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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND  
FISHERIES

Directorate C: Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and  
Outermost Regions Unit C3: Scientific Advice and Data Collection

Call MARE/2020/08 – FISHN’CO – SI2.839816

# 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 - FISHN’CO

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

## Progress Report (maximum 2 pages)

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Covered period: 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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## 1 Progress of work plan in the covered period

### 1.1 General progress:

Summarise the objectives and the achievements, deviations, important problems and difficulties met.

#### **WP1: Compiling, identifying and filling information gaps.**

The different Thematic Focus Areas (TFA) have assessed the current status of regional coordination and have defined the level of ambition for a series of topics, namely: common sampling protocol, common regional database, comparability of results, data quality and control data, end-users needs, harmonisation of data collection, improving knowledge about similarity/difference between countries, developing pilot study, data collection of other variables. As a result of the assessment carried out in WP1, the elements or "building blocks" within each TFA that were ready for regional coordination were included in the NCs consultation process to get feedback on what can be finally included in RWPs (details in WP3).

The current status of regional coordination will evolve over time, therefore it needs to be monitored and updated. The progress towards the level of ambition is shown in an interactive infographic (details in WP4). The interactive infographic allows to identify easily which is the actual level of ambition, and the targetted level for each topic within each TFA. Filters and pop-ups help to this aim. In order to be able to update the infographic display over time, WP1 in collaboration with WP4 team have developed a working spreadsheet that it is integrated within the infographic display.

#### **WP2: Establishing decision making structures / processes**

The decision making structure has been revised according to STECF feedback on RWP test run 2022. The timeframe for RWP 2025-2027 has been taken into consideration to establish the decision making structures/processes and timeline in the new version of the document ([D.2.2.Scenario Decision-making structure for developing RWPs v2](#)).

RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic have adopted common RoPs (NCs meeting Sept. 2021). Based on the present version of the RoP a draft proposal for decision-making structures for adoption of a regional work plans has been submitted to the NC for comments. Feedback from the consultation process is currently under analysis and it will be used to draw a final version of the document before the end of the project.

#### **WP3: Drafting Regional Work Plan**

During the first quarter of 2022 a lot of effort was devoted to prepare and gather the elements from all project WPs, to launch the consultation process in preparation of future Regional Work Plans. After a series of WP leaders meetings, the consultation was launched in April 2022, and it was addressed to all MS. The questionnaire was fine-tuned and published using the EU survey platform. <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/welcome>

The preliminary results of the consultation are very promising, 24 out of 26 countries responded and many positive answers were received; therefore these could be elements to be included in the RWP. The outputs of the consultation process have been presented in plenary session at RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic technical meeting 2022. The full report of the consultation is being developed and should be ready for sending to all NCs and Commission before the September Decision and Liaison Meetings.

At 5<sup>th</sup> Fishn'Co plenary meeting it was decided to propose to RCG NANS&EA and Baltic TM 2022 that there will be no RWP test run in 2023; This proposition was agreed. Instead, Fishn'Co will focus on compiling the different elements that have already been test run, and propose in collaboration with RCGS/ISSGs tangible elements to be included in the RWP in July 2023. RWP 2025-2027 is to be finalized by May 2023 prior to the RCGs meetings. In line with this timeframe RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic agreed to revive the ISSG Regional Work Plan in 2022-2023 and Fishn'Co committed to ensure a smooth transition at the end of the project; the chairs of the ISSG will be Joël Vigneau together with Maria Hansson.

