasons behind the exclusion of fish processing data collection from new EU MAP. It was observed that although there is a need for optimisation of data sources in order to avoid overlap of data collection, there is also a need for stability on data series. It was observed and demonstrated that EUROSTAT SBS and EU MAP data sources are not mutually exclusive but complementary as the European Business Statistics from Eurostat provide a few economic variables with limited data disaggregation compared to data collection under EU MAP. An in-depth overview of counter-arguments to the exclusion of fish processing data collection from EU MAP and the underlying reasons are reported under TOR 3.3.

## **ToR 3 - Revision of EU Map**

### **ToR 3.1 NEW EU MAP TABLES**

In July 2020 EU Commission asked PGECON for comments on the changes in EU MAP delegated annex with tables, in order to submit consolidated tables during the NC meeting held on 23 September 2020.

PGECON submitted EU MAP delegated tables annotated with inputs received during the on-line consultation carried out between July and August 2020. The consultation process revealed the need to better clarify some definitions and variables.

### **Objectives**

- Provide new consolidated EU MAP delegated tables including only common and agreed comments which are relevant for PGECON.
- Where necessary, better clarify the definition of socio-economic variables listed in the EU MAP delegated tables.

### **Achievements**

Table 6 Fishing activity variables: Clarify definitions of the following variables:

- *Number of fishing operations*: this variable is not defined in the EU MAP delegated annex
- *Number of nets/Length*: it is not specified whether length per net or total length should be used.
- *Numbers of pots, traps*: it is not specified whether average numbers per day or total numbers should be used.
- note (d) *Collection methods of these variables for vessels less than 10 metres is to be agreed at marine region level*: to clarify if vessels less than 10 metres to be collected only when methods are agreed at marine region.

Table 7 - Fleet economic variables:

- Delete the variable group *Production value per species* and corresponding variables *Value of landings per species* and *average price per species*

Table 8 - Fleet segmentation:

- Use Length classes: *0 - < 6/8/10 m*; *6/8/10 - < 12 m* in order to account for thresholds for the logbook obligation;

Table 10 - Social variables for the fishing and aquaculture sectors:

- Ask on a voluntary basis *Employment by education level*.

Table 11 - Economic variables for the aquaculture sector:

- replace the variable group *Personnel costs* with *Labour costs*
- replace the variable group *Debts* with *Financial position*.
- add the variable *Total assets* in the new variable group *Financial position*.

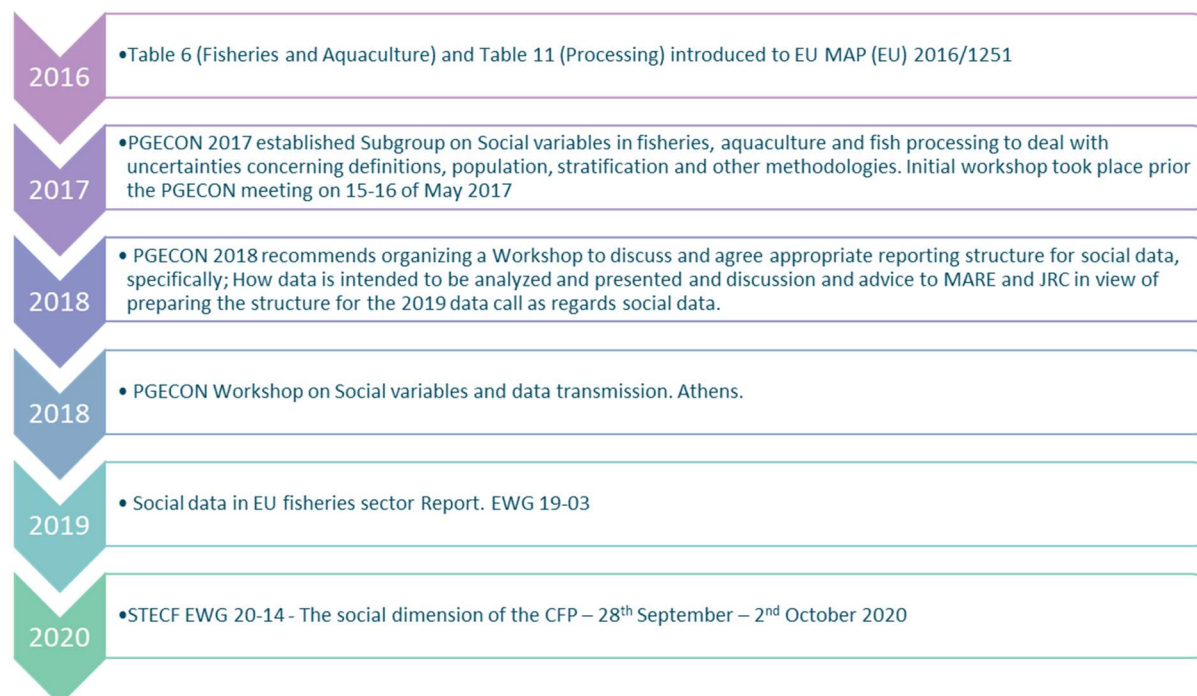
## Recommendations

PGECON recommends accepting the revisions and comments in tables 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 of the new EU MAP delegated tables as attached in Annex IV to this report.



### ToR 3.2 – Review of social variable

PGECON meetings and workshops have had a strong focus on the social variables in the recent years. Figure 1 gives a summary of the main highlights as presented for this ToR .



**Figure 1.** Summary of social variables discussion at PGECON

During PGECON 2019 social variables were again discussed. However, at this time the final report for the EWG 19-03 was not yet available hence the group could not sufficiently deal with the EWG 19-03 recommendations. In relation to social variables PGECON 2019 did recommend or conclude the following:

- 6.12 Social data collection: **continue using the current frequency** - every three years starting in 2018 when first data was collected for 2017 until further experience has been gained from both end users and experts.
- 6.13 Social data collection: **no revision needed** in tables 6 and 11, but the pilot study should be deleted from the new EU-MAP text (Chapter III 5 (b); 6 (b)) and the text box for the pilot study in the new EU-MAP guidelines should be revised accordingly (COM 2016/1701).
- 6.14 Social data collection: the option for two types of age categories for variable "Employment by age" in fish processing Table 11 should be provided. Table 11 does not require a revision, but in the document for definitions the two types of age categories should be included. In the first instance MS should use PGECON age categories and, only as a second option, to align with other EU standards (Eurostat LFS). Otherwise, MS should justify different choices. **Age categories for fisheries should be broken down further** and updated in the guidelines. The age category '40-64' should be broken down, at least, by '40-54' and '55-64'. The variable "Employment by education level" should be optional in the

table 6 and table 11 and where possible for those MS reporting this a variable on Vocational/Technical training should be included.

From the 29<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October the STECF EWG 20-14 on 'The social dimension of the CFP' took place. This had five ToRs, two of which were directly relevant to the social data collected under the EU MAP, these were ToR 4 and 5. Their aims were as follows:

- ToR 4 - Provide recommendations, building upon those of EWG 19-03, on the social data collection as part of the 2021 data call and propose a methodology tool for the analysis of social data obtained from the DCF combined with data from other sources such as ESTAT. This tool should allow the development of a time-series and trends and the use of social data in assessing the social impact of envisaged fisheries measures. Improvements in how data on specific variables e.g. unpaid labour by gender, could be collected, further stratified or disaggregated and analysed should be assessed. Particular attention needs to be paid to the coherence and consistency with the data gathered for, and the assessment provided in the Annual Economic Report and previous work carried out by PGECON on e.g. unpaid labour or by ICES Working Group on social indicators in fisheries.
- ToR 5 - STECF plenary 19-02 in reviewing EWG 19-03 concluded that in order to be able to properly analyse and interpret social data collected, the data should be put in context through the provision of national and/or local fisheries sector profiles. The EWG should propose methodologies for the expansion of the social analysis to include a) national profiles which may include information on fisheries and quota management regimes, employment status of fishers, summaries of existing community profiles etc. and b) specific fishing community social profiles where possible.

As EWG 20-14 took place a week before PGECON 2020, a final version of the report was not available. As such only broad summaries and recommendations could be communicated and should not be taken as final.

#### **ToR 4 Summary**

This ToR reviewed the recommendations from EWG 19-03 and developed more conclusions and recommendations. The group first assessed variables which needed to have clearer definitions and then assessed the possibility of redefining or adding new variables.

General comments on the refinement of existing variables were:

- Age Category. Age categories for Fisheries should be broken down further and updated in PGECON definitions. The age category '40-64' should be broken down, at least, by '40-54' and '55-64'. Other options are available.
- Unpaid Labour. Value of Unpaid Labour: Work that produces goods or services but is unremunerated (OECD Glossary of statistical terms). People working only on shore should be included only if their work is directly related to fishing activity. The group agreed that the variable "imputed value of unpaid labour" should include the labour costs of all persons delivering unpaid labour. Unpaid Labour: Number of engaged crew that have not received compensation in the form of wages, salaries, fees, gratuities, piecework pay or remuneration in kind. These definitions should be harmonised and wording should refer to

the total number of people, or value, of individuals, crew and/or family members engaged in an unpaid capacity...' or words to that effect.

There was also a discussion on refinement of other variable and the additions of new variables which include, but are not limited to;

- Breakdown of 'Employment Status'
- Education level – add vocational training
- Enterprise Numbers. Better use of this variable, expand data on ownership
- More clarity on gender data
- More clarity on unpaid value definitions and MS methodologies (SSF)
- Other Income – 'Non-fishing'
- Payment Structures (crew share, wages and salaries)
- Retirement age and pensions
- Combination of Economic and Social Data to create new indices (e.g. unpaid labour/effort)

The general conclusions from this ToR were that we need to be pragmatic in relation to what we can achieve in the short term and instead plan for the future of social data collection and analysis. There should be a short term and a long term plan from DG MARE, with assistance from PGECON, on how these variables will evolve.

