Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management

Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017

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) No 199/2008 (recast)

Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021

establishing the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of biological, environmental, technical and socioeconomic data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168 of 27 April 2021

establishing the list of mandatory research surveys at sea and thresholds as part of the multiannual Union programme for the collection and management of data in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors from 2022

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/39 of 12 January 2022

laying down rules on the format and timetables for the submission of national work plans and annual reports for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and repealing Implementing Decisions (EU) 2016/1701 and (EU) 2018/1283

Austria Work Plan for data collection in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors

2026-2028

Version 2

Vienna, Austria - 17 October 2025

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Data collection framework at national level

General comment: Use this text box to describe how data collection is organised in your Member State (institutions involved, contact information) and in which regional coordination groups (RCG) your Member State participates.
The data collection framework is under the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management. The national correspondent is: Ludwig Gerner, Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna Data about aquaculture production according to regulation (EC) 762/2008 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture are collected by "Statistik Austria". According to https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tag00075/default/table?lang=en the EU's aquaculture production in 2023 was 1.050.636, 9088 tonnes, while Austria's production in the same year amounted to 5.170, 229 tonnes, which represents 0,49 % of the EU's production. According to Chapter II Para 7 of the Commission's Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168, there is no obligation for Member States to collect socio-economic data on a regular basis if their aquaculture production is below 1 % of the EU's production. Under previous MAPs we did two pilot studies to develop methodologies for social-economic data collection in order to be prepared in case it becomes an obligation. However, as this does not seem to be the case in the immediate future, we will not pursue these activities right now and focus on data collection activities fulfilling objectives under other EMFAF priorities. This is also due to the very limited EMFAF resources. Austria's share is 0,13 (!) % of the overall EMFAF-budget.

Text Box 1b: Other data collection activities

Activity A: Photogrammetric mapping of aquaculture areas

General comment: Use this text box to provide information on other data collection activities that relate to your EMFAF operational programme and need to be included in the work plan and the annual report. Describe activities that are funded by the DCF but fulfil objectives under other EMFAF priorities, like marine knowledge, or activities funded by the DCF, but without a direct link to the EU MAP specific requirements or WP template tables, like freshwater fisheries. You can also include one-off specific studies for a particular end-user need that do not enter the regular data collection.
1. Aim of the data collection activity Austrian carp production relies on particularly extensive, nature-friendly farming methods. As a result, carp ponds often develop into richly structured habitats with high ecological value. Features such as pronounced siltation zones further enhance their conservation importance – but at the same time reduce the usable production area. Mapping open-water surfaces and siltation zones, however, presents a challenge. Freely available orthophotos are often outdated and lack the necessary resolution, especially for small ponds. Therefore, this survey aims to develop a method that uses drone imagery to record ponds in a simple, fast, and reliable way, allowing accurate determination of their surface areas. In addition, it will examine whether vegetation zones can be surveyed throughout the year or only during specific seasons. 2. Duration of the data collection activity

The study will take approximately thirty months to complete. The data collection will be performed twice per year during the vegetation period of reed. Once, between May and June, when growth is initiated and growth rates are high, and again during the blooming season between July and September.

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of the data collection activity

During the data collection activity, the extent of reed vegetation will be used as a proxy indicator to identify siltation zones in pond systems. Different drones equipped with RGB cameras can be used to compare multispectral and RGB images and determine which system leads to better results. Therefore, individual flights using a multispectral camera are necessary to facilitate comparative analysis of the quality of data obtained using RGB and multispectral imaging systems. Comprehensive aerial images of the entire pond area will be captured and processed using open-source and licensed software, in order to benchmark the performance of open-source alternatives. A software comparison should also be carried out to provide a recommendation to pond managers and supervisory bodies. This processing will generate orthomosaics and digital elevation models (DEMs) for each site. Vegetation indices requiring only red, green and blue spectral bands, such as the normalised green-red difference index (NGRDI), will be calculated to enhance vegetation detection capabilities. Water and siltation areas are manually classified using polygon delineation for model training purposes. This is followed by the development of a random forest model using orthomosaics, vegetation indices and DEMs from each flight per pond. The expected result is a comprehensive land cover map showing the classified pond areas based on the defined training polygons. This map will enable the precise calculation of the ratio between the total pond area and the area affected by siltation. This provides pond managers with the quantitative data they need to make informed management decisions and adjust area subsidies to take the high ecological value of siltation zones into account.

