



Deliverable 3. Description of the agreed decision-making structure

Document	Deliverable 3. Description of the agreed decision making structure		
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Executive summary

This document has been prepared with the aim to compile in one single document the findings from Fishn'Co WP 2 – *Establishing decision making structures/process*. The document covers the partial deliverables: D2.1; D2.2; D2.3; D2.4 and D2.5.

The partial deliverables referred to above have been prepared in consultation with the RCGs as well as national correspondents (NCs) on the processes needed for implementation of the Regional Work Plans (RWPs). The consultation process took several approaches: the first versions of partial deliverables D2.1, D2.2, D2.3 and D2.4 were presented and discussed at the RCG NANSEA and Baltic annual technical meeting in 2021; NCs took part in WP meetings; key aspects of the methodology for the decision making process were included in the *NC Consultation 2022 on preparing for RWP 2025-2027* (section 3).

Moreover, the work carried out to determine the decision-making structures/process on the implementation of RWP has been conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the relevant RCGs and the Regulation 2017/1004 establishing Data Collection Framework (DCF), and in particular to Art. 6 (National Work Plans) and Art. 9 (Regional coordination and cooperation and RWP). Based on this the document presents the proposal for a general approach to decision-making structure and process for developing RWPs.

The outputs presented here reflect the feedback from the extensive consultation carried out within Fishn'Co, and the insights from DG MARE regarding the timeline for implementation of RWP, and in compliance with DCF Regulation.



Introduction

Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) were established under the EU Regulation for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector (Data Collection Framework Regulation-DCF) to facilitate cooperation on data collection among Member States (MSs) in the same marine region or on specific fisheries. One of the primary purposes of the RCGs is to prepare regional work plans, which should include sampling designs/plans, procedures, methods, quality assurance and quality control for collecting and processing data, and conditions for the delivery of data.

To support the process for the establishment of RCGs and to provide support to their work, DG MARE launched Calls for Proposals in the years 2014 and 2016. In the case of the North Sea and Eastern Arctic, the North Atlantic, and Large Pelagics and economics issues, the selected grants (MARE/2014/19 fishPi and MARE/2016/22 fishPi2, RECOLAPE, SECFISH) tackled the very relevant issue of exploring the scope for establishing regional cooperation in data collection activities.

FISHN'CO ("Strengthening EU-MAP data collection by developing Regional Work Plans for the Regional Coordination Groups (RCG) NANS&EA, Baltic, Large Pelagics and Economic Issues"), funded under the EU Call MARE/2020/08, is entirely devoted to providing added value to the RCG Inter Sessional Sub Groups (ISSGs) and work in complement to them with the specific goal of proposing elements of Regional Work Plans (RWP) for each of their activities.

The general objective of FISHN'CO is to draft Regional Work Plans (RWPs) for the NANS&EA, Baltic, LP, and RCG ECON related to specific topics through a co-creative work process with the RCG NANSEA, RCG Baltic, RCG LP, and RCG ECON as well as the relevant Member States.

Among the various tasks and activities, FISHN'CO Work Package 2 (WP 2) aims at establishing processes for discussion, exchange and decision making with the relevant RCGs, including its broader institutional embeddedness in national data collection structures that will enable the RCGs to come to commonly agreed decisions on regional work plans.





1. Processes that need to be taken into account when developing Regional Work Plans

A short description of the processes that need to be taken into account when developing RWP

When developing RWP, what is important to take into account is:

- ✓ to consider which **countries** each part of the RWP is relevant to.
- ✓ How to share **responsibilities**
- ✓ Explanation of **who (which MS) is responsible for what.**

The implementation of the RWP will work as a **stepwise approach**. In the initial phase, only tables and text-boxes and further on more things will be added.

It is pointed out there is the need to look into what is actually going into the RWP and into the NWP and who is doing what and this comparison will help decisions on next steps.

The **stepwise approach** will have an impact on the decision process. Depending on what comes first, this needs to be considered for the design of the decision process.

The role of case studies:

The first attempt is not as much about regional coordination but more about comparison. Case Studies (CS) could help in this comparison and implementation.

However, it is tricky to discuss the decisions issue until there is more known about the content of the RWP. A suggestion is to focus now on the outcome from Case Studies (CSs). A CS could help as a “benchmark” to then see how this can be used for other CSs. The approach to use CS by CS, could work better than trying to go for all the MS adopting a full RWP at once.

A crucial question in the decision process is what if even in the implementation of a CS in the RWP there may be countries not participating, how to deal with this? Can different MSs participate at different levels and paces? Who is allowed to take this decision? It would be wise to find the minimum level that everyone can agree.

There could be different situations in different regions. And this will allow defining who is where and how they want to progress to next level. There may also be some other factors conditioning decisions.

It is also mentioned that there's need to **harmonize language and terminology**. Programmes which are regional need to be named the same for those in the same region.

2. Decision-making structures for developing the Regional Work Plans

In order to cover:

- 1) The objectives
 - 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.
 - Consultation with the RCGs and national correspondents on the processes needed for the implementation of the RWPs including processes for discussions and decision making.
- 2) The tasks
 - Proposal for establishment of the communication process for the work for development of RWP



- Providing of the proposal for the decision-making process to the RCG/NC
- Establishment of consultation channels with the RCGs

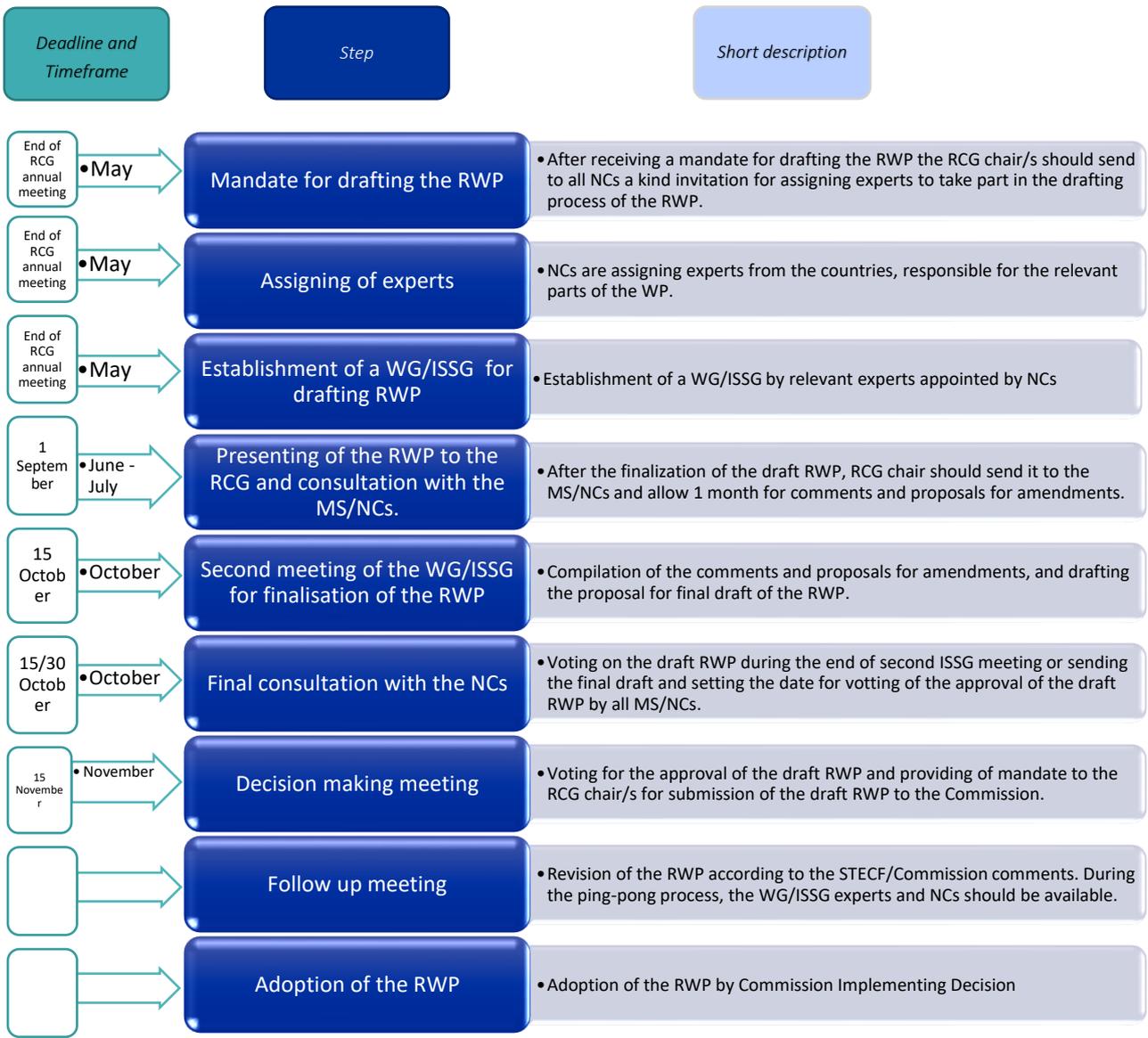
a proposal for decision-making structures for adoption of regional work was develop.

