



STRENGTHENING EU-MAP DATA COLLECTION BY DEVELOPING REGIONAL WORK PLANS FOR RCG NANS&EA, BALTIC, LARGE PELAGICS AND ECONOMICS ISSUES

NC MEETING

9TH MARCH 2023



Regional Coordination Group
North Atlantic
North Sea & Eastern Arctic



Regional Coordination Group
Baltic



Regional Coordination Group
Large Pelagics



Regional Coordination Group
on Economic Issues

The partnership

FR	Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer, IFREMER
ES	Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Fundación CETMAR
BE	Eigen Vermogen van het Instituut voor Landbouw- en visserijonderzoek - EV ILVO
IE	Marine Institute
NL	Stichting Wageningen Research - WR
FR	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - IRD
ES	Fundación AZTI – AZTI Fundazioa
PT	Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera - IPMA
ES	Instituto Español de Oceanografía, IEO
BG	Executive agency for fisheries and aquaculture - EAFA
IT	NISEA società cooperativa
DK	Technical University of Denmark - DTU
FI	Luonnonvarakeskus - LUKE



Experts
from the
RCGs'
network.



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FISHN'CO

Strengthening EU-MAP data
collection by developing
Regional Work Plans for the
Regional Coordination Groups
(RCG) NANS&EA, Baltic and
Large Pelagics and Economics
Issues.

- ☐ >80 scientists
- ☐ 13 institutes partners + 6 non partners
- ☐ 11 Member States (partners) - + 6 (non partners)
- ☐ 5 Work Packages addressing all needs for developing Regional Work Plans for the RCGs: North Atlantic, North Sea and Eastern Arctic, the Baltic, the Large Pelagics and Economics issues.
- ☐ Consortium gathers many of the chairs of the relevant RCGs and leaders of Inter-sessional sub-Groups of RCGs coordinating **regional data collection**

FISH

More info at: www.fisheries-rcg.eu

 @fisheriesRCG #FISHN'CO



INTRODUCTION

- Fishn'Co project finished end of February 2023, after 26 months of work
- Main tasks were (excerpts from the original proposal)
 - *The project is entirely devoted to providing added value to the RCG Inter Sessional Sub Groups (ISSG) work in complement to them with the specific goal of proposing **elements of Regional Work Plans (RWP) for each of their activities**. [...] The project will first :*
 - Assess the **current stages of regional coordination** and define the **level of ambitions** for the content of their work for the defined RWP focal areas.
 - **Identify the elements** that will go towards the development of the RWP in 2021 and 2022
 - *The project will work on establishing **decision making structures/processes for RWP**.*
 - **Communication and consultation** with all MS and stakeholders will be developed at an early stage to enhance the acceptance of the project proposals by all parties involved in the EU-MAP.

ORGANISATIONAL ASPECTS

WP1

Compiling, identifying and filling information gaps.

WP2

Establishing decision making structures and processes.

WP3

Drafting the RWPs.

