



AR2014

National Data Gathering Program under EC Regulation 199/2008

Belgium

ILVO - Fisheries (Oostende, Belgium) Sea
Fisheries Service (Oostende, Belgium)

ILVO- Social Sciences Unit (Merelbeke,
Belgium)

BMM-MUMM- Research Institute
(Brussels, Belgium)

10/12/2015

Version control

Version 12 October 2015:

Belgium_Annual_report_2014_Text_ 12102015

The corresponding standard tables are submitted in an Excel file:

Belgium_Annual_report_2014_Tables_12102015

I General Framework

This document presents the Annual Report (AR) on the work carried according to the Belgium National Programme (NP) for data collection in the fisheries sector for the year 2014. The programme has been carried out in accordance with the rules laid down in the *“Commission Regulation (665/2008) and Commission Decision (2010/93/EC) adopting a multi annual Community programme pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy”*, hereafter referred to as “DCF” in this AR.

The format of this report is structured following the most recent guidelines from the Commission. The AR is structured in a number of modules. In the following chapters a description is given of the activities related to the DCF that have been carried out by Belgium.

Furthermore, the EC has established provisions to facilitate the cooperation between MS with the regard to the collection of data. These are Regional Coordination Meetings (RCM), formal (bilateral) agreements with other MS and in the future regional databases. As far as the conclusions and agreements of the meetings are relevant for the regional data collection and for Belgium they have been taken into account in this AR2014.

In standard table I.A.1 Belgium has listed the valid derogations for 2014.

In standard table I.A.2 Belgium has listed the valid bi-lateral agreements for 2014. In Annex 7, a copy of the bi-lateral agreements can be found.

Belgian fishing industry – small and complex

In previous years, the idea of having a 'restricted' list of species for which landings data are recorded, has repeatedly been labelled as a 'non-conformity' by the External Evaluators. However, as already explained on several occasions in the NP proposals, there is a rationale behind the idea of the restricted list. Species that do not figure in the restricted list are not deliberately omitted from the data recording system – they are simply not landed by the Belgian fleet in quantities of any importance. As such, the list should not be seen as an attempt 'to get away with the minimum', but rather as a reflection of the actual composition of the Belgian fish and shellfish landings. In its evaluation of the 2004 and 2005 NP proposals (the issue was not raised by the External Evaluators in relation to the 2006 NP Proposal), SGRN stated that it saw no contradiction between the requirements of the DCF and the use of a restricted list, "as long as the 'restricted list' is a correct reflection of the species composition of the landings". Belgium has repeatedly confirmed that this is the case (see e.g. SEC (2004) 179, page 16, and SEC (2005) 255, page 26.

No data are reported for the variables for which no data are collected within the framework of the above described data collection scheme or for the variables which are not associated with the fishing techniques used by the Belgian fleet.

In Belgium, effort and landings data are collected in two ways: from logbooks and from sales notes. The logbooks contain extensive information on the retained catches and their species composition by haul (albeit with certain restrictions – see bullet point 2 underneath), but they do not contain information on the size composition (in terms of market categories) of the retained catches. The sales notes on the other hand, contain information on the quantities auctioned by market category for all species landed (and not just for the species recorded in the logbooks – again see bullet point

2), but they do not provide information on the exact origin (in terms of statistical rectangles) of the landings. The two systems are equally important to the Belgian data collection system, they are complementary, and the combination of the two has clear advantages:

- (1) The two approaches yield independent estimates of the retained and landed portions of the catches, and can thus be used for quality control and validation purposes. This helps improving the reliability of the landings figures.
- (2) In the Logbook Regulation, it is stipulated that "only catches of an amount greater than 50 kg of live-weight equivalent of any species retained on board must be recorded in the logbook" (Article 2.4.2. of Annex V of Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 2807/83), the consequence being that small by-catches of fish and shellfish often remain unrecorded in the logbooks. These quantities however, are picked up in the sales notes, which helps improving the species coverage and hence the comprehensiveness of the landings statistics.
- (3) As already mentioned in, roughly one fifth of all fish and shellfish taken by Belgian vessels in the southern and central North Sea are auctioned abroad, mostly in the Netherlands. Also, vessels making consecutive fishing trips in distant waters before returning to their homeport in Belgium, may sell part of their catches during their stop-overs in a foreign harbour. Data on the sales abroad are collected by local authorities from sales notes and submitted to the Sea Fisheries Service for incorporation in the Belgian national fishstats database. This requires additional quality checks and codification, to ensure that the imported data are compatible with the recipient database.
- (4) Last but not least, the landings data by market category are of critical importance to the biological data collection programme on the landings, which heavily relies on stratified sampling by market category.