During the work under WP2, the proposal for decision-making structures for adoption of regional work plans was developed in accordance with the Rules of Procedures (RoP) for the relevant RCGs. The discussion occurred in RCG NANS&EA and RCG Baltic (2020) on the mechanics adapted to RWPs was investigated and the outcome was taken into account in the development of the first draft decision-making structures. The timeline and procedure for the adoption of a RWP were incorporated in the draft proposal for decision-making structures and discussed within STECF 21-17.

Based on feedback from discussions the first version of the proposal was revised. This revised proposal of decision-making structures was incorporated within the consultations with RCGs and national correspondents (NCs) on the process needed for the implementation of the RWPs including processes for discussions and decision making, where a large agreement on the proposed decision-making process was reached.

From the second round of discussions, the feedback was used to develop a third version of a draft decision-making structure taking into account the extensive consultations between NCs, RCGs, ISSGs, and the Commission. Additionally, valuable further discussions during the Vigo workshop with close cooperation with the STREAMLINE coordinator resulted in a final version of the proposal. The final document with better visualisation of the follow up meeting and ping-pong process which includes all relevant bodies in the communication process was presented during the 6th plenary meeting of the project and agreed to be presented as Deliverable 2.2.

Draft scenario I – Decision making structures for developing RWPs



1. With the inclusion of the point for developing the RWP in the agenda and taking a decision on a draft regional work plan by consensus, the RCG could take a decision for the establishment of WG/ISSG for drafting a RWP. After receiving a mandate for drafting the RWP the NCs should assign experts to take part in the WG/ISSG and drafting process of the RWP or the RCG chair/s could send to all NCs a kind invitation for assigning experts.

2. NCs are assigning experts from the countries, responsible for the relevant parts of the WP (the parts of the RWP can be structured in a table and each NC can include the name of the person from the country which will be in charge of filling it).

All the experts from this table will be ISSG responsible for the drafting of the RWP. Once the list of experts is ready, online or physical meeting can be organized, in which will the timetable for filling the RWP will be agreed.

3. Establishment of a WG/ISSG for drafting RWP with pointing out the deadline for drafting the draft RWP and presenting the draft to the RCG and NCs.

The easiest way to prepare the RWP could be if it is done in a collaborative file and if all the experts are able to work in the same time, without the need for someone to combine it at the end.

The experts could also work on the practical part of the agreements between MS which will be needed.

4. Presenting of the RWP to the RCG and consultation with the NCs - Request for additional comments in accordance with RoP.

After the finalization of the RWP, RCG chair should send it to the NC and allow 1 month for comments and proposals for amendments (which in the ideal world should not happen since the RWP will be written from the experts in each MS).

6. The second meeting of the WG/ISSG for finalization of the RWP. The WG/ISSG should compile the comments and proposals for amendments and draft the proposal for the final draft of the RWP. The NCs could be invited at the end of the meeting where they will have to vote for approval of the draft RWP, which the RCG chair will have to submit to the COM. (In this case, we do not need step 7. Final consultation with the NCs.)

7. Final consultation with the NCs. In case step 6 sounds too ambitious the RCG chair should send the final draft and set the date (up to two weeks) for voting of the approval of the draft RWP by all NCs. When the final agreement by consensus is reached the RCG chair should send the final draft of the RWP to the commission in a week.

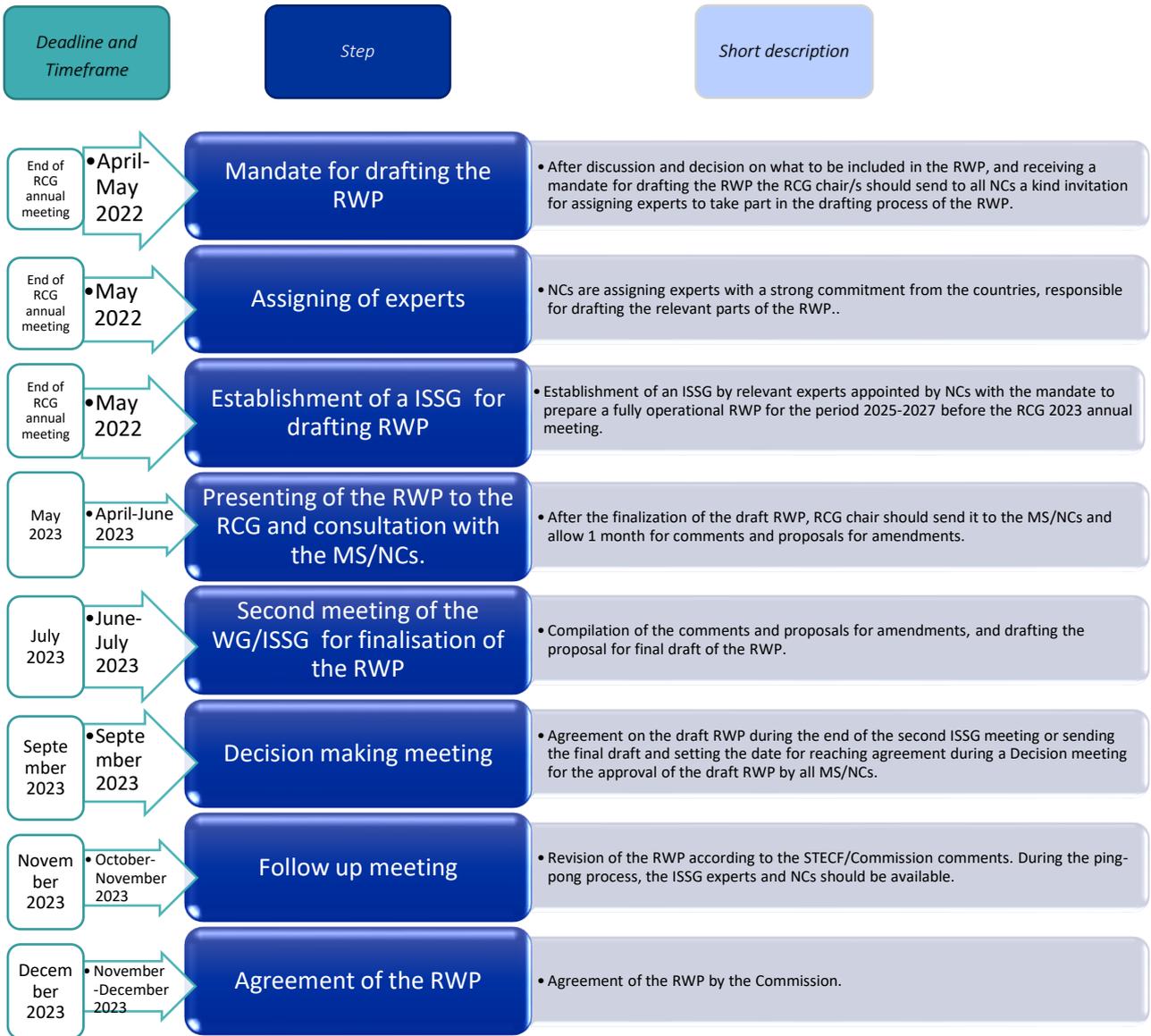
8. Follow up meeting. Revision of the RWP according to the STECF/Commission comments. During the ping-pong process, the WG/ISSG experts and NCs should be available in order to revise the draft RWP in a timely manner.