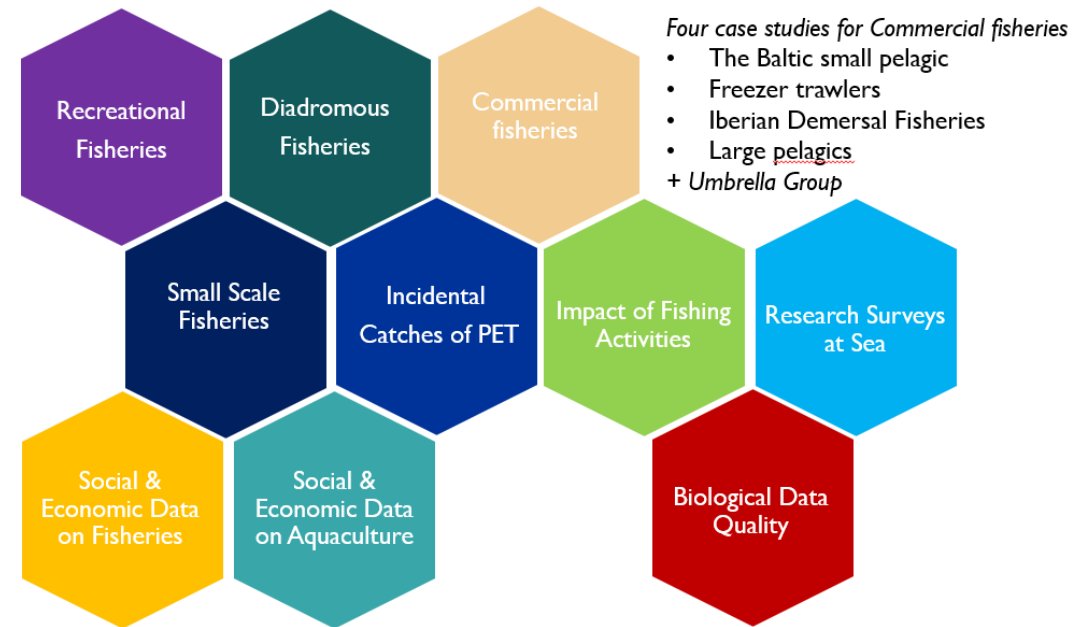
WP4

Communication and dissemination.

WP5

Coordination and management.

13 Thematic Focus areas (aligned with RCG/ISSG activities)



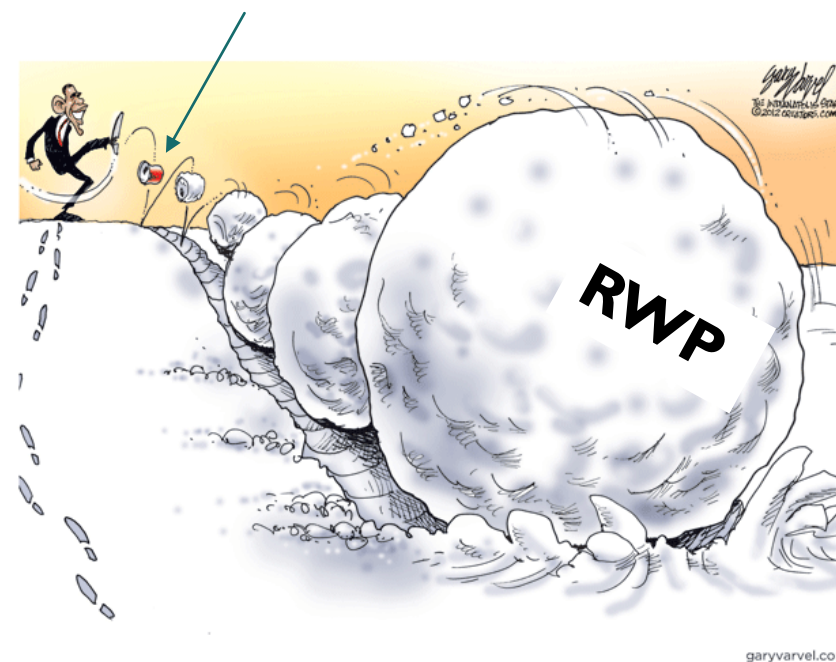
PRINCIPAL MILESTONES

	Timeline	Key milestones	Work plan brief summaries	Progress towards main deliverables
✓	Jan - June 2021	Preparing RCG 2021 session	Starting the project for all WVP and tasks Organising meetings and consultation Preparing RWP scenarios for structure and contents and scenarios for decision and implementation procedures.	New structure and first contents of RWP proposed to RCGs
✓	June - Oct 2021	RCG and LM sessions MS implications in drafting NWP	Communication Adaptation of the proposed RWP upon demands	RWP test runs (NANSEA and Baltic) 2022
✓	Nov. 2021 - June 2022	Lessons learned and preparing RCG 2022 session	Developments of all elements of RWP with lessons learned from the 2021 RCG session. Preparing a second version of RWP scenarios for structure and contents and scenarios for decision and implementation procedures	Infographics NC Consultation Decision making process
✓	June - Oct 2022	RCG and LM sessions MS implications in drafting NWP	Communication	Preparing for the final RWP proposals (NC/DM, LM)
✓	Oct. - Nov. 2022 Feb 2023	Wrap-up	Lessons learned from the 2 sessions of RCGs Compilation of all the work done Prospective; Final reporting	4 proposals for RWP 2025-2027 + all deliverables