The EWG proposed a WS of RCG ECON Social Variables. It is recommended that this group must consist of social scientists as well as the data collectors and/or end users as PGECON has consistently commented that the required expertise does not exist in their group to deal with these issues.

## **TOR 5 summary**

EWG discussed in detail recommendations from EWG 19-03 that both national and community profiles should be developed in order to contextualise DCF data.

### **Rationale for profiling**

- National profiles help us to contextualise the DCF data at a high level – without this context DCF variable data only leads to further questions.
- Community profiles provide information on communities where fisheries have a strong social and cultural footprint. This local importance is usually not detailed at national level.
- A time series of community profiles will provide a much more detailed understanding of trends and developments within fishing communities than currently possible and which reveal the local effects of policies often developed at transnational level.

The report provides guidance on the elements which should be covered in both profiles.

For national profiles a detailed template is provided with a comprehensive list of descriptors, and we outline potential data sources, the majority of which are available at sources such as Eurostat, DCF, Eurofound.

National profile descriptors are grouped under 4 main categories or sections:

- Factsheet (overview of headline facts including *inter alia* fleet segments, fleet capacity, numbers employed, volume and value of landings),
- Description of main fisheries and fleets (including *inter alia* main fisheries and fleets, geographical areas fished, market and trade, management and governance).

- Social, cultural and economic aspects of fisheries (including *inter alia* institutional and legal elements, employment, social security and labour aspects, education and training)
- Trends, issues and development (including *inter alia* recent history and trends in the industry (e.g. development of ports), Constraints, Opportunities)
- We provide example text from Germany for the national profile to provide additional guidance; and example text/tables/graphs from community profiles. For **Community Profiles**, which is a much more detailed undertaking than the compiling of national profiles, the report provides guidance to MS who wish to conduct community profiles. The guidelines attempt to ensure that community profiling initiatives across Europe address some common issues and questions without being overly prescriptive. A detailed description of the desired sections and some methodological advice are provided. The report also includes links to examples of good profiles.

Sections of the Community profiles could include:

- Introduction to the people and the place
- Social structure
- Infrastructure and facilities
- Current economy
- Involvement in fisheries
- Governance
- Cultural attributes relating to fisheries and the sea
- Challenges and opportunities
- Trends and development
- Overall footprint of fisheries in the community

The work compiling profiles can be undertaken in a number of ways:

- Staff on-hand in the contracting authority – e.g., in a Ministry, Department of Fisheries, or affiliated Science Center.
- By collaborating with academics or research institutes – E.g. Japanese Ministry fisheries extension service or US Sea Grant Program.
- Funding for community profiling could potentially be achieved through the EMFAF.

In summary this ToR provided recommendations that:

- Outlines recommendations on **pragmatic solutions on** how to resource these profiling initiatives.
- Provide guidance on the skills required for profiling and outline the necessity for the involvement (ideally as part of a team) of a non-economic social scientist.

## **PGECON 2020 discussion**

The discussion that followed the presentation from Emmet Jackson touched on some of the draft recommendations from EWG 20-14. However, given the time constraints and the fact that there was no final report from EWG 20-14 it was agreed, in line with EWG 20-14 recommendation, that a dedicated social variables workshop would be held in 2021 to systematically go through all the recommendations from EWG 19-03 and EWG 20-14 and that where possible the chairs from these meetings should attend. It was also noted that social scientists need to be at these meetings but that some mechanism needs to be found to arrange for social experts presence under the DCF. A date and chairs of this workshop need to be confirmed.

## **Recommendations**

PGECON recommended a workshop on social variables, which should include, where possible, the presence of experts with different areas of scientific expertise (specifically social scientists) in order to investigate the current and future social data collection, a system of social indicators, and their use for assessment in different economic sectors. The objectives of the WS are a refinement of existing variables with reference to breakdown and definition (employment status, education level, enterprise number; unpaid labour) and addition of new ones (payment structure; retirement age and pensions; new economic and social indices). PGECON also recommended a revision of the EU MAP guidelines, definition and methodologies on social variables, which should be separated by sectors (fishing fleet, aquaculture, and processing) in order to take into account the specificities of social variables by sectors.

## **ToR 3.3 – Fish processing data collection**

The article 7 in Chapter II of the revised EU MAP delegated Annex (draft version 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020) states that “In addition to data submitted by the Member States in line with the European business statistics Regulation as published by Eurostat, Member States may collect additional socioeconomic data on the fish processing sector.”.

The data collection for the processing industry is established to give a more comprehensive picture of the importance of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors within the EU both nationally and regionally, especially focusing on employment and the value generated from this sector. This is done to support the goals of the CFP and foster sustainable development in regional/coastal areas.

The data collection under the EMFF has been voluntary; however, if it has been a part of the individual MS national work program it has also been eligible for EMFF funding. It seems that this will no longer be the case under the new EU MAP, where this data collection is suggested to be replaced with a generalized approach using Eurostat data (as from the current draft text of art.7 of the delegated Annex). For MS that have used the opportunity to elaborate more extensive data collection than the existing (Eurostat) ones for the processing industry, this is expected to have significant consequences. Thus, PGECON suggests that the data collection for the processing industry remains optional and eligible for EMFF funding if implemented in the MS national program.

## **Objectives**

In order to fulfil the objectives of the CFP, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the ongoing discussion on Methods for defining sustainable fisheries and aquaculture (next STECF EWG 20-05), PGECON has a serious concern that the EUROSTAT's Structural Business Statistics (SBS) data will not be appropriate for this task. In the following, some of the most important issues and concerns are listed.

**Achievements**

Eurostat data are collected for all the economic activities (but the primary sectors), and as such they are not detailed enough to capture the specificities of the fish processing sector as required for policy and analysis purposes. In particular:

- Eurostat data do not cover, in some countries, small enterprises (e.g. below 10 or 20 employees). For example, Eurostat data for Greece and Croatia and Ireland do not cover the overall population, contrary to the DCF that covers all the population. In Greece, enterprises below 10 employees represent around 70% of the overall population, in the case of Ireland 50%.
- Eurostat data are not published for all the size classes for confidentiality issues. For each reference year two size classes are obscured for all the variables: one for primary confidentiality, another one for secondary confidentiality (e.g. for Italy size class >250 for primary confidentiality, 50-249 in 2016 and 20-49 in 2017 for secondary confidentiality). This implies a loss of data for specific segments and a break over the data series, not allowing proper analysis.
- Eurostat data are not collected at more geographical disaggregated levels (e.g. NUTS2) and/or segment level (e.g. canning/frozen), as it is planned in the data collection system of some MSs. For example, the Italian Work Plan foresees fish processing data collection at NUTS2 level while the Danish data provided under DCF divide the industry into species group segments for a more detailed understanding of industry dependence of different species.
- Eurostat data do not cover some relevant economic variables, e.g. Subsidies, important for IA analysis of the CFP (EMFF efficiency) as well as depreciation and value of assets, hence not allowing the estimation of important indicators as net profits, net value added, return on investments (RoI), etc.
- Eurostat data do not cover the social aspects, relevant for the profiling of the overall fisheries sector (fleet, processing and aquaculture).
- Eurostat data do not cover the raw material used by the fish processing companies, which is key to understand the linkages with the wild-capture fisheries, aquaculture and external trade.

PGECON **has also serious concerns** about the possibility to leave room for “additional” to Eurostat data collection. Combining different data sources (e.g. Eurostat for economic and DCF for social) would mean combining datasets with different coverage of the population, and therefore the datasets will not be comparable. Overcoming this problem is hindered by the fact that Eurostat and DCF data collections are carried out, in many MSs, by different bodies.

## Recommendations

Taking into account all the issues mentioned above, PGECON **recommends** to revise the text of Draft Commission Delegated Decision Annex (new EU MAP), Chapter II paragraph 7 and to include under that paragraph the reference to a revised Table (new 13/ Current binding Table 11 COM 2016/1251) in order to allow MSs to collect the data for the fish processing sector on an optional basis, as fish processing data collection is established by the currently binding Regulation (EC) 2017/1004.

MSs that deem that data submitted in line with the European business statistics Regulation as published by Eurostat **are not at the correct resolution or are not of sufficient quality or coverage** for the intended scientific use, should provide appropriate justification in their Work Plan, if they want to collect data for the fish processing sector and provide a list of variables planned for collection.

Some MSs have changed their national legislation to be able to collect the DCF data for processing sector and the data is used not only for the preparation of the data call but also for EMFF and other purposes at national level.

PGECON also **recognises** the need for harmonised data and a wide coverage of the dataset and, for this, **recommends** to update the *EU MAP Guidance document*<sup>1</sup> for definitions of both social and economic variables and to consider the STECF EWG 19-15 recommendation for the collection of social variables following the educational categories suggested by previous PGECON recommendation and to split the age group 40-64 into two smaller groups: e.g. 40-54; 55-64, to be further discussed during the planned PGECON workshop on social variables.

PGECON **recognises** the importance of the raw material used by the fish processing sector as a relevant element for the economic performance of the sector as well as for policy purposes (link with fisheries and aquaculture).

PGECON also **recognises** the difficulty encountered by MSs in collecting raw material data, due to a high reluctance of the industry in the release of elementary data, as highlighted by the findings of the SECFISH project.

Furthermore, PGECON **observes** that the SECFISH has provided deeper knowledge on the possibility of raw material data collection and potential guidelines, providing best practices (i.e. the Finnish data collection) as well as alternative proposal (i.e. data stored at the enterprise level according to the traceability legislation).

In the light of this, PGECON **recommends** keeping also the request for raw material in the revised text of the EU MAP, on an optional basis, as for the social and economic variables. To allow proper use of these data, PGECON **recognises** the importance of additional specification other than volume by species and origin.