9. Adoption of the RWP by the Commission.

For setting up the timeframe and deadline for the last two points we need and the opinion of the commission's expert. In general, the timeframe for the scenario depends on the answer to the question - When do we want to have adopted RWP? Before the submission of national WPs in order to be amended or during the usual time for submission of WPs during October.

A communication channel between ISSG, RCGs, NCs and the COM could be established through a Q&A excel file for possible queries.

Draft scenario 2 – Decision making structures for developing RWPs



1. With the inclusion of the point for developing the RWP in the agenda and taking a decision on a draft regional work plan by consensus, the RCG could take a decision for the establishment of ISSG for drafting a RWP. This point should be based on a clear description of what exactly will be included in the RWP and who will be responsible for the implementation of the activities. Furthermore, the preliminary discussion before the RCG annual meeting is strongly recommended, while such a discussion followed by a decision during the RCG meeting is needed. After receiving a mandate for drafting the RWP the NCs should assign experts to take part in the WG/ISSG and drafting process of the RWP or the RCG chair/s could send to all NCs a kind invitation for assigning experts.

2. NCs are assigning experts from the countries, responsible for the relevant parts of the WP (the parts of the RWP can be structured in a table and each NC can include the name of the person from the country which will be in charge of filling it).

All the experts from this table will be ISSG responsible for the drafting of the RWP. After these list of experts is ready, online or physical meeting can be organized, in which will be agreed the timetable for filling the RWP.

3. Establishment of a ISSG for drafting RWP with pointing out the deadline for drafting the draft RWP and presenting the draft to the RCG and NCs.

The ISSG on RWP has to prepare a fully operational RWP for the period 2025-2027 in order to be presented to RCG 2023 annual meeting. The ISSG should take into account Fishn'Co project outputs.

The easiest way to prepare the RWP could be if it is done in a collaborative file and if all the experts are able to work in the same time, without the need for someone to combine it at the end.

The experts could also work on the practical part of the agreements between MS which will be needed.

4. Presenting of the RWP to the RCG and consultation with the NCs - Request for additional comments in accordance with RoP.

It should be clear that the deadline for presenting the drafted RWP is May 2023 when the RCG annual meeting will be held. In addition, the draft RWP should be sent one month before the annual meeting in order to be reviewed by all experts and NCs.

During the 2023 RCG meetings, the RWP 2025-2027 should be finalised.

After the finalization of the RWP, RCG chair should send it to the NC and allow 1 month for comments and proposals for amendments (which in the ideal world should not happen since the RWP will be written from the experts in each MS).

5. The second meeting of the ISSG for finalization of the RWP. The ISSG should compile the comments and proposals for amendments and draft the proposal for the final draft of the RWP. The NCs could be invited at the end of the meeting where they will have to agree on approval of the draft RWP, which the RCG chair will have to submit to the COM. (In this case, we do not need step 7. Final consultation with the NCs.) If NCs are not present at the meeting the RWP should be sent to the NCs with an invitation to a decision meeting where the procedure for reaching an agreement on the approval of the draft RWP should be held.

6. Agreement on the RWP by the NCs. In case step 6 sounds too ambitious the RCG chair should send the final draft and set the date (up to two weeks) for reaching an agreement on the approval of the draft RWP by all NCs. When the final agreement by consensus is reached the RCG chair should send the final draft of the RWP 2025-2027 to the commission/STECF in a week (in September/October 2023) for evaluation and approval.

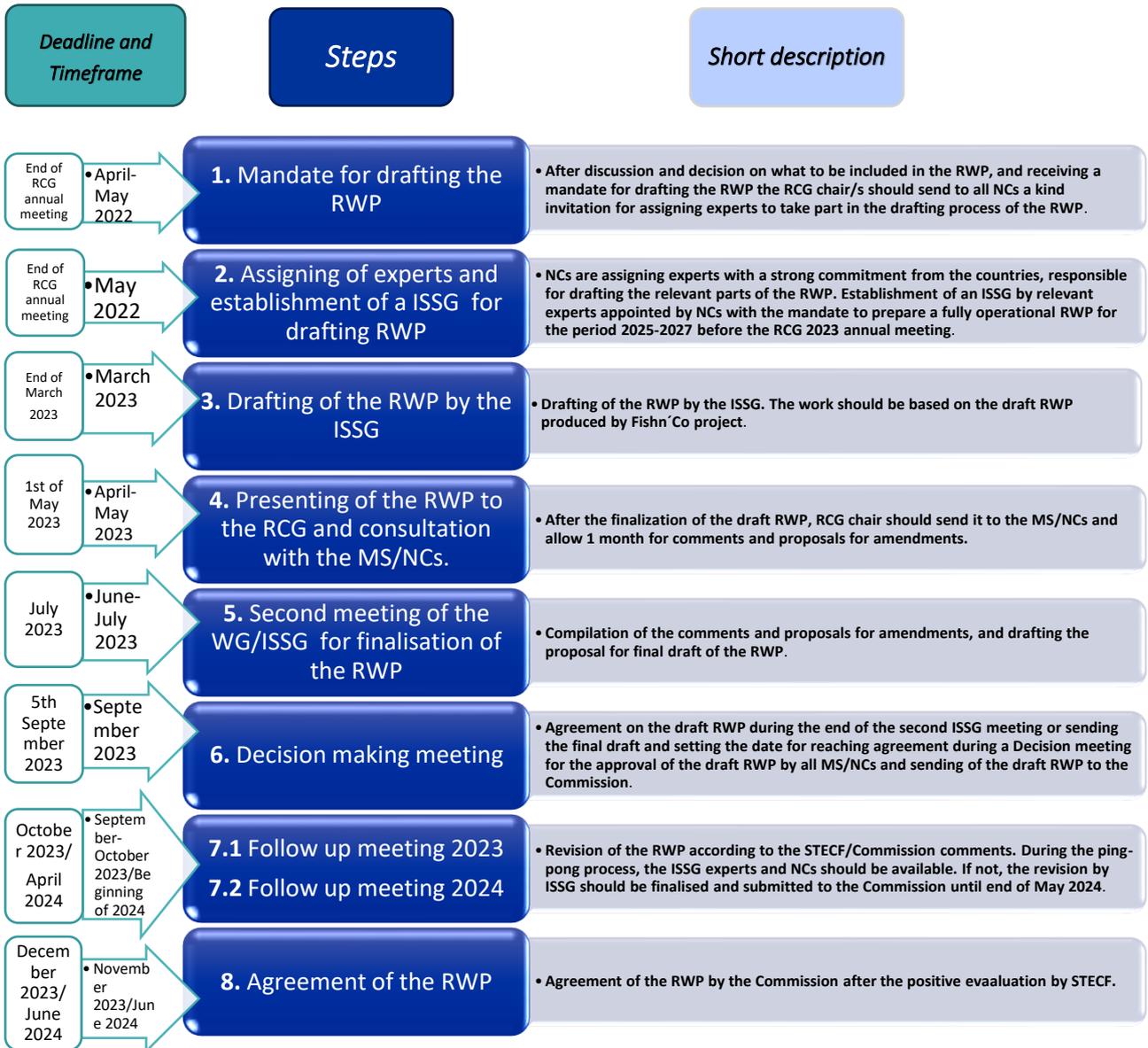
7. Follow up meeting. Revision of the RWP according to the STECF/Commission comments. During the ping-pong process, the WG/ISSG experts and NCs should be available in order to revise the draft RWP in a timely manner.