APPROACH TAKEN

- **Work in close cooperation** with RCGs, ISSGs linked to WPI/thematic focus areas, STECF and NCs **to develop format and contents**
- **Coordinate within the ISSGs** on the coherence of their proposals for communicating their level of ambitions and states of play -> better visibility = **Infographics**
- **Ask** each Thematic Focus Areas **not to shy off proposing elements** of RWPs, and even take the occasion to address some blocking points...
 - Rationale :The proposed RWPs will circulate soon (end of March) to all NCs for feedback and comments for discussion in RCGs 2023 – only elements included in RWPs will be discussed, so it is crucial these are presented;
 - RCGs TM 2023 will comment, delete, amend and propose adjustments
 - ISSG/RWP will take care of RCG recommendations and reformulate the RWPs, if needed
 - RCGs DM (September) will then have the last word to propose RWP 2025-2027

Fishn'Co RWP proposals



FISHN'CO MAIN DELIVERABLES

NANS&EA Regional Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries sectors

2025-2027

Version 1 (to be discussed at RCG NANSEA 2023)

BALTIC Regional Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries sectors

2025-2027

Version 1 (to be discussed at RCG Baltic 2023)

Economic Issues Regional Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

2025-2027

Version 1 (to be discussed at RCGEcon 2023)

Large Pelagics Regional Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries sectors

2025-2027

Version 1 (to be discussed at RCG LP 2023)

TEXTBOX FOR ALL PROPOSED RWP

SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

- Introduction to the content of the RWP
- Name of the countries part of the RWP
- Name of textbox sections and tables part of the RWP
- Process for filling NWP
 - Tables need to be copied to NWP
 - Textboxes must not be copied but given reference to them in the relevant parts of NWP
 - Specific information on Table 1.3 – MS to check if agreements listed are still valid for the period 2025-27 and add any which are already agreed
 - Specific information on Table 2.1 – test the (fully renewed) outputs and feedback on any errors or mis-analysis

The RWP NANSEA 2025-2027 contains the following textboxes and tables:

- **Section 1: General information**
 - Textbox 1A: Test studies description
 - Textbox 1B: Other data collection activities
 - Table 1.2: Regional and International coordination
 - Table 1.3: Bi and multilateral agreements
- **Section 2: Biological data**
 - Table 2.1: List of required species/stocks
 - An addition of a control table is proposed for countries to compare declared landings in the RDB and in EUROSTAT; this is only for information purpose.
 - Textbox 2.3: Diadromous species data collection in freshwater
 - Textbox 2.4: Recreational fisheries
 - Textbox 2.5: Sampling plan description for biological data
 - Textbox 2.6: Surveys at sea
 - Table 2.6: Surveys-at-sea
- **Section 3: Fishing activity data**
 - Textbox 3.1: Fishing activity variables data collection strategy
 - Textbox 3.2: Fishing activity variables data collection strategy (for inland eel commercial fisheries)
- **Section 4: Impact of fisheries on marine biological resources**
 - Textbox 4.2: Incidental catches of sensitive species
 - Textbox 4.3: Fisheries impact on marine habitats
- **Annex 1.1: Quality report for biological data sampling scheme**

TEXTBOX 1A – TEST STUDIES DESCRIPTION (THE RWP KITCHEN !)