The dual approach (logbooks and sales notes) is advocated by the ICES Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS) as a means to validate the different sources of information on catches and landings. In its 2007 report (1), the PGCCDBS states that "In order to establish quality indicators that can be used to evaluate / estimate the accuracy of the fishery statistics and biological information about the catches, it is necessary to make use of different sources of information and analyse the consistency between them with regards to the relevant parameters. Such a quality control thus needs to check different sources for the same information, e.g. logbooks compared with sale slips from the same vessel and/or trip". **This is exactly what has been done for 2014 and for several years now in Belgium.**

❖ The problem of the 'restricted' list

In the past, the idea of having a 'restricted' list of species for which landings data are recorded, has been labelled as a 'non-conformity' by the External Evaluators. There is, however, a rationale behind the idea of the restricted list. Species that do not figure in the restricted list are not deliberately omitted from the data recording system – they are simply not landed by the Belgian fleet in quantities of any importance. As such, the list should not be seen as an attempt 'to get away with the minimum', but rather as a reflection of the actual composition of the Belgian fish and shellfish landings. There is a historical background to the restricted list, which is based on the peculiarities of the Belgian sea fisheries:

(¹) ICES (2007): Report of the Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling, ICES Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management, ICES CM 2007/ACFM:09, page 68.

- The geographical distribution of Belgian fishing effort is limited to the North Sea, the English Channel, the Irish Sea, the Celtic Sea, South of Ireland and the inner part of the Bay of Biscay. The consequence being, that all typically boreal and Lusitanian species are absent from the landings.
- Belgium has no industrial, no distant and no deep-water fisheries. Again, this implies that all species which are typical to such fisheries are absent from the landings.

In its evaluation of the 2004 and 2005 NP proposals (the issue was not raised by the External Evaluators in relation to the 2006 and 2007 NP proposals), SGRN stated that it saw no contradiction between the requirements of the DCR and the use of a restricted list, "as long as the 'restricted list' is a correct reflection of the species composition of the landings". Belgium has repeatedly confirmed that this is the case (see e.g. SEC (2004) 179, page 16, and SEC (2005) 255, page 26).

❖ The problem of 'mixed' landings

Belgium has taken notice of SGRN's recommendation that "*pilot studies shall be implemented, where relevant, to obtain a better understanding of the composition of mixed species categories*" (SEC (2003) 101, page 11).

In the Belgian fish and shellfish landings, a distinction must be made between two categories of mixed landings:

- Mixed landings of (relatively) large quantities of fish ***pertaining to the same group of species***, such as *Lepidorhombus spp.*, *Lophius spp.* and *Raja spp.*

For *Lophius* and the *Rajidae*, partitioning of the landings by species is done as part of the routine length and age sampling programmes.

The landings of *Lepidorhombus spp.* are too small (\approx 160 t live weight annually for all areas combined) to justify dedicated sampling for species segregation purposes.

- Mixed landings and sales of fish and shellfish in ***quantities that are too small to be auctioned separately***.

These mixed sales are of an extremely variegated and variable nature, and they never represent more than a few kilograms per voyage. The cost for setting up a system to disaggregate such mixed landings would be disproportionate compared to the increase in precision that might be achieved.

In the current data system collection, this category of mixed landings is recorded as 'Other demersals', 'Other pelagics', etc., together with the landings of species that are not in the restricted list. It is worth noticing that the 'Other' categories represent less than 2 % of the total Belgian landings (see table on page 10). In view of this, the omission of the quantities that end up in the 'Other' categories from the species-wise totals, hardly affects the reliability of the latter, and the final figures remain well within the margins of the precision levels required by the DCR. As the data collection was exhaustive, it is not meaningful to apply any data quality issues in the context of the DCF.

For completeness of the reply by MS, the problem of the 'restricted' list is situated as described in the AR2009, AR2010 and AR2011 as well.

In the past, the idea of having a 'restricted' list of species for which landings data are recorded, has been labelled as a 'non-conformity' by the External Evaluators. There is, however, a rationale behind the idea of the restricted list. Species that do not figure in the restricted list are not deliberately omitted from the data recording system – they are simply not landed by the Belgian fleet in quantities of any importance. As such, the list should not be seen as an attempt 'to get away with the minimum', but rather as a reflection of the actual composition of the Belgian fish and shellfish landings. There is a historical background to the restricted list, which is based on the peculiarities of the Belgian sea fisheries:

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- *Belgium has no industrial, no distant and no deep-water fisheries. Again, this implies that all species which are typical to such fisheries are absent from the landings.*

In its evaluation of the previous NP proposals (the issue was not raised by the External Evaluators in relation to the 2006, 2007 and 2008 NP proposals), SGRN stated that it saw no contradiction between the requirements of the DCR and the use of a restricted list, "as long as the 'restricted list' is a correct reflection of the species composition of the landings". Belgium has repeatedly confirmed that this is the case (see e.g. SEC (2004) 179, page 16, and SEC (2005) 255, page 26).