8. Agreement of the RWP by the Commission.

When the final agreement on the RWP is provided by the Commission (which should be done by the end of 2023), the MSs will have time until October 2024 to implement the relevant parts from the RWP to their NWP.

A communication channel between ISSG, RCGs, NCs and the COM could be established through a Q&A excel file for possible queries.

Draft scenario 3



1. With the inclusion of the point for developing the RWP in the agenda and taking a decision on a draft regional work plan by consensus, the RCG could take a decision for the establishment of ISSG for drafting a RWP. This point should be based on a clear description of what exactly will be included in the RWP and who will be responsible for the implementation of the activities. Furthermore, the preliminary discussion before the RCG annual meeting is strongly recommended, while such a discussion followed by a decision during the RCG meeting is needed. After receiving a mandate for drafting the RWP, the NCs should assign experts to take part in the WG/ISSG and drafting process of the RWP or the RCG chair/s could send to all NCs a kind invitation for assigning experts.

2. NCs are assigning experts from the countries, responsible for the relevant parts of the WP (the parts of the RWP can be structured in a table and each NC can include the name of the person from the country, which will be in charge of filling it).

All the experts from this table will be ISSG responsible for the drafting of the RWP. After these list of experts is ready, online or physical meeting can be organized, in which will be agreed the timetable for filling the RWP.

Establishment of an ISSG for drafting RWP with pointing out the deadline for drafting the draft RWP and presenting the draft to the RCG and NCs.

The ISSG on RWP has to prepare a fully operational RWP for the period 2025-2027 in order to be presented to RCG 2023 annual meeting. The ISSG should take into account Fishn'Co project outputs and the produced draft RWP by the project.

The easiest way to prepare the RWP could be if it is done in collaborative file and if all the experts are able to work in the same time, without the need for someone to combine it at the end.

The experts could also work on the practical part of the agreements between MS which will be needed.

3. Drafting of the RWP by the ISSG. The work should be based on the draft RWP produced by Fishn'Co project.

4. Presenting of the RWP to the RCG and consultation with the NCs - Request for additional comments in accordance with RoP.

It should be clear that the deadline for presenting the drafted RWP is May 2023 when the RCG annual meeting will be held. In addition, the draft RWP should be sent one month before the annual meeting in order to be reviewed by all experts and NCs.

During the 2023 RCG meetings, the RWP 2025-2027 should be finalised.

After the finalization of the RWP, RCG chair should send it to the NC and allow 1 month for comments and proposals for amendments (which in the ideal world should not happen since the RWP will be written from the experts in each MS).

5. The second meeting of the ISSG for finalization of the RWP. The ISSG should compile the comments and proposals for amendments, and draft the proposal for the final draft of the RWP. The NCs could be invited at the end of the meeting where they will have to agree on approval of the draft RWP, which the RCG chair will have to submit to the COM. (In this case, we do not need step 6. Final consultation with the NCs.) If NCs are not present at the meeting, the RWP should be sent by the ISSG to the NCs with an invitation to a decision meeting where the procedure for reaching an agreement on the approval of the draft RWP should be held.

6. Agreement on the RWP by the NCs. In case of step 5 sounds too ambitious, the RCG chair should send the final draft and set the date (up to two weeks) for reaching an agreement on the approval of the draft RWP by all NCs. When the final agreement by consensus is reached, the RCG chair should send the final draft of the RWP 2025-2027 to the commission/STECF in a week (in September 2023) for prescreening/evaluation and approval.

In order to ensure the clarity of the process the RCG chairs should be included in the ping-pong loop (Fig. 2.1) of comments as well as the NCs.

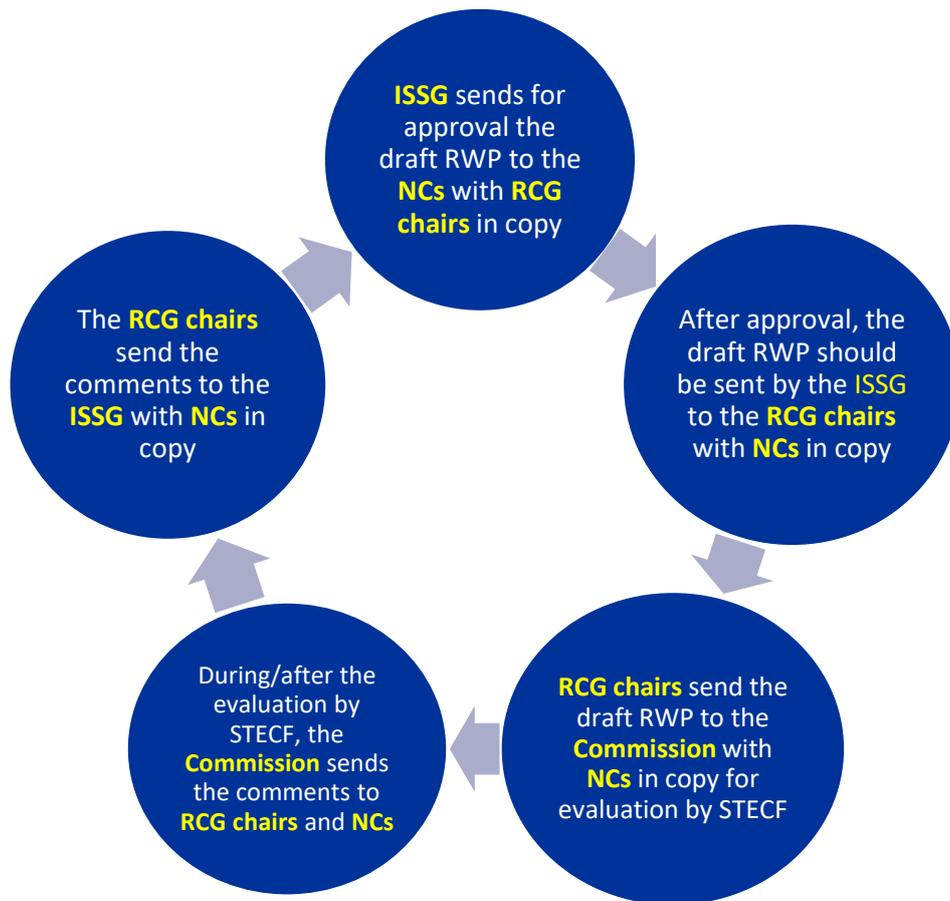


Fig. 2.1. The ping-pong loop of the whole process

7.1. Follow up meeting. Revision of the RWP according to the STECF/Commission comments. During the ping-pong process (launched by prescreening process or evaluation of the RWP), the WG/ISSG experts and NCs should be available in order to revise the draft RWP in a timely manner. The Commission should inform RCG chair and ISSG chair two weeks prior the meeting for prescreening/evaluation of the RWP in order all expert and NCs be available. Changes to the RWP after November 2023 shall be allowed only to the comments/suggestions provided by STECF and the Commission.