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1

[https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dc/fleet/guidance#\\_48\\_INSTANCE\\_pMomk7430Xoy\\_%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fdatacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu%252Fdocuments%252F10213%252F1291400%252FEUMAP\\_guidance%252Bdocument\\_2020.pdf](https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dc/fleet/guidance#_48_INSTANCE_pMomk7430Xoy_%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fdatacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu%252Fdocuments%252F10213%252F1291400%252FEUMAP_guidance%252Bdocument_2020.pdf)

Hence, PGECON **recommends** to include in the requirements for the optional provision of data on raw materials (under the proposed Table (13?) of the Commission Delegated Decision (Economic and social variables for the processing industry sector):

Volume and value by:

- Species
- Production environment (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector)
- Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU or non-EU)
- Type of processed material (fresh, frozen and semi-processed materials) – where possible

PGECON hence **considers** that the SECFISH findings, now available, can be used to establish a common approach to data collection of raw material and **recommends** a Workshop to train people involved in data collection on the possible, alternative and most efficient methods to collect raw material data by MS.

PGECON is also **concerned** about the eligibility for funding under the EMFAF of more extensive data collection program for the fish processing, if included by MSs in their Work Plan. MS will have no incentive to continue to collect a more comprehensive dataset for the processing industry. Thus, the collection of “additional” data will not serve its purpose, because they would not be comparable with Eurostat data.

PGECON **observes**, that in order to fulfil the aims of the European Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and its objective of integration of a gender dimension in the financial instruments, such as the EMFAF, it is necessary to collect gender specific data on sectors where women are especially represented, as the fish processing industry.

PGECON also **observes** that as far as the budget issue, it must be noted that the processing industry data collection is the cheapest.

PGECON **is also concerned** about the future of the biannual data collection and the related experts meeting and report on the fish processing industry. It is worth noting that end-users endorse the benefits deriving from this report (MAC note on this <https://marketac.eu/en/mac-advice-data-collection-by-stecf/>). If the data collection for the fish processing sector is excluded from the EU-MAP, will still there be a written report? How should this work be carried out in the future? Because the current array of fish processing statistical data in EUROSTAT do not fully cover all needs of the Annual Economic Report for fish processing and cannot provide complete information used for economic parameters estimation.

### ToR 3.4 – Review of the National Work Plan Template & Guidance templates

#### Objectives

Jörg Berkenhagen presented the main revisions of the NWP templates for Fishing activity data, economic and social data in tables 2a. 3a. 3b. 3c. 5b last revised in EWG 19-12 meeting on Revision of the EU-MAP and Work Plan template (STECF-19-12).



The review was aimed to provide a link between EU-MAP requirements, National Work Plans (NWP), Annual Reports (AR), and Data Transmission (DT) in line with the objective of reaching a robust solution involving databases and online reporting tools and of simplifying and improving the efficiency of the current AR reporting and evaluation system, which has often proved time-consuming and error-prone.

The amendments concerned:

- Table 2A containing information on the collection of effort and landings data
- Table 3A\_1 containing information on the collection of fleet economic data
- The newly introduced Table 3A\_2 containing information on fleet segment size and on clustering
- The replacement of Table 5B on quality assurance with a quality document describing the protocols, including the links to the protocols and documentation.

### **Achievements**

In tables 2A, 3A\_1 and the new 3A\_2 additional columns were introduced:

- Geo-Indicator: distinction for outermost regions etc.
- Activity indicator: L- Low active; A- Active; I – Inactive
- Segment or Cluster name: Either the name of segment or cluster
- Planned coverage: percentage, based on total numbers of vessels
- Reference year: (not the year of collection).

For the evaluation of the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) it was proposed to delete table 5B and to develop a descriptive template of how processes of data collection quality are assured and improved. Therefore, the main QAF principles (Confidentiality, Sound methodology, Accuracy and reliability, Accessibility and clarity) of Table 5B have to be transferred to the WP text part to provide descriptive information. The EWG 19-12 agreed that QAF requirements should be covered by the preparation and use of the Methodological Report accompanying Work Plans and Annual Reports (AR).

### **Recommendations**

Amendments to tables 2A and 3A\_1 and 3A\_2 have considered quite straightforward and self-explanatory.

With reference to the Activity indicator, it was suggested to add a fourth code “NA” (not available). Concern was expressed over the Implementation of quality assurance through a text due to the lack of experience with the Methodological Report and with Text Box 3A. Clear guidelines on these documents are advisable.

## **ToR 4. Round table on effects on DC of COVID 19**

### **Overview**

PGECON discussed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection and possible gaps in data reporting next year. Each MS was requested to prepare in advance a presentation for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and more specifically on the issues like data needs/data quality (in terms of variables/fleet’s coverage, etc.), delays, and other consequences on data collection.

Reports from the member states, sharing of expertise:

Claudia Winkler presents the situation in **Austria** as mentioned that the country there is a limited data collection due to the threshold. Three pilot studies were presented and no delays are expected.

Simona Nicheva presented the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in **Bulgaria**: Before 8th of March, there were no cases of COVID-19 in Bulgaria. On 13th of March, after 23 reported cases in one day, Bulgaria declared a state of emergency for one month until 13 April, which was extended to 14 May, when the national emergency was lifted, and in its place was declared a state of an emergency epidemic situation, which is still ongoing.

At the beginning of each year, in Bulgaria are collected the questionnaires for the previous year, so the annual questionnaires, containing the data for 2019 from the 3 sectors – fleet, aquaculture and processing were received and processed on-time. There were no major issues. Some of the questionnaires came later than the legal deadline because the travelling was not allowed and not all of the people are using e-mails. There were no issues in regards to the data reporting – all the data calls and reports were prepared and reported before the deadline.

Ivana Vukov presented the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on data collection in **Croatia**. Fleet economic data collection for 2019 was postponed for October/November 2020. Economic data collection for the aquaculture and processing industry for 2019 was finalized in July. New Ordinance on data submission of economic forms was adopted in July (OG 79/2020) – the Ordinance takes into account all possible ways of data collection (phone interviews, e-mail submission, paper forms). There are no disturbances in transversal data collection since the Ordinance on the submission of logbooks and fishing reports was urgently changed to allow electronic submission of paper forms via e-mail.

Jiri Dubec provided information for the **Czech Republic**. He mentioned that the data collection is running well and is organized under a public procurement method. The results are expected on time even with a COVID-19 situation.

Janek Lees from **Estonia** also provide information that the economic data collection is running well and is not affected by the pandemic.

Heidi Pokki presented the situation in **Finland**. All data collected as planned in the work plan. Some change in the response rates is expected for processing survey and accounting survey for small-scale vessels. No delays foreseen in the data calls/reporting. In Finland the remote work is strongly encouraged. As remote access was widely practiced by Luke personnel prior to COVID-19 epidemic, office work is quite unaffected.

Jörg Berkenhagen provided information for **Germany**. He started by showing a graph of landings until July where a reduction of 55% and 23% for coastal fleet and large-scale fleet respectively was observed. Concerning the data collection no major consequences because the collection of questionnaires was finished when COVID-19 started.

Minne Marie-Dominique presents the situation in **France** as mentioned that data is collected through two different complementary procedures by two partners. They will use a new method for the estimation of the variables because the data is collected through face-to-face interviews, especially for small-scale fisheries. No delays are expected for the aquaculture sector.

Irene Tzouramani presented the information for **Greece**. The lockdown period was from March to May and this period was crucial for economic data collection where a lot of traveling is needed for a face-to-face interview and the situation caused a small delay. The gap was covered by summer traveling and for now, 75% of sampling is covered. Until the end of the year is expected to be covered the rest and all data needed to be available for the next data call.

Agnes Gyorgy informs the group about the situation in **Hungary**. The pilot projects organized by public procurement are running well and no problems are expected.

Brian Burke provided information for **Ireland**. He mentioned that no problems were faced and actually in the questionnaires were added a few questions related to the COVID-19 and better understanding of the situation.

Monica Gambino presented the information for the situation in **Italy**. No gaps expected in terms of data needs and data quality. No delays expected although data collection started in June after the easing of lock-down in Italy. Training as well as the data check and data validation with data collectors were carried out only on Skype. A special section on COVID 19 impact on fishing activity was added to the survey.

Irina Davidjuka presented the information for **Latvia**. Only a small delay on data from the logbook for the coastal fleet was observed because of the implementation of a new electronic system which delays due to COVID-19 lockdown.

Edvardas Kazlauskas inform the group that **Lithuania** collects the data according to the work plan for the fleet and processing industry. In terms of quality, coverage was complete. Lithuania has census data collection and they use also data for administrative purposes. There were few delays but very insignificant and all data is now in the database and ready for dissemination.

Andrew Sciberras provide information on the situation in **Malta**. Unfortunately this year the call for collectors in Malta started with delay and collectors were contracted in October with a deadline finishing with their work until the end of the year. A lower response rate is expected and a new method for estimation should be applied.

Emil Kuzebksi presented the situation in **Poland** as mentioned that data is collected through questionnaires by postal offices and no problems are faced. Also, if necessary the people are contacted by phone and this year the response rate is even higher than the last one.

Suzana Cano presented the information for **Portugal**. Usually, the data collection starts in August but is not yet running which means that the time for data checks and validation will be less. Also, the response rate is expected to be lower because usually, fishermen have the support of associations and counters which will not be available due to COVID-19.

Edo Avdic informs the group that everything goes according to the plan of **Slovenia** and all data is collected as usual.

Ricard Buxo presented information for **Spain**. Regarding the collection of social-economic data, the procedure is work normally because most of the surveys are performed by phone calls and no major delays are expected.

Frida Solstorm and Hanna Swanberg provided information on the situation in **Sweden**. For now, everything goes well with data collection, and the incorporation of additional questions in the questionnaires is planned in order to have more information for the situation in the sector.

Hans Van Oostenbrugge presented the information for the **Netherlands** where no formal lockdown was established. Most of the people have been working from home but this does not seem to limit their efficiency and their output. In general, the data collection is not affected by COVID-19.