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*The landings of *Lepidorhombus* spp. are too small (≈ 160 t live weight annually for all areas combined) to justify dedicated sampling for species segregation purposes.*

- *Mixed landings and sales of fish and shellfish in quantities that are too small to be auctioned separately.*

These mixed sales are of an extremely variegated and variable nature, and they never represent more than a few kilograms per voyage. The cost for setting up a system to disaggregate such mixed landings would be disproportionate compared to the increase in precision that might be achieved.

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In Belgium, effort and landings data are collected in two ways:

- *from logbooks and*
- *from sales notes.*

The logbooks contain extensive information on the retained catches and their species composition by haul (albeit with certain restrictions), but they do not contain information on the size composition (in terms of

market categories) of the retained catches. The sales notes on the other hand, contain information on the quantities auctioned by market category for all species landed (and not just for the species recorded in the logbooks), but they do not provide information on the exact origin (in terms of statistical rectangles) of the landings. The two systems are equally important to the Belgian data collection system, they are complementary, and the combination of the two has clear advantages with regards to species coverage and data quality.

II. National Data Collection Organisation

II.A. National correspondent and participating institutes

National correspondent

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Participating institutes

In Belgium, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department Fisheries, is the administrative authority responsible for fisheries and fisheries issues.

The work regarding the Belgium National Data Gathering program is carried out by the following partners:

❖ Ministry of the Flemish Community - Policy Domain Agriculture & Fisheries

The collection of information on fishing capacity, fishing effort, landing statistics and economics of the fisheries sector, the aquaculture and the processing industry, is done by the Sea Fisheries Department (DVZ) and VISEO (ILVO)

Dienst Zeevisserij - Sea Fisheries Departement

Administratief Centrum
Vrijhavenstraat 5, B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
Phone: + 32 (0)59 43.19.20
Fax: + 32 (0)59 80.76.93
URL: www2.vlaanderen.be/ned/sites/landbouw/visserij/index.html

Instituut voor Landbouw en Visserij Onderzoek (ILVO) - Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research

ILVO-Social Science Unit
Burg. van Gansberghelaan 115 box 2, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium
Phone: +32 (0)9 272 23 40,
Fax: +32 (0)9 272 23 41
URL: www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/Social_sciences

The biological data are gathered by the Institute of Agriculture and Fisheries (ILVO) – Research group Fisheries biology (ILVO-FB)

Instituut voor Landbouw en Visserij Onderzoek (ILVO) - Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research
ILVO-Fisheries
Ankerstraat 1, B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
Phone: + 32 (0)59 34 22 50
Fax: + 32 (0)59 33 06 29
URL: www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/Animal/Fisheries.htm

❖ **Federal Research Institute**

Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt Estuary

Since January 2008 onwards, the Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt Estuary (acronym MUMM) joins the Belgian National Data Gathering Programme (NDGP). MUMM is a federal research institute with extensive responsibilities in the fields of marine modelling, monitoring and management. MUMM also runs the 'Belgica', the research vessel that is used in the North Sea Beam Trawl Survey. It is in this capacity that MUMM is joining the NDGP. MUMM's contact details are:

BMM-MUMM

Gulledelle 100, B-1200 Brussel (St Lambrechts-Woluwe)
Head: Dr. Patrick Roose
Phone: + 32 (0)2 773 21 22
Fax: + 32 (0)2 770 69 72
URL: www.mumm.ac.be/EN/index.php

❖ **Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee (VLIZ)**

The Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) joins the Belgian national Program since 2013. VLIZ is a Flemish institute is a centre for coastal research and owns since begin 2013 a multidisciplinary research vessel deployed for coastal and oceanographic research in the Southern Bight of the North Sea and the eastern part of the English Channel. The ship meets the requirements of the various marine research disciplines in Flanders. ILVO rents this vessel for the DYFS as replacement for the 'Broodwinner' which was used in the past. Gear and technical equipment for the DYFS are unchanged.

VLIZ

InnovOcean site, Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende, Belgium
Tel.: +32-(0)59-34 21 30
Fax: +32-(0)59-34 21 31
URL: <http://www.vliz.be/>

II.A.2 National organisation and co-ordination

National co-ordination of the Belgian AR2014 is organized as followed:

- Informal contacts between the section heads of the participating institutes, one after the final completion of the NP (including modifications after RCMs, expert evaluations and

Communications with the EC) and one after the final completion of the AR (like NP). Furthermore quarterly contacts are maintained to ensure that the targets defined are being met.

- A website for the Belgian Data Collection Program, is established and can be found on www.smartfisheries.be. Currently, the website is in Dutch. An English translation is pending for publication and planned to be online in 2016 (end 2015).

II.B Regional and International co-ordination

II B 1 Attendance of International meetings

Table II.B.1 list the meeting which have been attended by the MS in 2014. As the Data Collection Framework is since 1st of January financed under the EMFF (European Funds For Fisheries Mangement), there is no list anymore of eligible meetings or meetings that need to be attended by the MS. There is only a list of 'recommended' meetings. Belgium has attended most of the recommended meetings for the regions and topics relevant for the MS.