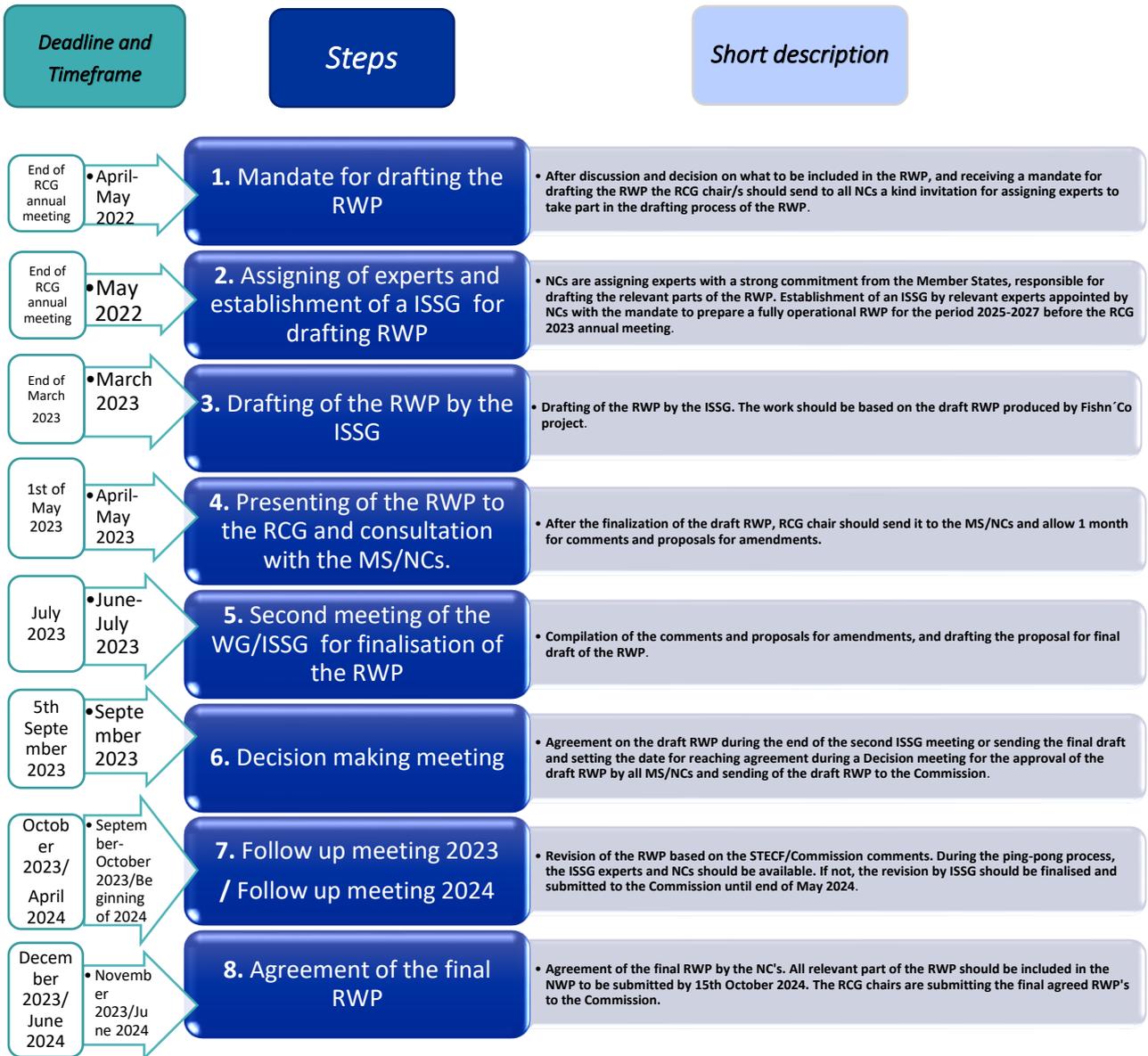
7.2. If the proposed revision in step 7.1. will not be possible during the 2023 assessment, the revision of the RWP should be finalised by the ISSG according to the STECF/COM comments no later than April 2024 and send to the NCs for final approval. After the final approval of the NCs, the final draft of the RWP should be submitted to the Commission by end of May 2024 in order to be assessed by STECF in June 2024.

8. Agreement of the RWP by the Commission.

When the final agreement on the RWP is provided by the Commission (which should be done by the end of 2023/July 2024), the MSs will have time until October 2024 to implement the relevant parts from the RWP to their NWP.

A communication channel between ISSG, RCGs, NCs and the COM could be established through a Q&A excel file for possible queries.

Final scenario



1. At the annual Regional Coordination Group meeting (RCG) a fixed item on the agenda is the establishment of an ISSG for Regional Work Plan (RWP) mandated to draft a RWP. The mandate should be based on a clear description of what exactly to be included in the draft RWP. Furthermore, preliminary discussion before the RCG annual meeting is strongly recommended, as such a discussion followed by a recommendation during the RCG meeting is needed. After receiving a mandate for drafting the RWP, the NCs should assign experts to take part in the WG/ISSG and drafting process of the RWP or the RCG chair/s could send to all NCs a kind invitation for assigning experts.

2. NCs are assigning at least one experts per Member State (MS), responsible for the relevant parts of the RWP. The ISSG for RWP appoint a chair or co-chairs as facilitator in order to ensure progress of the work of the ISSG.

All the assigned experts will be ISSG responsible for the drafting the RWP. The ISSG for RWP chair or co-chairs are responsible for organizing online or physical meetings, where a timetable for carrying out the work for drafting the RWP.

3. Drafting of the RWP by the ISSG. The ISSG on RWP has to prepare a fully operational RWP for the period 2025-2027 to be presented to RCG for comments by the experts and NCs. The ISSG should take into account Fishn'Co project output which is a draft RWP 2025-2027.

4. The ISSG on RWP is presenting the draft RWP to the RCG. Request for additional comments in accordance with RoP.

The deadline for presenting the drafted RWP to the RCG participants and the NC's is May 2023, or at least one month before the annual meeting is held.

During the 2023 RCG meetings, the draft RWP 2025-2027 should be finalised.

After the finalization of the RWP, RCG chair should send it to the NC and allow one month for comments and suggestions for changes/amendments (which in the ideal world should not happen since the RWP will be drafted by experts from each MS).