## **ToR 5. Results from PGECON Workshop on Capital Value**

The workshop on capital value estimations was held in Salerno, Italy, during the week of the 7th-10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 with 24 experts (Annex I) representing 15 Member States and JRC. The meeting was moderated by Evelina Sabatella, Jarno Virtanen and Hans Van Oostenbrugge.

PGECON 2018 and PGECON 2019 considered the need of a workshop on best practices for calibrating the price per capacity unit for each MS and suggested the TORs reported in the following paragraph.

Terms of Reference of the workshop on capital value estimations

1. Present and discuss MS experiences in approaches and results from estimating fleet capital value and calculation of capital costs through PIM and alternative methods
2. Compare price per capacity unit applied by different MS and assumptions made on the PIM method (age schedules, depreciation schemes, depreciation rates, etc.)
3. Compare Economic analysis resulting from the use of different assumptions
4. Practical implementation of guidelines provided by SecFish WP 4 on the evaluation of intangible assets

### **Tor 5.1 Capital value**

The first part of the discussion was focused on the first four TORS of the WS, starting from a the Review of progress in capital valuation since previous workshop and the EU MAP requirements, definitions and methodologies for the four variables concerning capital value ( value of physical capital, consumption of fixed capital, investments, total assets).

#### **Achievements**

With reference to the methodologies applied by MS for the estimation of capital value, the WS considered that PIM is still not applied by several MS and in some cases PIM is used to estimate the gross capital stock but fiscal depreciation rates and functions are then applied to derive the net capital, thus resulting in a “mixed” approach. This review also highlighted that in most cases the PIM method is not used because the method is still not clear. Participants considered that the original study and the subsequent WS are not always consistent in the use of economic concepts and definitions. WS\_Capital reformulated the entire conceptual framework in a more consistent structure and provided guidelines with step-by-step approach.

WS\_Capital stressed that EU MAP requests MS to collect and report data to end users on capital values, investments and depreciation costs based on economic rather than financial analysis. This statement is based on the actual use of capital variables for: i) the assessment of the economic performance of the fleets (AER); ii) the calculation of the profitability indicators in the “fleet report” to assess the long term economic sustainability.

WS\_Capital also recalled that PIM implies using a digressive depreciation scheme. In the PIM framework, consumption of fixed capital should be estimated according to “economic” depreciation

rates. Fiscal rates are indeed in most cases defined on the basis of political needs and are not related to the economic concept of “residual” productivity capacity.

Finally, guidelines on the utilization of the master file have been provided as well as improvements of the spreadsheet.

These conclusions were discussed during the meeting and PGECON agreed on the basic concept of “Value of physical capital” as equivalent to the “Net capital stock” as it reflects the market value of the stock of fixed assets in the economy and as such provides an important indication of overall wealth of the fishing sector.

PGECON agreed that according to European System of National Accounts and to international standards, the PIM method is the more appropriate methodology. However, several MS considered that the application of the PIM method is not always feasible and PIM assumptions require extra surveys.

Jarno Virtanen presented the results of TOR2&3 concerning the comparison of price per capacity unit applied by different MS and assumptions made on the PIM method and a comparative Compare Economic analysis resulting from the use of different assumptions.

These results can be summarised as follows:

- MS are encouraged to put further effort to collect more precise information on gross value of capital i. e. new vessel and service life of different components.
- The method should be described in detail in methodological report that would facilitate further comparison and harmonisation capital valuation.
- With the required data different analysis could be applied for long term sustainability of fisheries.

### **Recommendations**

PGECON concluded that PIM approach should be the preferable method, but a certain degree of flexibility is needed to allow a better compliance of MS to EU MAP requirements.

PGECON suggested revising the PGECON document on definition and methodologies for the EU MAP variables to include the results of the 2019 Capital WS and the discussion during the plenary PGECON meeting.

In particular, the following methodologies should be revised:

#### *Consumption of fixed capital*

The methodological framework for the estimation of consumption of fixed capital should be coherent with the one applied for the estimation on the value of physical capital.

1. Application of the perpetual inventory method (PIM, cross reference: <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055>). The key parameters to be considered in order to estimate the consumption of fixed capital within the PIM methodological framework are: the asset service life (that determine the economic depreciation rates), the retirement distribution and the depreciation function. The depreciation functions that can be applied in a PIM are: arithmetic (straight-line method) or geometric (degressive method).
2. Alternative methods based on company surveys. These alternative methods may be used if the derived estimates reflect the actual definition of net capital stock (depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year). In case the PIM is not used, MS should explain and justify the application of alternative methods in the WP and in the AR.

Value of physical capital

1. Application of the perpetual inventory method (PIM, cross reference: <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=2055>)
2. Alternative methods based on company surveys. These alternative methods may be used if the derived estimates reflect the actual definition of net capital stock (depreciated replacement value of the vessel including on-board equipment with a useful lifetime of more than one year). In case the PIM is not used, MS should explain and justify the application of alternative methods in the WP and in the AR.

**TOR 5.2 Practical implementation of guidelines provided by SecFish WP 4 on the evaluation of intangible assets**

Hans van Oostenbrugge presented the outcomes of the TOR 4 of the workshop on Capital Valuation.

**Achievements**

The main conclusions of this workshop were:

With regards to the implementation of the guidelines for the valuation of the fishing rights the WG concludes that:

- In general, the guidelines from the SECFISH project are understandable and clear enough to be implemented. However the implementation of the guidelines would benefit from a few additions on:
  - It would be appropriate to base the calculation on average values of 3 years, instead of considering only one year.
  - The choice of the discount rate can have a big impact on the results. Therefore, discount rates may need to be country specific.
  - Life time is also an important assumption. Similarly, in this case, it is not possible to define a common reference for all fisheries and MS because the life time should be decided according to the national rules that manage the fishing rights. Life time should not be too long (i.e. more than 20 years) because the decision on the level of investments usually consider a definite time interval.
  - The use of alternative economic indicators than net profit should be preferred for the application of the DisCF method in case of SSF as net profit will not reflect the value these fisheries have for the fishermen involved. GVA might be used as an alternative.
- MS should use the guidelines in the coming period, adapt them to the specific fisheries (in terms of the basic assumptions to be used) and provide estimation of fishing rights.
- Because some methods (like the hedonic model) require additional data collection, the MS WP should be adapted to include additional data collection, implement the actual additional data collection and apply the methods. This means that there would be a period of 2/3 years in order to get the final estimations on the basis of the methods proposed by the guidelines.
- After an implementation period of 2/3 years the outcomes of the exercise should be evaluated both at national scale (checked with vessels' owners to assess their reliability) and these experiences should be collected on a EU scale to possibly adjust the guidelines and progress on harmonization of the methods.

These conclusions were discussed during the meeting.

The PGECON agreed that on the usefulness of the value of intangible assets in economic analysis. Some experts expressed, however, that the evaluation of the value of intangible assets is more an analytic exercise than a data collection issue, especially for those fishing rights which are not transferable. The discussion focussed on the difference in valuating these rights and valuating tangible assets. The argumentation was that the absence of a market for (part of) the fishing rights makes them fundamentally different from tangible assets and this is an argument for the exemption of this information from data collection. An argument against this, which was raised during the workshop, is that the information available to end users makes it difficult for them to carry out such an analysis (as explained in the report).

It was also stated that the distinction between tangible and intangible assets is a data intensive exercise that is not easily implemented based on the available information to end users.

### **Recommendations**

In order to take this issue forward, the PGECON concluded that optimally the value of intangibles should include the value of all fishing rights, but that in the current situation this is not possible as valuation of all rights needs additional data collection and methodological development to be carried out.

Therefore, PGECON recommends a transition period in which MS explore the possibilities to apply the guidelines in their situation. During this transition period the obligation to gather information on the value of intangible assets should only include the transferable fishing rights.

PGECON also recommends that in the meantime possibilities are sought to facilitate the sharing of experiences with the application of the guidelines in the various MS and the further development of the methodology.

## **ToR 6 - Future developing of Regional Work Plans and role of PGECON in the process - Discussion on the future work between the group, RCG's and NCs.**

### **Overview**

Els Torreele and Hans van Oostenbrugge presented the work done in regards to the proposals on the European Commission call: MARE/2020/08 - Strengthening regional cooperation in the field of data collection. The proposals are for Annex 1: Establishing regional work plans for the regions covered by the RCG Baltic, the RCG North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Arctic, the RCG Large Pelagics and the thematic focus areas of PGECON, and Annex 2: develop supporting tools for RCGs & PGECON, named "Fishn 'Co" and "SecWeb" respectively.

Hans van Oostenbrugge provided detailed information for the proposal of Annex 1 Fish' Co where describe the objective, activities, and deliverables/timeline of the proposal. A group of SECFISH institutes initiated the proposal and after a discussion on how to organize, it became clear that administrative burdens will be too high to have a specific proposal for only the PGECON part. There was also added value for the interaction with other RCGs and is preferable to be part of a larger consortium.

By that time there was already an established consortium consisting of a few RCGs; after additional discussion with the chair of this consortium, PGECON was invited to be part of it. Also, the SECFISH group invited other partners from PGECON to become involved in this consortium and help with

developing this proposal. So ultimately the proposal was developed for the RCG NANS&EA, RCG Baltic, RCG Large Pelagics, and PGECON. Finally, in the consortium, there are 13 institutes from 11 Member States.

The duration of the project is 23 months (January 2021- November 2022). The objective is to initiate and develop the building blocks for Regional Work Plans (RWP). The structure of the RWP should be in line with the new EU-MAP Decision. First of all, there is a need for mapping gaps and needs for regional agreements in each of the thematic areas. Then there is a set of agreements forming the contents of Regional Work Plans and also some work will be done on scenarios of the decision-making process and implementation procedures, for discussion in RCG sessions of 2021 and 2022. Also will have close cooperation with Annex II especially on the communication with RCG's.