Text Box 1b: Other data collection activities

Activity B: Socio-economic data collection for a potential Austrian fish feed production

General comment: Use this text box to provide information on other data collection activities that relate to your EMFAF operational programme and need to be included in the work plan and the annual report. Describe activities that are funded by the DCF but fulfil objectives under other EMFAF priorities, like marine knowledge, or activities funded by the DCF, but without a direct link to the EU MAP specific requirements or WP template tables, like freshwater fisheries. You can also include one-off specific studies for a particular end-user need that do not enter the regular data collection.

1. Aim of the data collection activity

The realization of an Austrian fish feed production is a key issue for the Austrian domestic aquaculture sector. The sector is currently facing several challenges that also conflict with the national goal of increasing domestic fish production:
- High operating costs for feed, particularly in trout farming.
- High dependence on imports due to fishmeal and fish oil from marine fisheries being the main ingredients in fish feed.
- Strong competition concerning the required raw materials for fish feed (esp. by-products of fish processing).

The overarching goals of domestic fish feed production are in line with the Austrian National Strategy and comprise:

- Reducing the domestic sector's dependence on fishmeal and fish oil from marine fisheries.
- Securing and further developing feed systems for sustainable and competitive domestic aquaculture
- Strengthening the regional added value of domestic aquaculture companies, through the increased use of regionally available alternative protein sources (insects, plants, etc.) and through the reuse of fish processing by-products within the sector.
- Supporting the reduction of the overall environmental impact of fishmeal and fish oil from marine fisheries.

A fundamental prerequisite for domestic fish feed is ensuring high quality standards regarding digestibility, animal health, and the quality of the fish meat. To realize domestic fish feed production, socio-economic feasibility and viability is crucial; promising concepts would not be implemented if revenues and economic perspectives are not met. Thus, the need for data on socio-economic sustainability, such as costs and revenues alongside the production chain, is one of the most pressing issues.

The collection and generation of specific data, in particular socio-economic and environmental data on domestic fish feed production, represents a highly relevant contribution to closing significant data gaps and leveraging important synergies to existing, mainly technology-focused activities in Austria. Economic data is a crucial complement to the question of technical feasibility for the overarching goal of Austrian fish feed production.

2. Duration of the data collection activity

The duration of the activity is planned for 24 months.

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of the data collection activity

The aim of the data collection activity is met by the collection and generation of data in the following methodical steps (I-IV), serving as a basis for determining economically viable and ecologically sustainable production capacities:

Step I. Data collection on status quo:
Data collection on costs of required/available raw material quantities / data on production process: economic efficiency, revenue streams, operating costs, other production costs / quantities and current usage of key raw materials.

Step II. Data collection on the potential of sustainable domestic production networks:
Data collection on implementation costs of existing and potential domestic production processes (processing lines, tonnages) for varying levels of complexity (e.g., large-scale facilities, decentralized small-scale facilities) / data generation on tonnages for cost allocation (economic efficiency) / data on competitive situation along the value chain / data on potential supply chains and volume flows.

Step III. Validation and generation of microdata using the Typical Farm Approach method:
Data generation regarding cost coverage or the potential need for subsidies at different production stages / Validation using the Typical Farm Approach (virtual data generation): collection of required data for implementation of the method, such as cost structure, prices, employment, sales, etc.; updating of existing typical farms from previous projects and, if necessary, creating new typical farms to generate virtual farm-specific microdata.