5. The second meeting of the ISSG for finalization of the RWP might be needed based on the comments and suggestions for changes/amendments by the NC's. The final draft of the RWP will be presented for approval at the decision meeting held in September 2023.

6. After approval of the final draft RWP the RCG chairs will submit the agreed RWP to the Commission. It is expected that the Commission will ask the STECF for a review of the agreed RWP (October/November 2023).

In order to ensure the clarity of the process the RCG chairs should be included in the ping-pong loop (Fig. 2.2) of comments as well as the NCs.

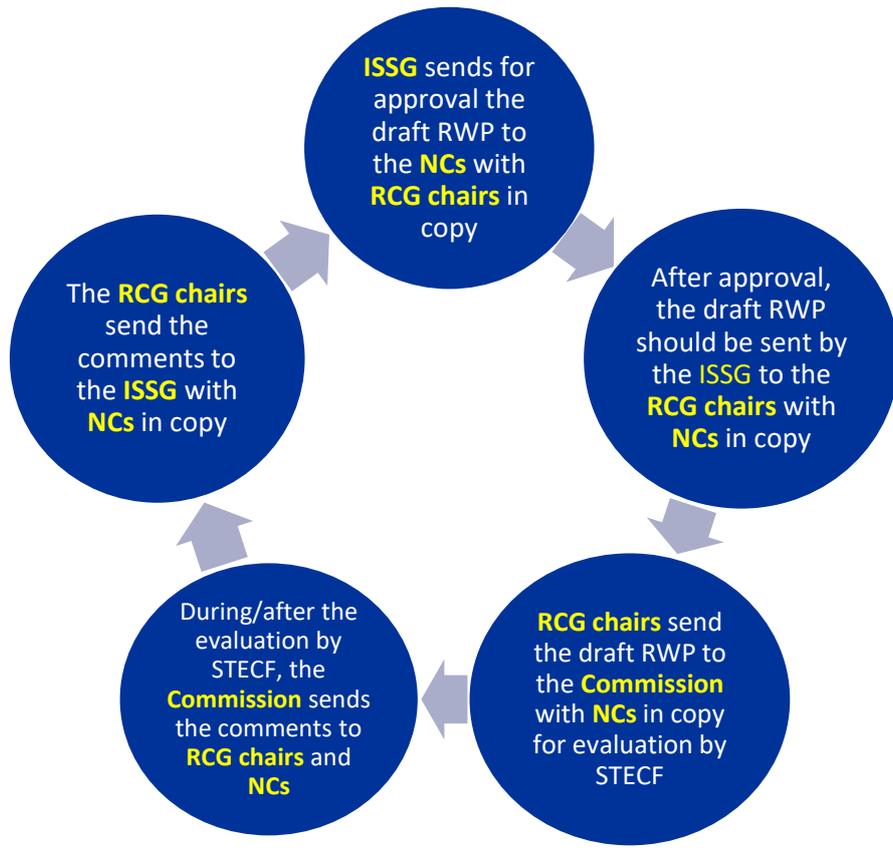


Fig. 2.2. The ping-pong loop of the whole process

7. Follow up meeting. Revision of the RWP taking into account comments by the STECF/Commission November 2023 – March 2024. The ISSG of RWP will revise/update the RWP 2025-2027 and submit the new final draft to the RCG and NC's for comment and for informing all MS on the final content of the RWP in order to include the relevant parts of the RWP in the National Work Plan for 2025-2027.

8. Agreement of the final RWP made at the NC decision meeting September 2024.

When the final agreement on the RWP is made, it is submitted to the Commission. MSs will have time until October 2024 to implement the relevant parts from the RWP to their NWP.

A communication channel between ISSG, RCGs, NCs and the COM could be established through a Q&A excel file for possible queries.

3. Timeline and procedure for adoption of a RWP

The timeline and procedure for the adoption of a RWP were incorporated in the proposal for decision-making structures illustrated with a supporting schematic view for better visualisation of the process.

During the evolution process of the decision-making structures the timeline was adapted to the comments from the STECF Expert Working Group (EWG) 21-17 that met in early November 2021. The main points, including a schematic table (Figure 3.1), regarding this topic (STECF – Evaluation of work plans for data collection. STECF-21-17, pages 22-23) were focused on:

- Revision of the existing non-binding and draft RWPs by RCGs needs to be decided during RCG 2022;
- ISSG on RWP to prepare a fully operational RWP for the period 2025-2027 for presentation to RCG 2023;
- During the 2023 RCG meetings, the RWP 2025-2027 should be finalised and compiled taking into account Fishn’Co and ISSG/RWP outputs;
- RWPs 2025-2027 should be presented by relevant RCGs to STECF during autumn 2023 for evaluation and approval;
- The final RWPs 2025-2027 need to be approved by 31st December 2023 – MS will then include/integrate RWP aspects in their NWP during 2024;
- During the RCG meetings in 2024, there can be clarifications on how the RWPs should be incorporated into the NWPs but no modifications of the RWPs will be allowed.

	2022												2023												2024											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
FishNCo project	█																																			
RCGs to compile RWPs													█																							
STECF to evaluate and approve the RWPs																									█											
RWP to be fully evaluated and approved																									█											
MS develop NWPs incorporating the relevant elements from RWPs																									█											
RCGs can provide clarifications on how the RWP should be used to inform the NWPs																									█											
MS submit / re-submit NWPs for 2025-27																									█											

Fig. 3.1. Schematic table of the timeline.

The timeline included in the final version of the decision-making structures was improved and clarified to the timelines that were presented by DG MARE during the RCG chairs and NCs meeting on the 10th March 2022.

Three different options were presented by DG MARE. The most convenient was considered to be the option without a legal adoption of RWPs (Figure 3.2).

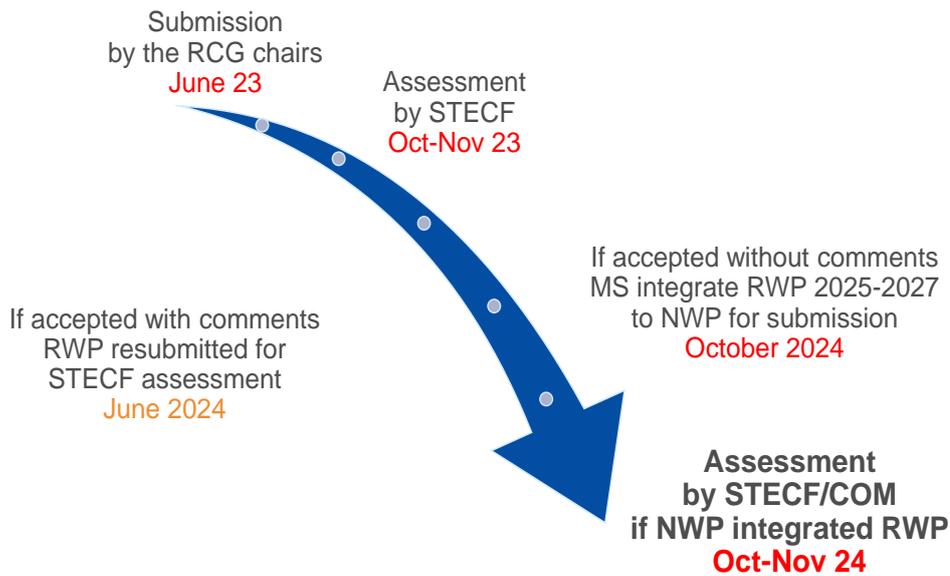


Fig. 3.2. Timeline without adoption of RWPs as suggested by DG MARE.