NANSEA

- Trawl Fishery in Iberian Waters Case Study
- Freezer Trawler Case Study
- Bay of Biscay (BoB) common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) case study
- North Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) stock marine recreational fisheries sampling

BALTIC

- PETS, Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) bycatch case study
- Baltic cod (*Gadus morhua*) marine recreational fisheries sampling

LARGE PELAGICS

- No test study

ECON

- No test study

TEXTBOX 1B – OTHER DATA COLLECTION RELATED ACTIVITIES

NANSEA

- RCG's secretariat & website
- Regional data base and estimation System (RDBES)
- Regional Coordination taking place in ISSGs and pan regional cooperation between RCGs
- Marine Recreational Fisheries Surveys Quality Assurance Toolkit (QAT)

BALTIC

- RCG's secretariat & website
- Regional data base and estimation System (RDBES)
- Regional Coordination taking place in ISSGs and pan regional cooperation between RCGs

LARGE PELAGICS

- RCG's secretariat & website
- Regional data base and estimation System (RDBES)
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ECON

- RCG's secretariat & website
- Regional Coordination taking place in ISSGs and pan regional cooperation between RCGs

TEXTBOX SECTION 2 – BIOLOGICAL DATA

NANSEA

- Text Box 2.3: Diadromous species data collection in freshwater
 - Updating coordination on eel, trout and salmon
- Text Box 2.4: Recreational Fisheries
 - Selection of species for the different regions in addition to the mandatory species
 - RDBES incorporation of recreational fisheries data
- Text Box 2.5: Sampling plan description for biological data
 - list of PET Species agreed
 - RDBES incorporation of bycatch data

BALTIC

- Text Box 2.3: Diadromous species data collection in freshwater
 - Updating coordination on eel, trout and salmon
- Text Box 2.4: Recreational Fisheries
 - Selection of species for the different regions in addition to the mandatory species
 - RDBES incorporation of recreational fisheries data
- Text Box 2.5: Sampling plan description for biological data
 - Regional coordination for sampling Small Pelagic in the Baltic

LARGE PELAGICS

- Text Box 2.4: Recreational Fisheries
 - Discussion ongoing
- Text Box 2.5: Sampling plan description for biological data
 - Tuna Sampling On Shore scheme (no associated Table 2.5)
 - Observe scheme (no associated Table 2.5)

ECON

- Not relevant

TEXTBOX SECTION 2 – BIOLOGICAL DATA – SURVEY AT SEA

NANSEA

- **North Sea and Eastern Arctic (ICES areas 1, 2, 3a, 4, 7d)**
 - 12 surveys : **IESNS**, BTS, CODS_Q4, DYFS, IBTS_Q1, IBTS_Q3, IHLS, NHAS, NSMEGS, NSSS, SNS_NLD, Nephrops_UWTV (3-4)
- **North Atlantic (ICES areas 5-14 and NAFO areas)**
 - 19 surveys: **IBWSS**, BIOMAN, CSHAS, ECOCADIZ, GGS, IAMS, IBTS_Q4, JUVENA, MEGS, NEPS (28), ORHAGO_Q4, PALPRO, REDTAS, SAHMAS, DEPM, Nephrops_UWTV (16-17, 19, 20-22, 30)

BALTIC

- **7 surveys**
 - BITS_Q1, BITS_Q4, BIAS, SPRAS, RHLS, FEJUCS, GRAHS

In blue, surveys including a cost sharing agreement

LARGE PELAGICS

- **None**

ECON

- **Not relevant**

TEXTBOX SECTION 3 – FISHING ACTIVITY DATA

NANSEA

- Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) data models for RDBES

BALTIC

- Small Scale Fisheries (SSF) data models for RDBES

LARGE PELAGICS

- RFMOs informal coordination on fishing activity variables and "data" indicators
- Coordinated of PS data collection of vessel fleet information (no signed agreement)

ECON

- None

TEXTBOX SECTION 4 – IMPACT OF FISHERIES ON MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

NANSEA

- Text Box 4.2: Incidental catches of sensitive species
 - Assessment of the relative risk of bycatch for the different gear types and/or metiers
- Text Box 4.3: Fisheries impact on marine habitats
 - NS case study (plan + **first attempt to initiate regional coordination of samples analysis**)

BALTIC

- Text Box 4.2: Incidental catches of sensitive species
 - Assessment of the relative risk of bycatch for the different gear types and/or metiers
- Text Box 4.3: Fisheries impact on marine habitats
 - None

LARGE PELAGICS

- Text Box 4.2: Incidental catches of sensitive species
 - Current measures implemented within each RFMO
- Text Box 4.3: Fisheries impact on marine habitats
 - No real coordination but national initiatives (future coordination in progress)

ECON

- Not relevant

TEXTBOX SECTION 5,6 & 7 – ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT IN FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE & FISH PROCESSING

NANSEA

- Taken care by RWP ECON

BALTIC

- Taken care by RWP ECON

LARGE PELAGICS

- Taken care by RWP ECON, although specificities in terms of fish farming to be considered.