Step IV. Data collection/generation on environmental impacts:
Data collection on environmental factors from raw material extraction, production and, if applicable, distribution; life cycle analysis of domestically produced fish feed / generation of relevant scenarios, e.g., regional raw materials vs. imports, different raw material inputs, and different production technologies.

4. Further Notes

The activity is designed as a specific study for a particular end-user need and will therefore, to present knowledge, not enter the regular data collection.

Text Box 1b: Other data collection activities

Activity C: Supporting the SECWEB-Project

General comment: Use this text box to provide information on other data collection activities that relate to your EMFAF operational programme and need to be included in the work plan and the annual report. Describe activities that are funded by the DCF but fulfil objectives under other EMFAF priorities, like marine knowledge, or activities funded by the DCF, but without a direct link to the EU MAP specific requirements or WP template tables, like freshwater fisheries. You can also include one-off specific studies for a particular end-user need that do not enter the regular data collection.

1. Aim of the data collection activity

Support the operation and functioning of the RCG´s Secretariat for a fluent regional coordination of data collection activities.

2. Duration of the data collection activity

01/01/2026 – 31/12/2028

3. Methodology and expected outcomes of the data collection activity

The Secretariat´s organizational structured has been set up and pilot tested throughout SecWeb project. The key functions of the RCG´s Secretariat have been determined in close collaboration with all RCGs, in particular with RCG and Intersessional Subgroups (ISSGs) chairs. A business model has been developed. In addition, good practices in communication within and among the RCGs have been promoted and installed. The overall capacity to reach out to a wider public and increase the visibility of the work and output of the RCGs has been boosted with the development of a dedicated website and the consolidation of a visual identity.

RCG chairs and the RCG´s network in general have acknowledged the added value of having an RCG´s Secretariat to the overall aim of improving data collection activities.

Based on SecWeb project outputs the proposed data collection activity will connect the whole RCG network and stakeholders to work together on common goals. The Secretariat provides fluent administrative and coordination support for more efficient regional coordination liberating national experts involved in data collection activities from heavy burden administrative tasks.

Overall expected outcomes

- A full-time dedicated Secretariat support service for the RCGs enables a consistent approach to administering RCG activities, facilitates communication, and enhances the intersessional work, supporting also the work of sub-groups.
- A dynamic and permanently updated website will be kept available including as features:
    - Integration – allowing seamless synchronization with third-party information needs and requests
    - Responsive display – to serve content across multiple devices, screens, and browsers
    - User experience- maintaining a satisfactory user experience throughout the website sections
    - Accessibility – To any interested visitor in a user-friendly way across the website sections
    - Retention- keeping visitors coming back to the website
    - Links to relevant restricted access sites and virtual environments.
- The Visual identity for the RCGs is increasingly consolidated and visibility and understanding of the work by the RCGs is enhanced for the relevant stakeholder groups.
- A regularly updated Stakeholders' database improves the communication function among the RCGs' experts and the stakeholders' community.
- Internal communication protocols and help-desk in place makes it easier for any new comer to efficiently join, adopt responsibilities, and contribute to the RCGs objectives and work commitments.

The public description of the secretariat functions, operational working protocols and commitments will build trust and enhance the whole network transparency and accountability.

Text Box 6.1: Economic and social variables for aquaculture data collection

General comment: This text box fulfils Article 5(2) (e), Article 6(3) (a), (b) and (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, and Chapter II point 6 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex. It is intended to specify the data to be collected under Tables 10 and 11 of the EU MAP Delegated Decision annex.

1. Description of the threshold application

According to https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tag00075/default/table?lang=en the EU's aquaculture production in 2024 was 1.050.636, 9088 tonnes, while Austria's production in the same year amounted to 5.120, 229 tonnes, which represents 0,49 % of the EU's production. According to Chapter II Para 7 of the Commission's Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1168, there is no obligation for Member States to collect socio-economic data on a regular basis if there aquaculture production is below 1 % of the EU's production.

2. Deviation from the RCG ECON (ex. PGECON) definitions

Not applicable

SECTION 7: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA IN FISH PROCESSING