This option proposes a longer process for the adoption than the options with a legal adoption. In order to be agreed on the RPW the RCG should first submit the agreed RWP by the relevant MSs and secondly, the STECF EWG for the evaluation of NWP should assess the RWPs. If the RWPs are positively assessed without comments MSs should integrate the RWP 2025-2027 into their NWP for submission in October 2024. If comments appear during the STECF EWG the RPW should be resubmitted for STECF assessment during the EWG on Annual Reports in June 2024. In both cases, there is enough time for MSs to incorporate the relevant parts of the RWPs into their NWP, as the Commission could reject a NWP which does not include the agreed RWP.

In case of the availability of comments by STECF EWG on the RPWs the proposed timeline should ensure enough time for the “Follow up meeting” and the timing of the different tasks during the ping-pong process.

4. Revised RoP that accommodate for development and adoption of RWP

One of the objectives of WP 2 is to have a proposal for one version of RoP for all RCGs with the focus on the decision process being similar for all regions and supra regions. Once the processes of discussions and decision making for adoption of a RWP were defined and described the RoP of the RCGs were further discussed and analysed in order to be revised and adapted according to the decision-making structure for the adoption of RWPs. The revision of the RoP and in particular the decision process was conducted during the FISHN’CO project implementation. Under WP 2 a comparison of the RoPs of all RCGs was done. In addition, an exercise, compiling Baltic and NANSEA RoP to check what is aligned and what is not was conducted.

The final review of the RoP for RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic was presented in the RCG meeting with a suggestion that then all other RCGs will be asked to accept it. In order to reach the objectives of WP2 a proposal for revision of the present RoPs, by identifying possible burdens for the decision-making processes and by proposing solutions was provided as a combined RoP for RCGs for Baltic and NANSEA. The combined version was agreed upon during the RCG Baltic and NANSEA decision meeting - Decision 9 of the decision meeting 2021 Report.



The final version of RoP for RCGs for Baltic and NANSEA are available through the following [link](#) and all other RCGs should be requested to compare their RoPs with the RoP provided and if discrepancies are observed in the "Decision-making on a draft regional work plan", amendments should be made in order to be reached the goal to have one version of RoP for all RCGs with the focus on the decision process.



5. Slideshow on the summary of the draft decision-making process



SLIDESHOW ON THE SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

WP 2: ESTABLISHING DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE & PROCESS

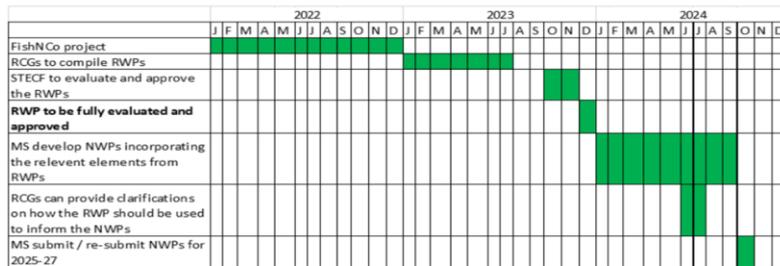
JØRGEN DALSKOV (DTU-AQUA) ELS TORREELE (ILVO) KLYO ZHELEV (EAFA)



WP-2

THE PROCESSES THAT WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DEVELOPING RWP

1. The implementation of the RWP will work as a **stepwise approach**.
 - The stepwise approach will have an impact on the decision process. Depending on what comes first, this needs to be considered for the design of the decision process.
2. The RWP development timeline
 - **The final RWPs 2025-2027 need to be approved by 31st December 2024**

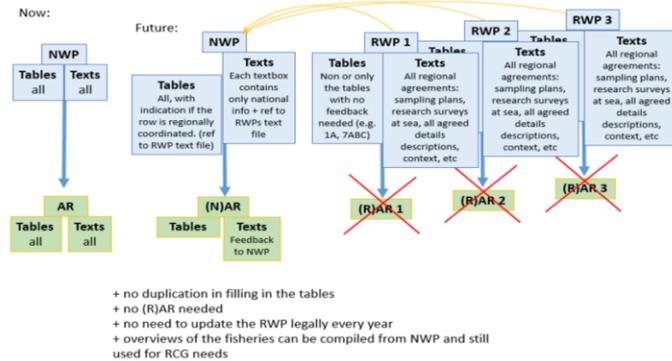




THE PROCESSES THAT WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DEVELOPING RWP

3. Information in NWP tables should be complete as NWP text should summarise RWP text and provide a link to the RWP for more details.

- The diagram illustrates the relationship between the NWP and RWP

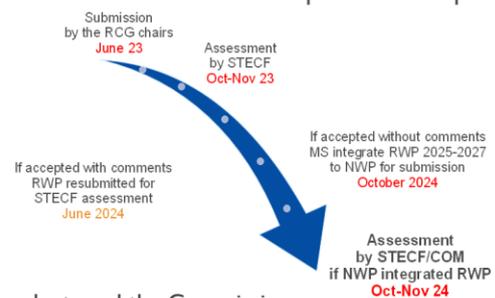


THE PROCESSES THAT WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DEVELOPING RWP

4. The objective to have one version of RoP for all RCGs in order to accommodate development and adoption of RWP

- The latest version of RoP (RCG NANSEA and Baltic)

5. The process for the adoption of the RWP



6. The consultation with the RCGs, ISSG's, National Correspondents and the Commission

- The feedback from a number of Project meetings and consultation process was taken into account and the draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans was finalised after the workshop in Vigo on October 2022.





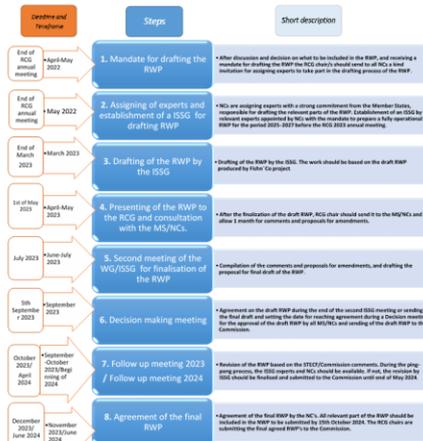
WP-2

DRAFT DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES FOR DEVELOPING THE REGIONAL WORK PLANS

The draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans was developed under WP2 of Fishn'Co project in order to:

1. Describe processes needed in discussions among MS and in the RCGs about sharing responsibilities, expected contributions, decision making and adoption processes;
2. How to implement and manage RWP in a harmonized, cooperative and transparent way;
3. Consult with the RCGs and national correspondents on the processes needed for the implementation of the RWPs including processes for discussions and decision making.

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



WP-2

DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 1

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



- At the annual Regional Coordination Group meeting (RCG) a fixed item on the agenda is the establishment of an ISSG for Regional Work Plan (RWP) mandated to draft a RWP. The mandate should be based on a clear description of what exactly to be included in the draft RWP. Furthermore, preliminary discussion before the RCG annual meeting is strongly recommended, as such a discussion followed by a recommendation during the RCG meeting is needed. After receiving a mandate for drafting the RWP, the NCs should assign experts to take part in the WG/ISSG and drafting process of the RWP or the RCG chair/s could send to all NCs a kind invitation for assigning experts.