The first Working Package (WP) is about compiling, identifying, and filling information gaps. First should be assessed the current stages of regional coordination and define the level of ambition. The second part is to identify the elements that will go towards the development of the RWP in 2021 and 2022 and analyse the information and knowledge gaps. Then is coming a need to agree on supporting tasks to be carried out as part of the Fishn'co and to address these support tasks within the Fishn'co project, as well as to communicate outputs.

The initial list of specific issues for PGECON contains the Valuation of fishing rights, the Implementation of sound statistical methods, the Collection of social data, and possibly the Data issues for aquaculture. No work will be done on environmental data for aquaculture, as this is out of the PGECON scope. These gaps, of course, after additional discussion, will be filled by carrying out case studies in preparation for ISSGs (or workshops) of PGECON in 2021 and early 2022.

Els Torreele took the floor in order to provide information on WP 2 Establishing decision-making structures/processes. The main objectives are to develop and describe processes needed in discussions among MS and in the RCGs about sharing responsibilities, expected contributions, decision making and adoption processes, and how to implement and manage RWP in a harmonized, cooperative and transparent way. Crucial is that all development of a decision-making mechanism in this regard must be based on extensive consultations between NCs, RCGs, ISSGs and PGECON.

We want to use a structured approach to ensure all scenarios and proposals are developed with all relevant parties to achieve a RWP implemented in the full inclusion of existing national and European data collection. The deliverables of WP2 will be a proposal for the decision-making process for developing the regional work plans including processes in the RCGs or PGECON and the processes for a final agreement by the national correspondents to have their comments and achieve final agreement. When is developed RWP the whole process will be described and then the structure of the draft decision-making will be presented as well and also the timeline and procedure for adoption of a RWP (including proposed scenarios for consultation). And one of the last stages of the project the aim is to have a slideshow on the summary of the draft decision-making process for all involved as well as for the European Commission.

The objective of WP3 Drafting Regional Work Plans is to integrate results from WP1 and 2 in regional WP. Drafting of RWP is taking the output from the first two WPs and having the input for PGECON 2021 and 2022, and make the proposal to the Commission.



Regarding the deliverables and timeline of Fish 'n Co project, if the project is granted and starts in early 2021, the first step will be to get an overview of the gaps in methodological and data quality issues (June 2021). The second is to draft elements of the Regional Work Plan related to economics and aquaculture for PGECON (textboxes and tables) in its version 1 (Mid-2021) and version 2 (Mid-2022). After this will follow the development of Regional Work Plans, main aspects, and approach and strategy for their implementation, as well as, slideshow on the summary of the draft regional work plan.

Els Torreele presented also the proposal on Annex 2 called SecWeb. She started by informing the group that actually, Annex 2 is very linked to Annex 1. Annex 2 is focused on developing mechanisms to support the planning and execution of administrative tasks and the branding and online visibility of the RCGs and PGECON, with the aim to establish a long-term supportive structure. The concept of the project is to build upon the work of the RCGs & PGECON, to add output from previous projects such as fishPi2, STREAM, SECFISH, and to help the RCGs & PGECON in providing, as well as developing the tools and place where these tools, guidelines and scripts could be stored for the use of all MS.

The objectives of SecWeb are to develop and set up the framework for a secretariat for RCGs including PGECON, and to develop the input and set-up a website & tools to support the visibility of the work of the RCGs, as well as between the respective RCGs, as to a variety of end users. Another objective is to set up and keep updated a Stakeholders database. Also to integrate the results of the Mare/2020/08 Annex I project, i.e. to the website development, as well as to define a financial scenario acceptable for all MS in the different regions and Commission to ensure the long-term existence of a secretariat and the RCG website.

There are five project partners and all RCGs & PGECON chairs are involved. The project is divided into four Work Packages: WP 1: Setting up the secretariat in support to RCGs (incl. PGECON and ISSGs), including coordination and management of the project SECWEB; WP2: Developing and operating a website; WP3: Ensuring future operation and funding; WP4 - Communication and dissemination.

## **ToR 7. PGECON 2021**

### **Objectives**

Kolyo Zhelev (co-Chair) led a discussion with the following aims:

1. Possible timeslots for any outstanding issues.
2. Establishment of PGECON Sub-group meeting calendar for 2020-2021 where needed and selection of chairing persons, venue and dates. In particular:
3. PGECON 2021 meeting planning.
4. Revision of text from rapporteurs, preparation of draft PGECON report. Adoption of final PGECON 2020 recommendations written and approved from the group.

The chair thanked all the moderators and rapporteurs for their input.

### **Achievements**

### **Postponed workshops**

Due to the situation with COVID-19 in 2020, a number of WSs were postponed. However, PGECON 2020 stressed the importance of work that should be done and the need for conducting of postponed WSs. PGECON 2020 recommends all postponed workshops to be held in 2021 with the possible timeframe before the annual RCG ECON meeting.

### **Workshop on social variables**

During PGECON the need for an additional workshop on social variables, which should include, where possible, the presence of experts with different areas of scientific expertise (specifically social scientists) in order to investigate the current and future social data collection, system of social indicators and their use for assessment in different economic sectors.

Possible terms of reference:

- refinement of existing variables with reference to breakdown and definition: Employment status, Education level, Enterprise number; unpaid labour)
  - addition of new variables: Payment structure; retirement age and pensions; new economic and social indices).
  - New EU MAP Guidelines on social variables separated by sectors:

EU MAP Guidelines provide greater details and refinement of definition and methodologies on social variables, which should be separated by sectors (fishing fleet, aquaculture and processing) in order to take into account the specificities of social variables by sectors.

### **PGECON 2021**

Monica Gambino will remain as chair and Irina Davidjuka succeeded to Kolyo Zhelev as the new co-chair for 2021.

Kolyo Zhelev, who succeeded to Arina Motova in 2020, will finish his chairing duties following the next Liaison Meeting (LM) in October 2021.

If the COVID-19 pandemic situation and restrictions allows it, the 2021 RCG ECON can be a physical meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria. The date which was discussed was the second week of May in order to have an annual meeting before next LM.

### **Recommendations**

The following meetings and chairs were decided for the remaining meeting in 2020 and 2021. It was decided that if Covid emergency continue, they will be held virtually.

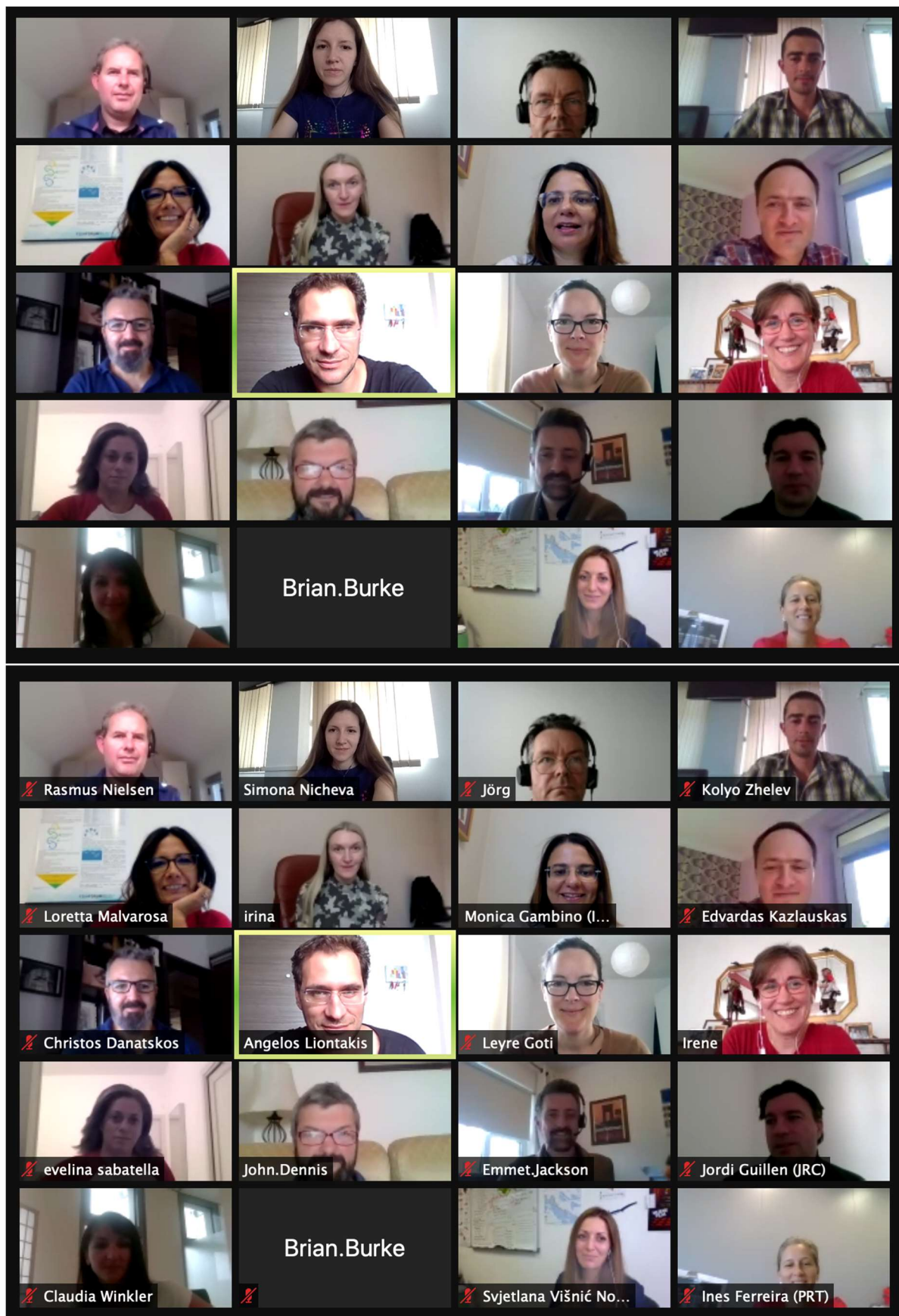
No.	Meeting	Date	Venue	Chairing persons
1.	Workshop on the fisheries-based approach of fleet segmentation.	TBC	TBC	Jörg Berkenhagen
2.	PGECON 2021	second week of May 2021	Bulgaria. Hosted by Simona Nicheva and Kolyo Zhelev	Monica Gambino Irina Davidjuka
3.	Workshop on aquaculture issues	TBC	TBC	TBC
4.	Quality Assurance Framework Subgroup Workshop	TBC	TBC	Jarno Virtanen Heidi Pokki
5.	Workshop on social variables	TBC	TBC	TBC