ECON

- Text Box 5.2:
 - Definitions for the economic and social variables to be collected under Table 7 and 9 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. .
- Text Box 6.1
 - Definitions for the economic and social variables to be collected under Table 10 and 9 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex .
- Text Box 7.1
 - Definitions for the economic variables are available in Table 7.1 of the Annex Guidelines tables.

ANNEXES

NANSEA

- Annex I.1
 - Regional stomach content sampling

BALTIC

- Annex I.1
 - Baltic Small Pelagic Fisheries Regional

LARGE PELAGICS

- Annex I.1
 - Tuna Sampling On Shore
 - Observe

ECON

- Annex I.2
 - List of statistical methods.

TABLES

NANSEA

- Table 1.2: Regional and International coordination
- Table 1.3: Bi and multilateral agreements
- Table 2.1: List of required species/stocks
- Table 2.6: Surveys-at-sea
- Table 4.1. Stomach sampling and analysis

BALTIC

- Table 1.2: Regional and International coordination
- Table 1.3: Bi and multilateral agreements
- Table 2.1: List of required species/stocks
- Table 2.6: Surveys-at-sea

LARGE PELAGICS

- Table 1.2: Regional and International coordination
- Table 2.1: List of required species/stocks

ECON

- No set of tables.

TABLE 1.3 SPECIFICS

A dedicated repository is under development as part of the RCG website, for hosting the original signed version of the agreements. MS could then refer to these in their NWP.

The agreements listed in table 1.3 of the proposed RWPs are to be checked for validity in 2025-27; Any further agreements finalised in RCGs 2023 could then be included in the final RWP 2025-27.

RCG's Multilateral and bilateral agreements' repository

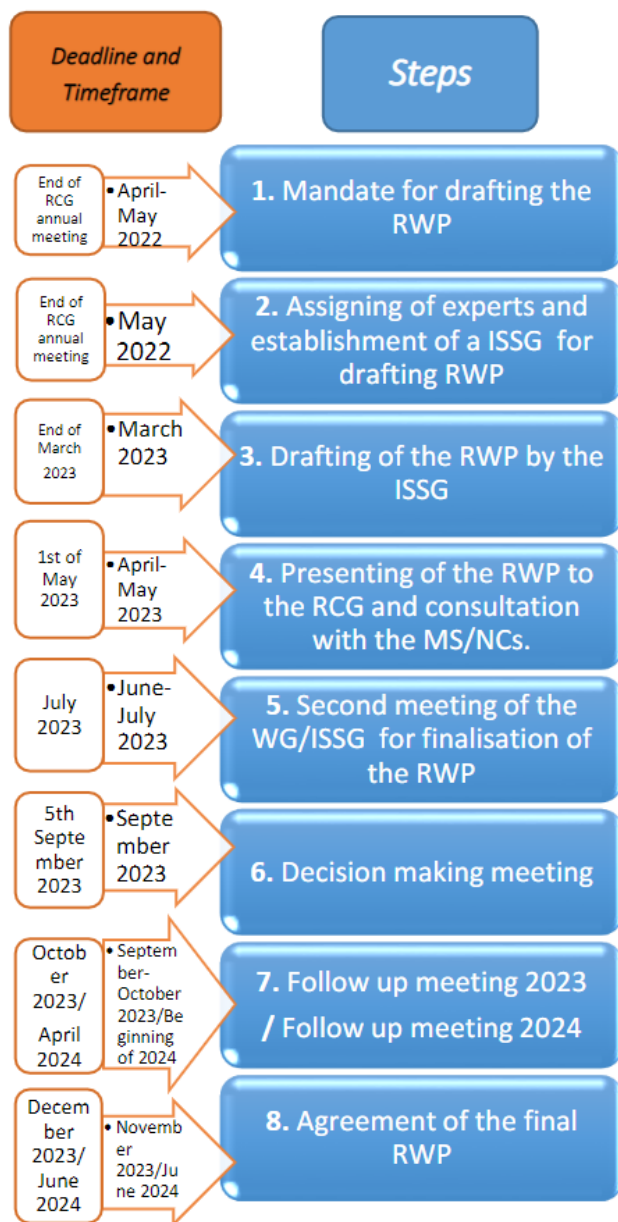
Country signed: Sélectionner tout, Baltic, ECON, LDF, LP, Med&BS, NANSEA