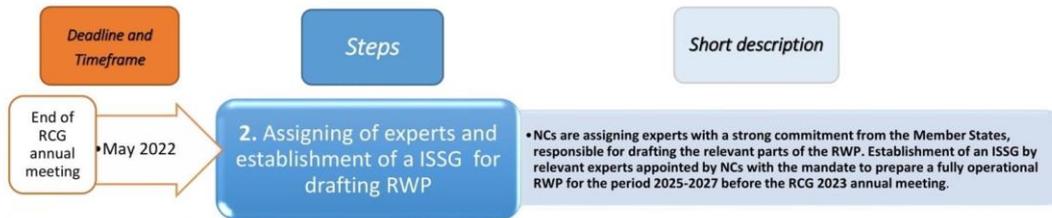




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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 2

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



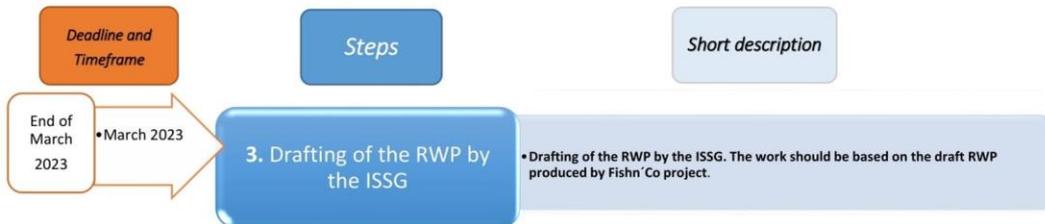
- NCs are assigning at least one experts per Member State (MS), responsible for the relevant parts of the RWP. The ISSG for RWP appoint a chair or co-chairs as facilitator in order to ensure progress of the work of the ISSG.
- All the assigned experts will be ISSG responsible for the drafting the RWP. The ISSG for RWP chair or co-chairs are responsible for organizing online or physical meetings, where a timetable for carrying out the work for drafting the RWP.



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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 3

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



- Drafting of the RWP by the ISSG. The ISSG on RWP has to prepare a fully operational RWP for the period 2025-2027 to be presented to RCG for comments by the experts and NCs. The ISSG should take into account Fishn'Co project output which is a draft RWP 2025-2027.

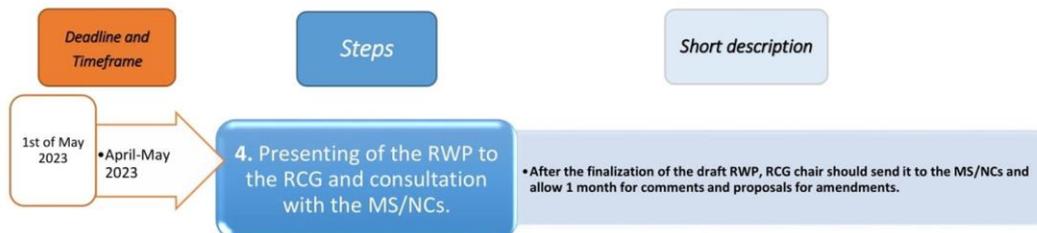




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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 4

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



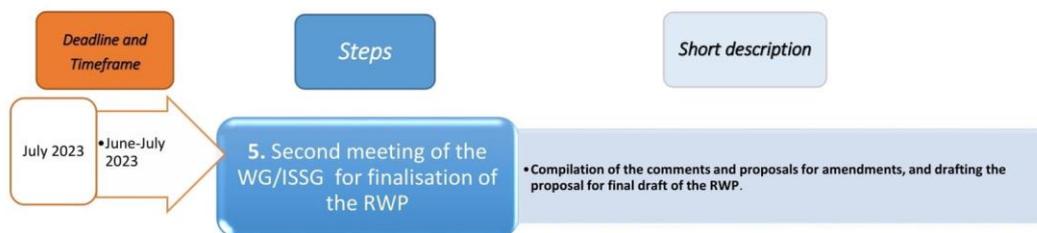
- The ISSG on RWP is presenting the draft RWP to the RCG. Request for additional comments in accordance with RoP.
- The deadline for presenting the drafted RWP to the RCG participants and the NC's is May 2023, or at least one month before the annual meeting is held.
- During the 2023 RCG meetings, the draft RWP 2025-2027 should be finalised.
- After the finalization of the RWP, RCG chair should send it to the NC and allow one month for comments and suggestions for changes/amendments (which in the ideal world should not happen since the RWP will be drafted by experts from each MS).



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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 5

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



- The second meeting of the ISSG for finalization of the RWP might be needed based on the comments and suggestions for changes/amendments by the NC's. The final draft of the RWP will be presented for approval at the decision meeting held in September 2023.





WP-2

DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 6

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



- After approval of the final draft RWP the RCG chairs will submit the agreed RWP to the Commission. It is expected that the Commission will ask the STECF for a review of the agreed RWP (October/November 2023).
- In order to ensure the clarity of the process the RCG chairs should be included in the ping-pong loop (Fig. 1) of comments as well as the NCs.



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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 6

In order to ensure the clarity of the process the RCG chairs should be included in the ping-pong loop of comments as well as the NCs.

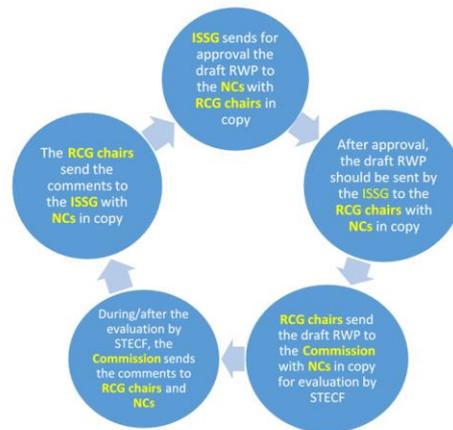


Fig. 1. The ping-pong loop





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DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 7

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



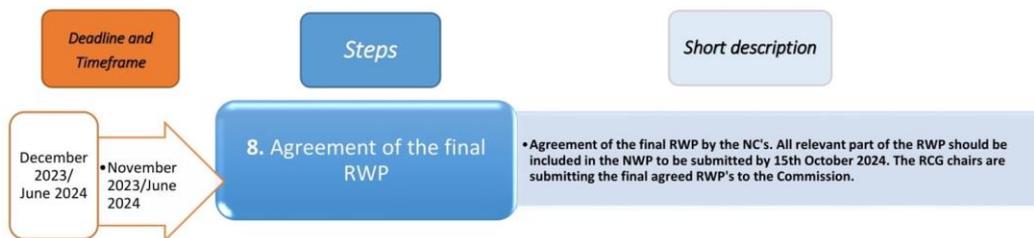
- Follow up meeting. Revision of the RWP taking into account comments by the STECF/Commission November 2023 – March 2024. The ISSG of RWP will revise/update the RWP 2025-2027 and submit the new final draft to the RCG and NC's for comment and for informing all MS on the final content of the RWP in order to include the relevant parts of the RWP in the National Work Plan for 2025-2027.



WP-2

DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - STEP 8

Scenario for the Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans



- Agreement of the final RWP made at the NC decision meeting September 2024.





WP-2

DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES - CONCLUSIONS

- When the final agreement on the RWP is made it is submitted to the Commission. MSs will have time until October 2024 to implement the relevant parts from the RWP to their NWP.

A communication channel between ISSG, RCGs, NCs and the COM could be established through a Q&A excel file for possible queries.

The communication channel could be established through the different tools as online platform.