II B 2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

Belgium attends the relevant RCM being NS&EA and NEA. In RCMNS&EA a representation of the Belgian National Correspondent attended the meeting.

For Belgium, over the past years, the RCMs have resulted, next to the more general decisions, in:

- Bilateral agreements with the UK and The Netherlands for sampling of their foreign flag vessels,
- Bilateral agreements with Denmark for sampling and reading turbot and brill due to common interests in the fisheries in Skagerrak, the North Sea and the Baltic.
- Bilateral agreement between Belgium and Sweden for the age – reading of turbaot and brill otolithsCo-ordination towards the use of the regional database for the North Sea and upload of the data in the Regional Data Base.

Relevant recommendations which are not dealt with under a specific section of the AR2014.

RCMNS&EA_QA_01: Quality issues: use of Fish Frame as regional database	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	The RCM NS&EA recommends that that all MS respond to the data call in 2012 from the chair of RCM NS&EA and load their data to Fish Frame or make it available in the Fish Frame format. This data call will include Commercial Landings (CL), Commercial Effort (CE) and Commercial Samples (CS) records for 2010 and 2011.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to have responded to the data call. If issues persist then ICES to inform the chair of RCM NS&EA
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS and chair of RCM NS&EA
Time frame (Deadline)	Data call in February 2012 and then deadline 4 months later
Reply by MS	Belgium has responded to the data call and has submitted all requested data available.

RCMNS&EA_QA_02: Quality issues: sampling summary information	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	RCM NS&EA recommends ICES to use the list of NC contacts available to all WGs. The list is on the DCF website https://datacollection.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents?p_p_id=20&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=maximized&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=1&_20_struts_action=%2Fdocument_library%2Fview%20folderId=20944..
Follow-up actions needed	None
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES
Time frame (Deadline)	Immediately
Reply by MS	Belgium checked the details of the NC and these are listed in the NC list

RCMNS&EA_QA_03: Quality issues: data raising methods	
RCM NS&EA 2011 Recommendations	RCM NS&EA recommends that each MS should send a representative to WKPICS to discuss data collection and the methods used to raise this data for assessment use and that WKPICS adds this to its ToR.
Follow-up actions needed	MS participates in WKPICS
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	All MS
Time frame (Deadline)	End of WKPICS 2011
Reply by MS	In 2012, a Belgian scientist has attended the WKPICS see table II.B.

III. Module of evaluation of the fishing sector

III.A General description of the fishing sector

There are no specific or major changes in the Belgian fisheries sector which had an impact on the implementation of the National Programme 2014.

III.B Economic Variables

Supra region: Baltic Sea, North Sea and Eastern Arctic, and North Atlantic

III.B.1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

Data collection was exhaustive and comprised all fishing vessels in the EU Fleet Register that were active in 2013. The programme was executed as planned. Fleet segmentation for gathering fishing capacity data took into account the amendments imposed by Council Regulation EC no 199/2008 and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, and is given in table 1. The Belgian fleet has no vessels under 10 m or above 40 m. The target population for collecting economic data for the reference year 2013 consisted of 83 vessels.

Table 1: Overview fleet segmentation

Type of fishing technique		Length classes (LOA)	N° of vessels
Active gears	Beam trawlers	10-<12 m	1
		12-<18 m	3
		18-<24 m	25
		24-<40 m	31
Active gears	Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners	12-<18 m	1
		18-<24 m	7
		24-<40 m	5
Active gears	Dredges ¹	18-<40 m	1
Passive	Drift and/or fixed netter ²	12-<24 m	2
Total active vessels			76
Inactive vessels			7
Total			83
¹ dredges (18-<24 m and 24-<40 m)			
² Passive gears - drift and/or fixed netter (12-<18 m and 18-< 24m)			

The data that are currently collected on the Belgian vessels include gross tonnage, maximum continuous power (kW) of the main engine (as registered by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure) and vessel age based on the hull (years).

Standard Table III.B.2 reports the segments that have been clustered. Clusters have been named after the biggest segment in terms of number of vessels.

The cluster names are:

- Dredgers 18-24 m: contains dredges of 18-24m and dredges of 24-40 as this is not constant over the years.
- Drift and/or fixed netters 18-24 m: contains the passive gears length class 10-12m, 12-18m and 18-24m
- Demersal trawlers and/or demersal seiners 18-24 m: contains the demersal trawlers 12-18m and 18-24m.
- Beam trawlers 12-18 m: contains the beam trawlers of 10-12m and 12-18m.
- Non active vessels 18-24 m: contains all inactive vessels: 12-18m, 18-24m and 24-40m.

The reason for this clustering is to protect the identities of individual vessels in small samples, and to ensure adequate coverage of all identified fleet segments, where compliance is not mandatory. In accordance with the National Programme guidelines, clustered segments take the same name as the segment contributing the greatest number of vessels.