## Annex I - List of participants

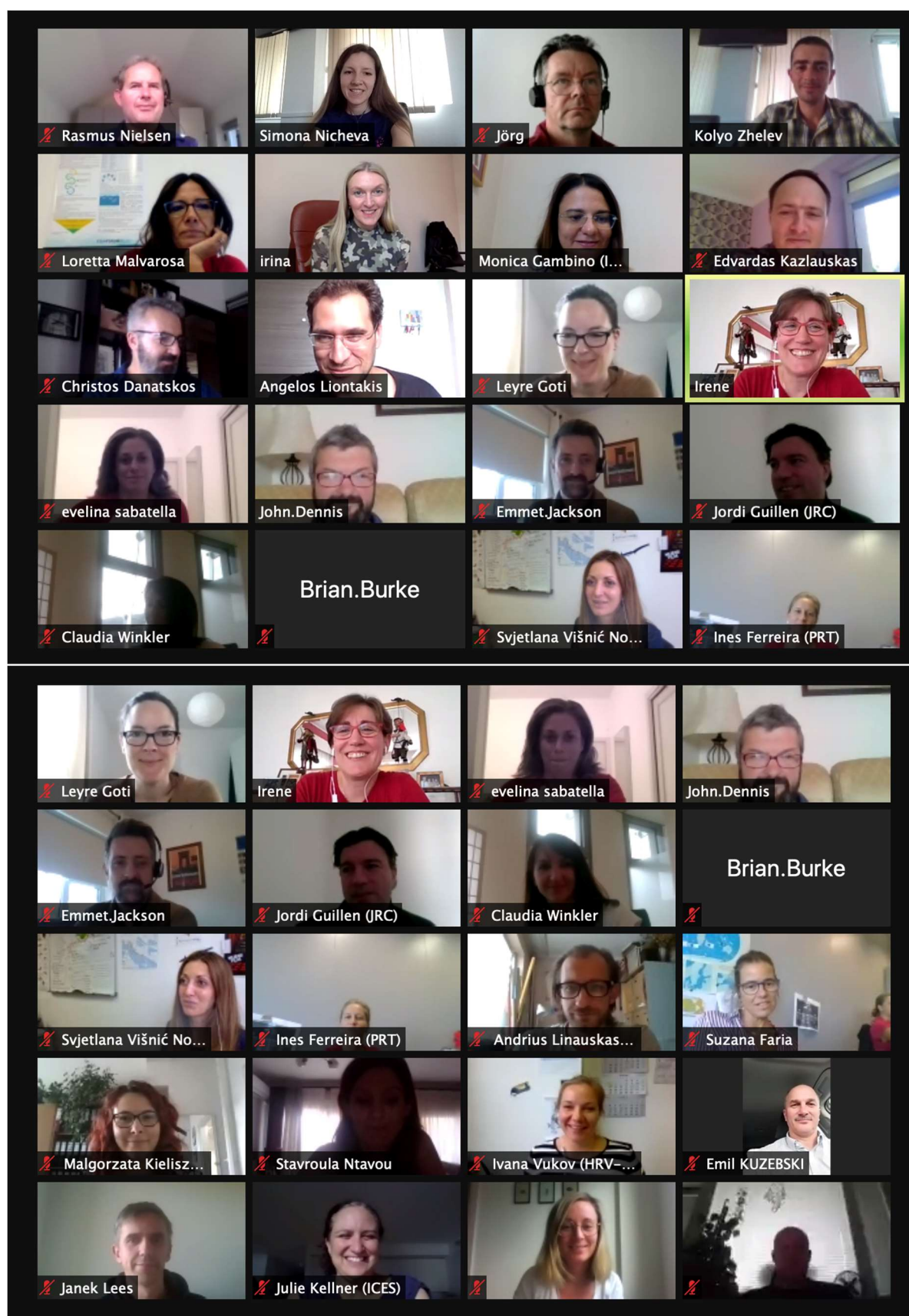
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## Annex II – Agenda for PGECON 2020

Brussels Time	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
09:30-10:00	30 min	Testing			
10:00-10:30	30 min	Welcome and introduction adoption of the agenda and ToR		Chairs	Chairs
10:30-11:00	30 min	PGECON Governance and Rules of Procedure: State of play, pros&cons of the change of status, approval process	1	K. Zhelev	Chairs (K)
11:00-11:30	30 min	Future developing of Regional Work Plans and role of PGECON in the process - Discussion on the future work between the group, RCG's and NCs. Information on Regional project call (MARE/2020/08 Annex 1 and Annex 2)	6	Hans Van Oostenbrugge/Els Torreele	Van Oostenbrugge; Torreele
11:30-11:45	15 min	Break			
11:45-12:15	30 min	Discussion in plenary	1,6		Chairs (K)
12:15-12:30	15 min	NC Decision on legal status	1.1	National Correspondents/ Chairs	Chairs
12:30-13:00	30 min	Rules of Procedures: approval process	1.2	Chairs-DG Mare	Chairs (K)
13:00-13:30	30 min	In Case of positive vote for RCG: Approval of Rules of Procedures by NC	1.2	Chairs	Chairs
13:30-14:30	60 min	Lunch break			
14:30-15:15	45 min	DG MARE/JRC presentation - Identification of data needs in 2020/2021 and use of data	2	Angel Calvo	Angel Calvo
15:15-15:45	30 min	Discussion in plenary			
15:45-16:30	45 min	Recommendations Overview of recommendations and conclusions	1,2&6	all participants	chairs
		END OF DAY 1			
Tuesday, 6 October DAY 2 - Revision of EU Map (ToR 3); Round table on effects on DC of COVID 19 (ToR 4); WS Capital (ToR 5)					
Meeting link:					
Brussels Time	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
09:15-9:30	15 min	Testing			
09:30-10:30	60 min	Results from PGECON Workshop on Capital Value	5	E.C. Sabatella, H. VanOostenbrugge & I. Virtanen	E.C. Sabatella, H.s VanOostenbrugge & I. Virtanen
10:30-11:00	30 min	Discussion in plenary & Recommendations		Chairs	Chairs
11:00-11:15	15 min	Break			
11:15-12:15	60 min	Round table on effects on DC of COVID 19 (data gaps, delay, etc.)	4	all participants	chairs (K)
12:15-12:45	30 min	Discussion in plenary			
12:45-14:00	75 min	Lunch break			
14:00-14:30	30 min	EU MAP Revision: economic aspects	3	J. Villar Burke	J. Villar Burke
14:30-15:00	30 min	New EU MAP tables	3.1	M. Gambino	M. Gambino
15:30-16:00	30 min	Social variables	3.2	Emmet Jackson	E. Jackson
16:00-16:10	15 min	Break			
16:10-16:30	30 min	Processing	3.3	M. Gambino L. Malvarosa	M- Gambino L. Malvarosa
16:30-17:00	30 min	review NWP template table 3a. 3b. 3c . 5b	3.4	J. Berkenhagen	J. Berkenhagen
17:00-17:30	30 min	Discussion in plenary & Recommendations	3	all participants	chairs
		END OF DAY 2			
Wednesday, 7 October DAY 3 Next steps (ToR 7)					
Meeting link:					
Brussels Time	Duration	Topic	TOR	Presenter	Rapporteur
09:15-9:30	15 min	Testing			
09:30-10:30	60 min	Next steps in PGECON work and possible needs for workshop	7	all participants	chairs (K)
10:30-11:00	30 min	Recommendations Overview of recommendations and conclusions	All	all participants	chairs
11:00-11:15	15 min	Break			
11:15-12:00	30 min	Recommendations for LIAISON meeting Overview of recommendations and conclusions	All	all participants	chairs
12:00-12:15	15 min	AOB	All	all participants	chairs
12:15		END OF THE MEETING			

## **Annex III – DRAFT RCG ECON Rules of Procedure**

### **1. Scope**

1.1 These Rules of Procedure are valid for the Regional Coordination Group for Economics Issues (RCG ECON) under Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Union framework for the collection, management and use of data in fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy and repealing Council regulation (EC) No 199/2008 (recast). The RCG ECON aims at coordinating economic and social data activities of Member States (MS) in all regions referred to in Article 3 of the above-mentioned Regulation.

1.2 These Rules of Procedure are established based on the Article 9(5) of the above-mentioned Regulation.

1.3 The RCG ECON and these Rules of Procedure are established by the following EU Member States coordinating their economic and social data collection activities: Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Ireland; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Malta; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; The Netherlands; Austria\*; Czech Republic\*; Hungary\* and Slovakia\*<sup>(2)</sup>. The landlocked countries may choose to participate in the RCG ECON work for issues relevant to their data collection activities.

### **2. Working language**

2.1 The working language of the RCG is English.

### **3. Role of the chairperson**

3.1 The governance of the RCG is the responsibility of a chairing team which may consist of one chairperson or two co-chairing persons, the venue organiser (when a meeting takes place outside of chairing persons MS), and the moderators selected by chairperson(s).