Validity period: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Agreement	Data signed	Countries	Validity period	Link	RCG
Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters 2018-2020	décembre de 2017	Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, The Netherlands	31/12/2020	Link	Baltic
Bilateral Agreement between the DTU Aqua, Denmark and NMFRI, National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Poland for conducting a combined scientific ichthyoplankton survey in the Baltic Sea in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168, establishing the list of mandatory research survey based on the Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council	novembre de 2021	Poland, Denmark	31/12/2024	Link	ECON
Bilateral Agreement between Poland (NMFRI) and Germany (TI) for the collection of biological data on European eel in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Union framework for data collection, and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2016/1701	juillet de 2018	Poland, Germany		Link	LDF
Amendment to: Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters 2018-2020 (extension 2021-2023)	septembre de 2020	Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, The Netherlands	31/12/2023	Link	NANSEA
Amendment to: Multi-lateral agreement for 2017 and 2018 between Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in SPRFMO waters	juillet de 2018	Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland	31/12/2020	Link	LDF
2nd Amendment to: Multi-lateral agreement for 2017 and 2018 between Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in SPRFMO waters (extension 2021-2023)	octobre de 2020	Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland	31/12/2023	Link	LP

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

3. Hand-over fishn'Co proposed RWPs to ISSG/RWP (meeting planned on the 21st of March 2023)
4. ISSG/RWP to send RWPs to RCG chairs for NC consultation – allowing a full month to comment and feedback
5. Compilation of comments by ISSG/RWP to be presented to RCG/TM
6. ISSG/RWP to fine tune the RCG proposal and recommendations, in any, to be presented to NC/DM
7. Revision of the RWP, by ISSG/RWP, after STECF and Commission comments, if any
8. Agreement of the RWPs by the NCs, and RWPs ready for the preparation of the NWP 2025-27 by October 2024



CONCLUSIONS

- **All expected deliverables have been developed**, only a few are still pending final adjustments.
- **The 2022 consultation with the NCs** was extremely informative and helpful in progressing towards the RWP proposals; Thank you very much for the quality of your responses; This document has been disseminated to you and you're free to use it in the RCG discussions.
- **The project was affected by** the inability to travel and meet in person due to **the covid-19 pandemic**. The planned meetings were held remotely (7 plenary meetings, 13 WP leaders meetings, 13 WPI TFAs meetings). Only one meeting was held in a hybrid format (Vigo, Oct. 2022) and shown the benefits of being together in a room vs online!
- In terms of **communication**, a lot has been done, in connexion with the SECWEB project and the RCG website (newsletters, infographics, video, ...), in preparing and managing meetings, shared documents, internally and with all stakeholders.
- We're ready to **hand-over** the proposed RWPs (except the RWP on Economic issues which has already been agreed at RCGECON) **to ISSG/RWP** with a first meeting planned on the 21st of March.