❖ **What data are being collected?**

Table III.B.3 summarizes the economic data by group of vessels that were collected under the NP. These parameters correspond to the list in Appendix VI of the DCF Commission Decision 2010/93/EU. How the parameters are defined and calculated is set out in table 2 (with the exception of parameters with straightforward definitions).

Table 2: Definition and calculation of some economic variables

Variables	Definition / comment
Depreciation	Calculated as depreciation rate (4 %) * book value.
Interest	Interest rate (% of 10-year govt bond) * book value. This is not requested anymore by the JRC data call.
Employment	There are 2 types of employment estimates : (1) tot Job is based on the maximum number of crew members per vessel, totalled over all vessels; and (2) totNatFTE and totHarmFTE are based on employment figures from the Social Secretariat for Fisheries, and allow estimates per fleet segment.

In 2014 (and previous years), Belgian fishing companies could not lease out quota or other fishing rights; hence the variables related to this type of income do not exist (indicated in table III.B.3 with NA.). Data related to FTE National and FTE harmonised were not requested from the ship owners.

For details on information requested from the companies and parameter definitions, see Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

❖ **What are the data collected from and how are the data collected?**

Information on economic data is obtained through questionnaires. Since 2010, i.e. data for reference year 2009, it is in principal mandatory for ship owners to return the completed questionnaires to DZV. In practice, this is done mainly by accounting firms. The information should be returned to DZV before end

September of the year following the reference year. There is a one-year time lag in the data collecting system. Data are thus available for the reference year 2013 for 64 vessels out of 83, i.e. 77,1% of the fleet. For individual fleet segments the achieved sample rate varies between 40 and 100%.

Revenues per fishing voyage and per species, and average auction prices per species are routinely collected throughout the year, as part of the existing effort, landings and revenue data recording system. These have been included in the tables on transversal variables, in compliance with the guidelines for the submission of the Annual Report (see table III.F.1).

Tables III.B.1-3 are completed in compliance with the guidelines for reporting information. There are no deviations from the NP proposal.

❖ **Estimation of capital value and capital costs**

For the capital value of the vessel, engine and all on board equipment two options are offered to the respondents (replacement value or historical value), they can only select one option (see questionnaire annex 2).

- Replacement value: the cost estimated for replacing the current vessel and its equipment, the insured value may be used.
- Historical value: calculated using the price actually paid and applies an annual depreciation scheme. In principle the depreciation rate used is the one commonly used in tax related matters.

Currently the reported value is included in the database as 'book value' (without indication which option was used to derive the value).

The enterprises are prompted to provide the capital value of the vessel, the engine and the full equipment aboard and fill these in into one of the two estimates approaches. In case of replacement, the cost estimated of the insured value above should be as such that the current vessel can be replaced, and its equipment.

If the historical value is used, one needs to depart from the price actually paid, and link this to an annual depreciation. This depreciation is basically one that is fiscally prevalent.

Estimation of capital value and capital costs

In accordance with Appendix VI of Commission Decision (2008/199/EC), the Perpetual Inventory Method (PIM) is applied to estimate capital value and costs for each of the fleet segments in Table III.B.1.

The following input parameters (required by the STECF model) will be estimated;

- Selected capacity unit,
- Price per capacity unit,
- Share in total investment ,
- Government bonds,
- Market rate for loans.

Capacity indicators and capital value are estimated for all vessels on the register, regardless of their activity. The following sources are used to estimate the input parameters to the PIM model:

- Questions on fixed assets, investments, and depreciation from the annual economic survey,

- EU fleet register,
- EU log-book data
- Sentinel vessel programme,
- Central Bureau for Statistics,

III.B.2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

There were no deviations from the objective identified.

III.B.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

The relevant regional recommendations have been taken into account when implementing the NP.2014.

III.B.4 Actions to avoid deviations

There are no deviations from the NP proposal.

III.C Métier-related variables

Tables III.C.3, III.C.4, and III.C.6 provide the sampling plan for the métier related variables and the realised results in 2014.

The ranking system has been updated with the 2012-2013 landing, value and effort data. Results of this exercise are reported in table III.C.1.

The landings data

The logbooks contain the estimated weight for all species caught grouped by Ices Statistical Rectangle and by day. The sales notes contain information on the quantities auctioned by market category for all species landed. These two data sources are merged to obtain the landings by area and market category. As the retained catches from the logbooks are estimated weights, the landed weights are derived from the quantities recorded in the sales notes. The two systems are equally important to the Belgian data collection system, they are complementary, and the combination of the two has clear advantages:

(1) The two approaches yield independent estimates of the retained and landed portions of the catches, and can thus be used for quality control and validation purposes. This helps improving the reliability of the landings figures.

(2) In the Logbook Regulation, it is stipulated that "only catches of an amount greater than 50 kg of live-weight equivalent of any species retained on board must be recorded in the logbook" (Article 2.4.2. of Annex V of Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 2807/83), the consequence being that small by-catches of fish and shellfish often remain unrecorded in the logbooks. These quantities however, are picked up in the sales notes, which helps improving the species coverage and hence the comprehensiveness of the landings statistics.