### **4. Election of the RCG chairperson(s)**

4.1 The chairperson(s) may be elected or agreed upon without a vote by the RCG. A national correspondent, an expert from a Member State or a representative from the European Commission may act as a chairperson of the RCG. Unless agreed without a vote by the RCG, the election of a nominated chairperson(s) shall take place by voting in a form suggested by the resigning chairperson after consulting the national correspondents and the European Commission present at the RCG meeting. The vote is decided by a simple majority of the present members.

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<sup>2</sup> \* Landlocked countries (LLC).

4.2 One term for a chairperson covers the period of two years. A chairperson may serve two consecutive terms without limiting the total number of terms for the same person to act as a chairperson.

4.3 The RCG may decide to have co-chairperson(s). The same procedures and conditions as to the chairperson(s) elections apply.

## **5. The chairperson(s) responsibilities and agenda**

5.1 The chairperson(s), in cooperation with moderators, shall prepare terms of reference (ToR), agenda for the RCG annual meeting, and ToR and agenda for the workshop(s), in cooperation with their organisers.

5.2 The chairperson(s) convene the meeting, chair plenary sessions, coordinate drafting and preparing the RCG report and present the outcome at the Liaison Meeting.

5.3 To provide continuity of consultation and efficient decision-making between the annual meetings, the chairperson(s) may initiate a written procedure. A detailed mandate for the chairperson(s) to initiate a written procedure may be agreed and given by the.

5.4 The chairperson(s) shall send documents with at least 15 calendar days deadline for delivering comments. The chairperson shall notify the results of the written procedure to the RCG within two weeks after the written procedure has ended.

## **6. RCG meetings**

6.1 To perform its duties, the RCG shall hold at least one annual meeting unless agreed otherwise by the RCG. An annual meeting shall consist of plenary sessions and may include work in subgroups or specific workshops that tackle issues raised at the annual meeting. Decisions may be taken in a dedicated (decision making) meeting referred to in point 11.4.

6.2 The chairing and organising team shall provide details of accommodation, travel and other relevant organisational information no later than one month before the meeting/workshop

6.3 To carry out its duties, the RCG may agree to establish permanent or temporary subgroup(s). The RCG may provide terms of reference (ToR) for subgroups and appoint their moderator(s), rapporteur(s), or any other role(s) or working practices. If an RCG subgroup needs more extensive ToR for their tasks and need extra time to achieve results, workshop meetings may be planned.

6.4 Terms of reference (ToR) for workshops shall be agreed at the annual meeting or in a written procedure. The duration, form, the meeting venue, ToR and other relevant elements for workshops shall be established and organised by appointed workshop chairperson(s) with the assistance of RCG chairing team.

6.5 The chair of a subgroup workshop is responsible for managing the workflow of the meeting, drafting and preparing the workshop report and presenting it to the RCG meeting. The workshop

report shall be prepared and sent to the RCG chairperson(s) and interested parties by the workshop chairperson no later than one month after the workshop meeting.

## **7. Agenda and submission of meeting documents**

7.1 The chairperson(s) shall prepare the agenda and the invitation to the annual meeting and send it to the interested parties at least one month before the meeting.

7.2 On the first day of the RCG meeting, a draft agenda shall be presented to the group for adoption. The draft agenda shall indicate points where decisions are to be made.

7.3 Other documents and tasks may be requested to be prepared for the meeting and shall be sent at any time depending on the task, but no later than two weeks before the meeting.

7.4 For the annual meeting and workshops, a document repository should be opened no later than two weeks before the meeting.

## **8. The annual meeting attendance**

8.1 The national correspondents and the European Commission shall nominate their participants to the annual meeting and may choose the number of their participants with due regard of the items on the agenda at the relevant meeting. The names of participants shall be communicated to the chairperson(s).

8.2 The landlocked countries may participate at any RCG meeting they see appropriate.

8.3 Observers<sup>3</sup> referred to in Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 may be invited to attend the RCG meetings where necessary.

## **9. RCG recommendations**

9.1 One of the aims of the annual meeting is to provide recommendations for further work to be carried out by the Member States or other parties on all relevant issues related to the scope of Regulation 2017/1004. The recommendations should provide, but are not limited to, clear and understandable stand-alone guidance on the recommended work to be carried out, its justification and methodological aspects. The recommendations are addressed to the person(s) or institution(s) responsible for the planning and implementing of data collection activities. The follow-up of recommendations may be reviewed in the annual meeting for recommendations of the previous year.

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<sup>3</sup> Representatives of relevant end-users of scientific data, including the appropriate scientific bodies as referred to in Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, regional fisheries management organisations, Advisory Councils and third countries.

9.2 Landlocked countries shall be consulted in an appropriated manner if the recommendations concern their data collection activities.

## **10. Preparation and endorsement of a draft regional work**

10.1 The RCG may draft a regional work plan in the sense of Article 9 of Regulation 2017/1004, relating to social and economic data collection, subject to a decision by the relevant Member States. The RCG may also decide together with the relevant RCG to draft relevant parts of another RCG regional work plan, and such work shall be carried out in close collaboration with that relevant RCG.

10.2 When the RCG has been mandated to prepare a draft regional work plan, the chairperson of that group or a person mandated by that group shall keep the RCG and may keep scientific institutions referred to Article 26 in Regulation 1380/2013 informed of the progress of such work at intervals agreed by the RCG. Such procedures may include e.g. requests or any other type of action, including timeframes for such action, to the national correspondents and/or scientific institutions referred above, relevant to the drafting of the draft work plan.

10.3 When the RCG has made a decision to prepare a draft regional work plan, relevant Member States shall send expert(s) with the necessary expertise related to that draft regional work plan to participate in the group's work. National correspondents and the European Commission may participate in the group's work at all stages.

10.4 The time for drafting and approving of the draft regional work plan shall be agreed at the RCG annual meeting or through a written procedure in a timely manner.

10.5 The RCG may mandate the preparation of the draft regional work plan to the relevant subgroup with the above-mentioned responsibilities.

10.6 The RCG or the subgroup shall make every effort to reach consensus on a draft regional work plan in close collaboration with relevant MS.

10.7 Relevant Member States included in the draft regional work plan may take into account in their national work plans the content of the approved draft regional work plan.

10.8 The draft regional work plan shall be approved by consensus by the RCG. If consensus is not reached, additional effort should be made in order to achieve a draft regional work plan that satisfies all MS.

10.9 A decision for approval of the draft regional work plan, before its submission, may be taken by a written procedure, if appropriate. The chairperson(s) of the RCG may initiate such a written procedure.

10.10 The chairperson(s) of the RCG may request, if necessary, observers at the annual meeting to be absent during the discussion intimately linked to the decision on a draft regional work plan.

## **11. Decision-making**

11.1 The RCG may take any decisions within its competence provided by the relevant legislation. Decisions shall be taken by consensus.

11.2 Any decision to be taken concerning all MS participating in the RCG shall be voted by all national correspondents or their representatives. If consensus is not reached, additional effort should be spent by the group in order to achieve consensus.

11.3 A decision concerning part of the MS shall be taken by consensus by the national correspondents or their representative of the relevant MSs. If consensus is not reached, additional effort should be spent by the group in order to achieve consensus.

11.4 Decisions may be taken during the annual meeting or a dedicated decision meeting with due regard to the decision content.

11.5 A national correspondent may mandate another national correspondent or a national expert present at the meeting where the decision is to be taken, to vote on his/her behalf on a decision regarding a draft regional work plan, or another decision. The detailed mandate shall be given by the national correspondent in written and communicated to the chairperson(s) no later than one day before the voting.

11.6 The chairperson(s) or a person indicated by the chairperson(s) shall be responsible for the availability of the documents and information for the decision-making to all relevant national correspondents one month before the meeting.

11.7 A decision may be taken through a written procedure, initiated by the chairperson(s).

11.8 The chairperson(s) of the RCG may request, if necessary, observers at the annual meeting to be absent during the decision making procedure.

## **12. Cooperation with other RCGs, the European Commission and other relevant bodies**

12.1 The chairperson(s) and/or other person(s) mandated by the RCG may participate and represent the RCG in the coordination among other RCGs and in the Liaison Meeting referred to in Article 9(6) of Regulation 2017/1004.

12.2 Reports, recommendations and other RCG outcomes shall be presented in the annual Liaison Meeting to other RCG chairs and European Commission representatives.

12.3 The chairperson(s) and/or other person(s) mandated by the annual meeting may participate and represent the RCG in other RCG or other relevant meetings related to data collection, use and management of economic and social data of fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing.

12.4 If the terms of reference of the RCG are relevant to other RCGs, invitations may be extended to other RCG chairperson(s) to participate in the annual meeting.

12.5 The European Commission shall ensure attendance of at least one representative at the RCG meetings or if relevant, to workshop meetings.

### **13. Observer participation to the RCG meetings**

13.1 In accordance with the Article 9(7) of the Regulation 2017/1004, the RCG may invite as observers relevant end users of scientific data, including appropriate scientific bodies as referred to in Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, regional fisheries management organizations, Advisory Councils and third countries, when necessary.

13.2 Observers referred to in article 9 of the Regulation 2017/1004 shall indicate interest to participate in the RCG by sending the following information to the chairperson(s) of the RCG at least one month in advance of the RCG meeting:

- The relevance of their participation from the Common Fisheries Policy and/or fisheries management point of view and;
- Their data interest as accurately as possible relevant to that RCG and;
- The scientific bodies/groups in their relevant institution or country conducting the scientific analyses based on the relevant data and;
- The management body with a legal mandate for fisheries management within the CFP for which the scientific analysis based on the RCG data is conducted for and;
- How, to whom and where the results of the scientific analysis referred above are intended to be made available and;
- Organizational details and details of the representative to be nominated to participate and
- Commitment to comply with the rules and conditions set by the RCG and any other information considered relevant by the potential observer.

13.3 Bodies referred above intending to attend an RCG meeting as an observer, shall make a formal request to the RCG chairperson(s) two months in advance of the meeting with justification. The RCG chairperson(s) will consult members for a final decision.