Fishn'Co at a glance

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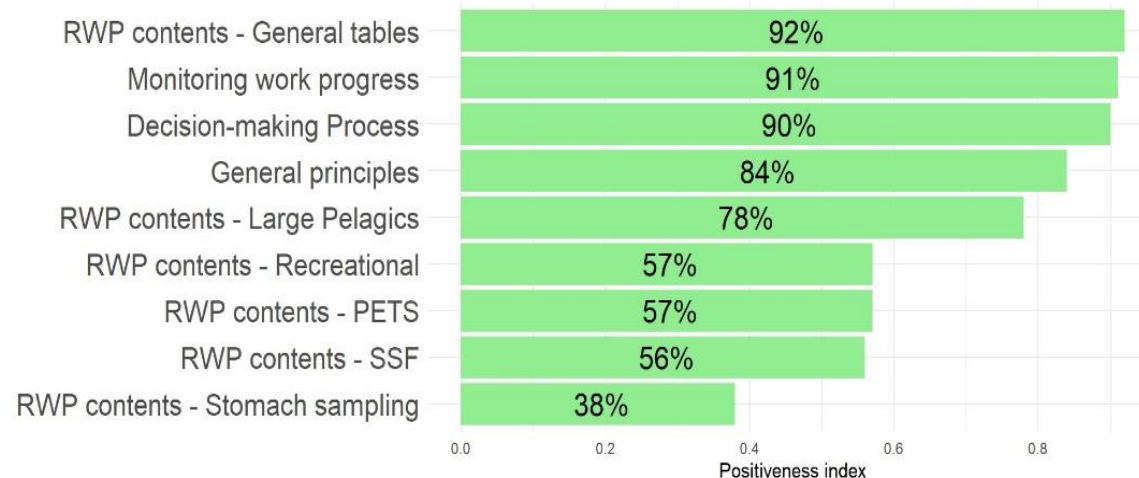
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LESSONS LEARNED

- **Format** (tables and text boxes) of Test run RVVP 2022 received no disagreement
- **Confusion** were pointed on the text boxes **with ambitions and unfinalised initiatives** so that eventually, only agreed coordination elements should be part of RVVP and outstanding work should be in infographics.
 - Note that Fishn'Co chose to specify in text box IA **what is under development and planned to be developed in the near future**
- From the consultation:

Textbox IA also called the 'RWP kitchen'

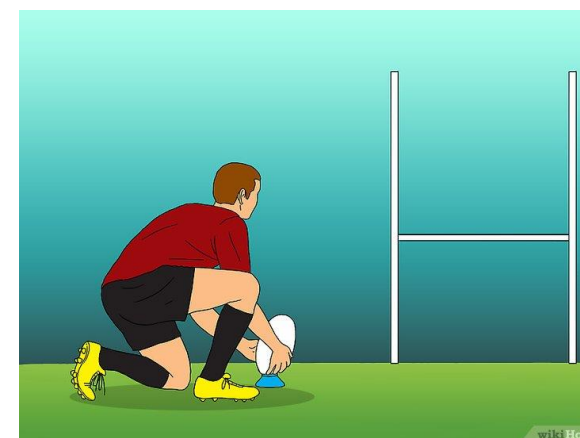


PENDING QUESTIONS

- **Should the RWP be fixed over the 3-year period** or allowed to be updated? Fishn'Co reflected on this and thought that the RWP could be modified during interim years only if this would not require all MS involved to resubmit an update of their NWP. To be further discussed in the forthcoming RCGs.
- **RoP** - In order to accommodate the RWPs objectives, a proposal for revision of the current RoPs for each RCG was considered.
 - The **possible burdens** for the decision-making processes with regards to the RWP implementation were **identified and solutions** were **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 DM 2021 Report.
 - Bearing in mind the initial plan to have one RoP for all RCGs, it is expected that **all other RCGs** will **amend their RoP according to the combined version** of RCG Baltic and NANSEA.

LESSONS LEARNED

- There is a **variety of coordination types**, depending on the thematic and the related needs; this is not an issue, but complexifies the readability of the proposals. Work on consistencies has been done in fishn'Co (Infographics) but this needs to be improved and maintained in time.
- **Transforming the variety of coordination to regional agreements** (transforming the try) is not an easy task! It looks like a normal phase of a new concept like the RWP and helping the experts in each ISSG in delivering workable agreed products will be important in the future. The RWPs and RCG public webpages should help.
- Important for the RWP concept to **Keep It Simple and Sensible** (KISS)



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THANK YOU!



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