(3) Roughly one fifth of all fish and shellfish taken by Belgian vessels in the southern and central North Sea are auctioned abroad, mostly in the Netherlands. Also, vessels making consecutive fishing trips in distant waters before returning to their homeport in Belgium, may sell part of their catches during their stop-overs in a foreign harbor. Data on the sales abroad are collected by local authorities from sales notes and submitted to the Sea Fisheries Service for incorporation in the Belgian national fishstats database. This requires additional quality checks and codification, to ensure that the imported data are compatible with the recipient database.

The effort data

The logbooks provide information on the hours spent fishing per day and per ICES Division. Those data are used to derive the hours at sea and based thereon, the days at sea. The hours at sea per trip and per ICES Division are summed, divided by 24 and rounded up to calculate the days at sea.

The value data

The sales notes contain information on the quantities auctioned and the price by market category for all species landed. Information on the exact origin of the landings (from the logbooks) is added to allocate the price and the corresponding quantities auctioned to a statistical rectangle. Multiplication of the latter two will result in the value on a specific level.

The 'total No of fishing trips during the sampling year' in table III.C.3 is reflecting the unique number of trips by ICES Division. Each fishing trip is allocated to one ICES Division according to the maximum number of fishing hours. The 'achieved No of sampled fishing trips at sea/on shore' in table III.C.3 are derived based on a different rationale. A sampled trip is accounted against every ICES Division in which

samples were collected taking into account the combination of ICES Divisions within a fishing ground. This means that when samples were collected in VIIIf and VIIg during a fishing trip, this trip is only counted one time for the fishing ground VIIfgh.

The at sea sampling has been performed in order to evaluate the quarterly length distribution of species in the catches, and the quarterly volume of discards. Because of the restricted number of species sampled, the at sea sampling is not classified as concurrent sampling. As the sampling schemes referred to in Commission Decision 2010/93/EU Chapter III.B.B1.3 (g) are defined for concurrent sampling, the column with 'sampling strategy' in table III.C.4 is left blank. For more details, see description in the beginning of the report , **'Belgian fishing industry – small and complex'**

In table III.C.6 no multi-lateral agreements are mentioned as the bi-lateral agreements Belgium has with Sweden and the UK only apply to the age reading of otoliths and not to length measurements.

III.C North Sea and Eastern Arctic

According to the NP 2014-2016 which is a rollover from the NP 2011-2013, 3 fisheries were selected either by landings, effort or value. An update of the ranking system, shows that an extra métier is being selected: OTB_MCD_70-99_0_0 in fishing ground IV, VIId.

III.C.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Fishing ground: ICES Sub-area IV and VIId

TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0

Target species: Sole and plaice. Peak season: All year round. Area: IVb, IVc and VIId. Duration of trips: 2 to 4 days. This métier was over-sampled in the at-sea and the on-shore sampling program: 18 trips achieved vs 15 planned.

TBB_DEF_>=120_0_0

Target species: Plaice. Peak season: 3rd and 4rd quarter. Area: IVb. Duration of trips: 4 to 6 days. This métier was not sampled in the at-sea and the on-shore sampling program: 0 trips achieved vs 4 (at sea) and 2 (on shore) planned. This is a difficult métier to sample as it comprises of few vessels. In 2014, 21 vessels reported landings from IVb with only 6 vessels accounting for 51% of the landings.

TBB_CRU_16-31_0_0

Target species: Brown shrimp. Peak season: March to October with peaks in the 3rd and 4rd quarter. Area: IVc coastal waters. Duration of trips: 1 to 2 days. This métier was not set up in the sampling program as Belgium still requests derogation for discard sampling on its brown shrimp fishery (justification in table I.A.1 and on p27 of the NP2011-2013).

OTB_MCD_70-99_0_0

Target species: Mixed crustaceans (Nephrops) and demersal fish. Peak season: 3rd and 4rd quarter. Area: IVb and IVc. Duration of trips: 3 to 5 days. This métier was not set up in the sampling program as it was only selected in the most recent ranking system based on the reference years 2012-2013.

III.C.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Sample size

In cases where the planned sample sizes have exceeded the planned minimum number, the over-sampling had no extra financial implications for Belgium. Once an observer is on board, the entire trip is being sampled. However, the main cost associated with the sea sampling program is getting the observer on board, thereafter any sampling in excess of the planned targets is effectively cost neutral.

Number of trips

Despite the fact that Belgium is always trying to get a wide participation of vessels in the observer programme, there are always vessels that don't have enough space to take an observer on board or that are not willing to cooperate. Therefore, only a rather limited selection of vessels takes part in the sampling programme. Besides the opportunistic sampling strategy also the fact that fishermen often switch between different fishing grounds on short notice, hampers the sampling plans.