13.4 The RCG shall decide by consensus and no later than four weeks prior to the annual meeting which observers shall be invited to attend RCG and subgroup meetings.

13.5 The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has a standing invitation to participate in relevant RCG meetings and in RCG subgroup work.

13.6 After a written confirmation from the RCG chairperson(s), observers may attend the meeting. The attendance may be subject to conditions, for example – exclusion from particular discussions and presentations.

13.7 Observers are bound by the conditions set by the RCG. If one or more of these conditions are violated repeatedly or seriously by the observer, their continued attendance may be re-evaluated. The observer/organisation shall be informed of this, including the results of the re-evaluation, by a letter from the RCG chairperson(s) after consulting and with the consent of the national correspondents of the Member States of the RCG.

13.8 Observers may be invited to provide written contributions or presentations.

### **14. Reporting from RCG meeting**

14.1 The chairperson(s) of the RCG shall be responsible for drawing up a report and meeting minutes. The report may contain, but is not limited to, recommendations, a summary of the RCG intersessional progress and of the RCG discussions, future work directions, and the intended work to be carried out before the next meeting, the list of foreseeable RCG meetings and list of participants, their contact information, role and institution.

14.2 The minutes and report shall be made available to the participants of the meeting and publicly, as appropriate, within two months after the RCG annual meeting has ended.

## **15. Amending rules of procedure**

15.1 These Rules of Procedure may be reviewed and amended at the RCG annual or additional meeting by consensus of all national correspondents or in a written procedure by all national correspondents replying within a set time limit of at least 1 month.

15.2 Any Member State of the RCG can request to put the review and amendment of the Rules of Procedure on the agenda of the RCG meeting.

15.3 A Member State wishing to become a member of the RCG may submit a written request to the RCG chairperson(s). The list of Member States in point 1.3 may be then amended in accordance with point 15.1 above.



## Annex IV – PGECON revised EU map delegated Tables

**Table 6 (former 4)**  
**Fishing activity variables**

Variables <sup>4</sup>	Unit	Marine waters	Inland waters (eel)
<b>Capacity</b>			
Number of vessels		x	
Number of licences			x
GT, kW, Vessel Age		x	
Days at sea		x	
Hours fished (optional)		x	
Fishing days <sup>(a)</sup>		x	x
kW * Days at sea <sup>(b)</sup>		x	
GT * Days at sea <sup>(c)</sup>		x	
kW * Fishing Days <sup>(b)</sup>		x	
GT * Fishing days <sup>(c)</sup>		x	
Number of trips <sup>(a)</sup>		x	x
Number of fishing operations		x	
Length of nets(m) * soak time (days)		x	
Number of nets / Length <sup>(d)</sup>		x	
Number of hooks, Number of lines <sup>(d)</sup>		x	
Numbers of pots, traps <sup>(d)</sup>		x	
Number of FADs/buoys/support vessels		x	
<b>Landings</b>			
Value of landings per commercial species	Euro	x	
Live Weight of landings total and per species <sup>(e)</sup>	Tonnes	x	
Live Weight of landings total and per life stage <sup>(a)</sup>	kg		x
Average price per species	Euro/kg	x	

(a) Data shall be recorded by fishing gear type (FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear) and by Eel Management Unit as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007

(b) kW\*Days at sea; kW \*Fishing Days – use of active gears only.

(c) GT\*Days at sea; GT\*Fishing days – use of passive gears only.

(d) Collection **methods** of these variables for vessels less than 10 metres is to be agreed at marine region level

<sup>4</sup>

All variables to be reported at the aggregation level (metiers and fleet segment) specified in Table 5 and Table 8, and by Sub-region/Fishing ground as specified in table 9. Specific numbers of operations and/or gear elements should be used for appropriate gear.

(e) For certain species (salmon, tuna) specimen number should be used when appropriate.

**Table 7 (former 5A)**  
**Fleet economic variables**

Variable group	Variable	Unit
<b>Income</b>	Gross value of landings	Euro
	Income from leasing out quota or other fishing rights	Euro
	Other income	Euro
<b>Labour costs</b>	Personnel costs	Euro
	Value of unpaid labour	Euro
<b>Energy costs</b>	Energy costs	Euro
<b>Repair and maintenance costs</b>	Repair and maintenance costs	Euro
<b>Other operating costs</b>	Other variable costs	Euro
	Other non-variable costs	Euro
	Lease/rental payments for quota or other fishing rights	Euro
<b>Subsidies</b>	Operating subsidies	Euro
	Subsidies on investments	Euro
<b>Capital costs</b>	Consumption of fixed capital	Euro
<b>Capital value</b>	Value of physical capital	Euro
	Value of quota and other fishing rights	Euro
<b>Investments</b>	Investments in tangible assets	Euro
<b>Financial position</b>	Gross debt	Euro
	Total assets	Euro
<b>Employment</b>	Paid labour	Number
	Unpaid labour	Number
	Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	Number
	Total hours worked per year (optional)	Number
<b>Fleet</b>	Number of vessels	Number
	Mean LOA of vessels	Metres

	Total vessel's tonnage	GT
	Total vessel's power	kW
	Mean age of vessels	Years
<b>Effort</b>	Days at sea	Days
	Energy consumption	Litres
<b>Number of fishing enterprises/units</b>	Number of fishing enterprises/units	Number

**Table 8 (former 5B)**  
**Fleet segmentation**

		Length classes (LOA)					
Active Vessels <sup>(1)</sup>		0 - < 6/8/10 m	6/8/10 - < 12 m	12 - < 18 m	18 - < 24 m	24 - < 40 m	40 m or larger
Using "Active" gears	Beam trawlers						
	Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners						
	Pelagic trawlers						
	Purse seiners						
	Dredgers						
	Vessel using other active gears						
	Vessels using Polyvalent "active" gears only						
Using "Passive" gears	Vessels using hooks	(3)	(3)				
	Drift and/or fixed netters						
	Vessels using Pots and/or traps						
	Vessels using other Passive gears						
	Vessels using Polyvalent "passive" gears only						
Using Polyvalent gears	Vessels using active and passive gears						
Inactive vessels							

(1) 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 only' if it only uses active gears; (b) 'Vessels using Polyvalent 'passive' gears only' if it only uses passive gears; (c) 'Vessel using active and passive gears'.

(2) For vessels less than 12 m in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black sea, the length categories are 0-<6, 6-<12 m. For vessels less than 12 m in the Baltic Sea, the length categories are 0-<8, 8-<12 m. For all other regions, the length categories are defined as 0-<10, 10-<12 m.

(3) Vessels less than 12 meters using passive gears in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea may be disaggregated by gear type. The fleet segment definition shall also include an indication of the supra-region

and, if available, a geographical indicator to identify vessels fishing in outermost regions and exclusively outside EU waters.

**Table 10 (former 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 (voluntary)	Number
Employment by nationality	Number
Employment by employment status	Number
FTE National	Number

**Table 11 (former 7)**  
**Economic variables for the aquaculture sector**

Variable group	Variable	Unit
<b>Income<sup>(*)</sup></b>	Gross sales per species	Euro
	Other income	Euro
<b>Labour costs</b>	Personnel costs	Euro
	Value of unpaid labour	Euro
<b>Energy costs</b>	Energy costs	Euro
<b>Raw material costs</b>	Livestock costs	Euro
	Feed costs	Euro
<b>Repair and maintenance</b>	Repair and maintenance	Euro
<b>Other operating costs</b>	Other operating costs	Euro
<b>Subsidies</b>	Operating subsidies	Euro
	Subsidies on investments	Euro
<b>Capital costs</b>	Consumption of fixed capital	Euro
<b>Financial results</b>	Financial income	Euro
	Financial expenditures	Euro
<b>Investments</b>	Investments in tangible assets	Euro
<b>Financial position</b>	<b>Total assets</b>	Euro
	<b>Gross debt</b>	<b>Euro</b>
<b>Raw material weight</b>	Livestock used	kg
	Fish Feed used	kg
<b>Weight of sales</b>	Weight of sales per species	kg
<b>Employment</b>	Paid labour	Number
	Unpaid labour	Number
	Full-time Equivalent (FTE)	Number
	Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid workers (optional)	Hours
<b>Number of enterprises</b>	Number of enterprises by size category	Number



## Annex V – PGECON revised EU map Table 11 for fish processing

## ECONOMIC VARIABLES

Variable group	Variable	Unit
<b>Income</b>	Turnover*	Euro
	Other income	Euro
<b>Labour Costs</b>	Personnel costs	Euro
	Value of unpaid labor	Euro
	Payment for external agency workers	Euro
<b>Energy costs</b>	Energy costs	Euro
<b>Raw material costs</b>	Purchase of fish and other raw material for production	Euro
<b>Other operating costs</b>	Other operational costs	Euro
<b>Subsidies</b>	Operating subsidies	Euro
	Subsidies on investments	Euro
<b>Capital costs</b>	Consumption of fixed capital	Euro
<b>Financial position</b>	Total Assets	Euro
	Gross debts	
<b>Financial results</b>	Financial income	Euro
	Financial expenditures	Euro
<b>Investments</b>	Gross Investments	Euro
<b>Employment</b>	Number of persons employed	Number
<b>Employment Number of enterprises</b>	Unpaid labour	Number
	FTE National	Number

Variable group	Variable	Unit
	Number of hours worked by employees and unpaid workers	Number
	Number of enterprises* by size category	Number
<b>Raw material</b>	Weight and value of raw material by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species</li><li>• Production environment (Capture based fishery and aquaculture sector)</li><li>• Country of Origin (Domestic, other EU or non-EU)</li></ul> Type of processed material (fresh, frozen and semi processed materials) – if possible	kg/Euro

\*variables to be collected also for enterprises carrying out fish-processing as non-main activity

#### **SOCIAL VARIABLES**

Refer to social variables for fishing and aquaculture, with exclusion of employment by status and unpaid labour by gender.