#### **WP4: Communication and dissemination**

Fishn'Co Dissemination and Communication Plan has been updated, including the Communication action planner. WP4 in collaboration with WP1 leaders have developed the interactive infographic of Levels of Ambitions. [Interactive infographic](#)

The preliminary infographic was done using MS office (Power Point), which proved to be limiting in terms of allowing changes and updates to the initial design. Instead, we have used Power BI. The output is similar to the initial one with the advantage that it allows more flexibility to add and updated contents. The infographic allows to

filter and select different thematic focus areas and a lot of information is displayed in pop-ups. In addition, the procedure for updating the infographic is quite straight forward, it feeds from an Excel file. Moreover, WP4 team took an active part in the consultation process, not only generating the questionnaire on EU survey platform but also being the communication channel between Fishn’Co and Member states. Additionally, the team has initiated the making of a video. A script has been developed and filming was done during in-person meeting coupled with the RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic in Ostende (Belgium). Finally, the website section about Fishn’co has been fed with new contents and the RCG newsletter has incorporated several items relevant to Fishn’co. The RCG twitter account (@fisheriesRCG) has also been used to promote some of the website and newsletter contents about Fishn’co.

**WP5: Project coordination and management**

Several coordination meetings have taken place during the reporting period to ensure a smooth management of the large network and to allow for a systematic monitoring of progress and achievements:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> Fishn’Co plenary meeting
- 7<sup>th</sup> March, WP Leaders meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, NCs meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup> March, WP Leaders meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> May, WP Leaders meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> Fishn’Co plenary meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> June, WP leaders meeting-in preparation for RCG sessions

Save-the-date, agenda, meeting link, and minutes are always provided in due time for an effective participation and monitoring.

Finally, Fishn’Co partners, with lead and guidance by CETMAR and IFREMER, fulfilled also the financial and administrative requirements of the project compiling all the necessary information to elaborate and submit the project interim report, which was approved.

1.2 Progress on the project against initial general and specific objectives:

Compare the activities planned (based on the Grant Agreement and/or the previous report) to the progress made, by specific objective and according the agreed work plan in the initial proposal (Annex I of the Grant Agreement); list achieved deliverables and identify partners involved, including their roles; describe major subcontractors and other stakeholders involved.

Planned	Status: Finished (F)/ In progress (P) /Not started (NS)	Main Contributors <b>(All the partners had some contributions to all the WPs, but here it is mentioned who has been mainly responsible for what)</b>
<b>WP1: Compiling, identifying and filling information gaps</b>		
<b>D1.1:</b> Gaps and needs to develop a RWP	• F	Marine Institute, IFREMER, *
<b>D1.2:</b> Report of workshop, meeting...	• F	Marine Institute, CETMAR
<b>WP2: Establishing decision making structures /processes</b>		
<b>D2.1:</b> A short description of the processes that needs to be taken into account when developing RWP.	• P	EV-ILVO, *
<b>D2.2:</b> Draft decision-making structures for developing the regional work plans.	• P	

**Title of the Action:** 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 – SECWEB

<b>D2.3:</b> Draft timeline and procedure for adoption of a RWP (including proposed scenarios for consultation)	• P	EV-ILVO, DTU, *
<b>D2.4:</b> Draft revised RoP that accommodate for development and adoption of RWP.	• P	
<b>D2.5:</b> Slideshow on the summary of the draft decision-making process.	• P	
<b>WP3: Drafting Regional Work Plans</b>		
<b>D3.1:</b> Draft elements of Regional Work Plan for RCG NANS&EA (textboxes and tables).	• P	IFREMER, *
<b>D3.2:</b> Draft elements of Regional Work Plan for RCG Baltic (textboxes and tables).	• P	IFREMER and Marine Institute, *
<b>D3.3:</b> Draft elements of Regional Work Plan for RCG Large Pelagics (textboxes and tables).	• P	
<b>D3.4:</b> Draft elements of Regional Work Plan related to economics and aquaculture for RCGECON (textboxes and tables).	• P	
<b>D3.5:</b> Development of Regional Work Plans, main aspects and approach and strategy for their implementation.	• P	
<b>D3.6:</b> Slideshow on the summary of the draft regional work plan	• P	
<b>WP4: Communication and dissemination</b>		
<b>D.4.1.</b> Dissemination and Communication Plan for Fish'nCo.	• P	CETMAR
<b>D.4.2.</b> Dissemination and Communication Materials for Fisn'Co	• P	CETMAR
<b>D.4.3.</b> Inputs to feed the RCGs stakeholders database in Annex II project.	• F	
<b>D.4.4.</b> Compilation of reports from Stakeholders' events meetings	• P	CETMAR
<b>WP5: Coordination and management of the project</b>		
<b>D5.1</b> The minutes of the three main PSC meetings consisting, as a minimum, of a list of attendees, notes and action plans, will be maintained as a record of progress for each WP and the project as a whole.	• P	CETMAR, IFREMER
<b>D5.2</b> Reports to the EU Commission after the formal project meetings	• P	CETMAR
<b>D5.3</b> Six-monthly detailed meeting plans	• P	CETMAR
<b>D5.4</b> Six-monthly progress reports	• P	CETMAR, IFREMER