Stocks

Several species that were not mentioned in the planning 2014-2016, are mandatory to sample. This is reflected in table III.C.6, as the number of species sampled is higher than the number that was planned. Despite this increase in sampling intensity, it is still difficult to obtain samples from some species:

**Raja species, Loligo species Octopus vulgaris, Scylliorhinus canicula etc..*

It has been impossible to collect the expected number of samples due to the fact that the observer had no access to the species. Because those species dissolve very rapidly, they are immediately covered with ice and stored in the fish hold.

III.C.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

Only some recommendations regarding the data quality and the RDB were applicable for Belgium.

2. Quality assurance - Managed repository for RDB upload successes and data status reports	
RCMs Baltic, NS&EA and NA 2013 Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that a system for administering and recording upload successes by Member States and a facility to provide a clear reference for data users on how complete the data is, are set up.</p> <p>For this purpose, a repository should be implemented for giving data users direct access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date status reports on the contents of the database. These reports need to be live and available for data users so that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data calls can be properly audited • DB content can be properly interpreted • Up to date guidance notes • Up to date reference lists
Justification	<p>Knowing the status of the data is crucial for auditing purposes, for quality control and to determine how the data can be used. It also allows users, within reason, to account for missing data in their estimates or reports.</p> <p>Changes to guidance and reference lists can be communicated to data users with reference to the repository.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	SC-RDB to review possible solutions or develop and incorporate an application to provide end-users with this functionality and a reference repository.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	SC-RDB
Time frame (Deadline)	Next SC-RDB meeting.
LM comments	LM endorses the recommendation. This recommendation is a merge of Baltic Rec 2, NSEA Rec 3 & NA Rec 5.
Follow up in 2014	<p>The RDB-SC will compile list of parameters to be included in the status report; number of trips, number of measurements, number of ages, list of species uploaded, missing data, empty cells (see section Sophie's group)</p> <p>RDB-SC considers the use of external reference lists as a concern for the RCMs as data user. Testing RDB data against external sources, e.g. EUROSTAT, will not be included at this stage.</p> <p>The possibility of the RDB-SC to act upon recommendations is limited</p>

	as funding only have been available for maintenance
Reply by MS	MS agree and can provide this info when needed

5. Regional Database: Code lists and Reference tables for regional data base	
RCMs NS&EA and NA 2013 Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that code lists and reference tables in the regional data base are made comprehensive and unambiguous. Fields and appropriate standardized code lists are needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour (limited to the EU Master Data Register) • Species (limited to WoRMS and further restricted to species needed by RCMs) • Metier (definitions already listed in regulation and RCM reports, but currently not restricted by RDB) • Sales location, sampling location (in the CS data), fish presentation (e.g. whole or partial), and data provider (i.e. who did the sampling and uploaded the data).
Justification	The design and implementation of design based sampling requires consistent coding of the data in all fields. It should not be possible to upload data outside the agreed codes without permission from the RCM chair.
Follow-up actions needed	RCMs need to update reference lists. These lists should be implemented in the RDB.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>RCM chairs to liaise on this issue & RCMs to intersessionally decide on the restrictions to the lists and to provide these to the RDB administration.</p> <p>SC-RDB to ensure implementation by ICES Secretariat as host of the RDB.</p>
Time frame (Deadline)	Spring 2014 (before the next RCM data call for uploading (or re-uploading) data)
LM comments	LM endorses the recommendation. This recommendation is a merge of NSEA Rec 5, NA Rec 1 & NA Rec 7.
Follow up in 2014	The process of setting reference tables is ongoing and RCM NS&EA made progress on this issue (see section 9)
Reply by MS	MS agree and can provide this info when needed

8. Quality assurance – RDB additional fields and managing data gaps	
RCM NS & EA 2013 Recommendation 2	The RCM recommends that a policy on how missing data values for MS are accounted for in the database and this decision communicated to RDB users.
Justification	Proper consideration needs to be given to how to account for empty data values. Missing data could devalue summary information and if estimates are derived how they are derived could change over time. An example is provided in the RCM report where landing information for a MS does not have both value and weights for some of their records. If this data is uploaded then the sum of the landings would not equate to the sum of the value (€). This could also occur in relation to missing fishing effort.
Follow-up actions needed	SC-RDB to consider the impact of missing data values and to provide clear guidance on how MS should manage these data.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	SC-RDB
Time frame (Deadline)	Next SC-RDB meeting
Reply by MS	MS supports this and is awaiting the outcome of the next SC-RDB. If requested, with the data call 2014, MS will adjust the relevant data values (if they are missing)
9. Quality assurance – RDB additional fields and managing data gaps	
RCM NS & EA 2013 Recommendation 4	RCM recommends an additional field in the core tables to identify the administration that has collected and or uploaded the data.
Justification	Currently the country of landings or flag country is the only reference to the source of the data. But with bilateral agreements and most MS now sampling foreign vessels within their sampling schemes it is not always clear which country collected the data. This is crucial for auditing purposes, for quality control and to limit the opportunities for replication of data. This field is also required to allow data to be raised according to national sampling schemes.
Follow-up actions needed	SC-RDB to insert a field to identify the source or origins of the uploaded data.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	SC-RDB
Time frame (Deadline)	Next SC-RDB meeting
Reply by MS	MS agree and can provide this info when needed