\*It needs to be noticed that several non-partner organisations (apart from partners) have also contributed to the work needed for the deliverables where there is an \*

### 1.3 Identified deviations, problems and corrective actions taken in the period

If any, identify the nature and the reason for the deviation or encountered problems (technical, financial or organisational), identify partners involved, clarify impacts on the activities and deliverables, present the strategy to overcome them; in case of deviations described in the last report describe to which extent you have managed to get back on track.

No significant deviations to be reported.

## 2 Work plan for the next period

### 2.1 Planned activities in the next reporting period:

Give an outlook on planned activities and deliverables, for the period until the next report, according to the agreed work plan in the initial proposal (Annex I of the Grant Agreement).

**WP1:** Integrate feedback from consultation process into WP1 deliverables

**WP2:** Integrate feedback from consultation process into WP2 deliverables Finalise the slideshow on the summary of the draft decision-making process.

This WP will also review the timeline for the decision process in order to make sure that the RWP reaches its final version on time to be in force for the period 25-27 with all the intermediary steps about assessment, discussion/feedback and decision by the corresponding parties.

**WP3:** The main plan is to integrate feedback from consultation process into WP3 deliverables. Finalise the slideshow on the summary of the draft regional work plan and to hand over the RWP outputs from Fishn'co to the ISSG-RWP:

The Draft RWP produced in 2021 by Fishn'Co and agreed at RCG was a decisive progress from the first RWP proposed by RCGs in 2020 and enabled the RCGs to gather feedback on implementation, relations with NWP, timing, and advantages of having a RWP, but it also opened a number of questions and ambiguities that made it necessary for Fishn'co to further address a full consultation process to the NCs. The findings of the consultation process and the discussions during the RCGs TM 2022 provided Fishn'co with sufficient insight and RCGs considered that there was no point in producing a new test run RWP to go through a new screening by STECF in 2022. During RCGs 2022 TM it was agreed that the final period of Fishn'co would be used to make sure that all the elements needed for the preparation and submission of the official RWP 2025-27 are handed over to the revived ISSG-RWP and are perfectly defined and well understood by all the relevant parties. Thus, the outcome and final deliverable for Fishn'co WP3 will consist of a first draft of RWP 2025-27 with gathered elements from all experts so that ISSG/RWP can use this to fine tune and circulate among NCs before finalising the RWP 2025-27 for TCG TM 202

**WP4:** Develop and release a project briefing to highlight major project outcomes and achievements. Edition, release and on-line promotion of the Fishn'Co video. Continue communication initiatives through the incorporation of Fishnco news in the RCGs electronic newsletter, incorporation of any new outcomes into the project section in the RCGs website and promote the communication products developed through the RCGs account on twitter <https://twitter.com/fisheriesRCG>.

**WP5:** Organize and coordinate a final in-person meeting to present project outcomes and to do so in coordination with the other MARE2020-08 grants under the facilitation of SecWeb.

Prepare and submit the second progress report, update the project financial projections and communicate with the EC-DGMARE for any adjustments needed.

### 3 Other issues

If any, indicate other project-related issues to be brought to the attention of the European Commission.

It is under discussion the need to formally request a two-month extension of the project implementation period, of course, with no extra costs to the project. This will be discussed by the partners and when a decision is taken, a formal and motivated request will be submitted by the Project Coordinator to the MARE services.