10. Quality assurance - Managed repository for RDB upload successes and data status reports	
RCM NS & EA 2013 Recommendation 6	RCM recommends that MS document their interpretation of trips, samples and sampling events and describe what the Trip ID and Sample ID represent in there uploaded data.
Justification	The key identifiers for the biological data refer to trips and samples in most instances, for example on a discard trip each event is quite distinct but ashore where sampling might only focus on components or categories of a landing then this can lead to a different interpretation and achievements are therefore not directly comparable. Sampling events, trips and samples are crucial for auditing and monitoring sampling design and key to significant quality indicators.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to provide a summary document of their interpretation of these key fields in the upload data formats. RCG to collate these documents for storing in the RDB repository (see earlier recommendation).
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS, SC-RDB
Time frame (Deadline)	Next SC-RDB meeting
Reply by MS	.MS agrees, documentation is available

11. Quality assurance – surveys at sea	
RCM NS&EA 2013 Recommendation 7	The RCM recommends to develop a suite of diagnostics from which the quality of the (international) results of survey at sea can be assessed.
Justification	MS and RCGs have a legal requirement to report on the quality of data collection carried out under the DC-MAP to the European Commission.
Follow-up actions needed	Develop a toolbox with survey quality diagnostics, establish a process which applies and reports those.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES and other international organizations which coordinate DC-MAP surveys
Time frame (Deadline)	before the implementation of DC-MAP (2016)
Reply by MS	MS agrees. Development of such a toolbox would be very beneficial to MS

III.C.4 Actions to avoid deviations

Belgium is always trying to reach a wide participation of vessels in the observer programme in order to have a broad spectrum of possible variance among the vessels. However, there are always vessels that don't have enough space to take an observer on board or that are not willing to cooperate. Therefore, only a rather limited selection of vessels takes part in the sampling program. . This has led to an opportunistic sampling strategy, taking sampling opportunities when they occur, irrespective if they are

planned or not. Despite those difficulties, a random sampling strategy will be implemented and tested in 2015 in order to correspond with the 'statistically sound' sampling strategy.

III.C North Atlantic

According to the NP 2014-2016 which is a rollover from the NP 2011-2013, 5 fisheries were selected either by landings, effort or value.

II.C.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Fishing ground: ICES Sub-area VII fgh

TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0

Target species: Sole and plaice. Peak season: All year round. Area: VII f and VII g. Duration of trips: 5 to 7 days. This métier was over-sampled in the at-sea sampling program: 11 trips achieved vs 5 planned. An extra effort was inserted to increase the sampling level at sea for this métier to compensate for the slightly under-sampling on shore (8 trips achieved vs 10 planned).

OTB_MCD_70-99_0_0

Target species: Mixed crustaceans (Nephrops) and demersal fish. Peak season: 3rd quarter. Area: VII f and VII g. Duration of trips: 6 to 8 days. This métier was not set up in the sampling program. Belgium has a derogation for the sampling of this métier (justification in table I.A.1).

Fishing ground: ICES area VII a

TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0

Target species: Sole and rays. Peak season: All year round. Area: VII a. Duration of trips: 4 to 6 days. This métier was over-sampled in the at-sea sampling program (8 trips achieved vs 6 planned) and slightly under-sampled in the on-shore sampling program (7 trips achieved vs 8 planned). Since the end of 2012, additional quota regulations were imposed by the Flemish government for the Belgian sole fishery in the Irish Sea. Because of the decrease in fishing opportunities, the allocation of sole in VII a became subject to scientific monitoring.

Fishing ground: ICES area VII e

TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0

Target species: Sole and plaice. Peak season: All year round. Area: VII e. Duration of trips: 1 to 3 days. This métier was not sampled in the at-sea and the on-shore sampling program: 0 trips achieved vs 1 planned. This is caused by the fact that fishermen decide rather late if they want to fish in area VII e or area VII d. As this area is often combined with other areas in one trip, the time spent in VII e (1 to 3 days) is rather low. The planned market sampling was not conducted as no opportunity arose.

Fishing ground: ICES area VIII abde

TBB_DEF_>=70_0_0

Target species: Sole and plaice. Peak season: 2nd and 3rd quarter. Area: VIII a and VIII b. Duration of trips: 6 to 8 days. This métier was over-sampled in the at-sea sampling (3 trips achieved vs 2 planned) and slightly under-sampled in the on-shore sampling program (3 trips achieved vs 5 planned). Belgian vessels only fish in this area in June, July, August and September; therefore a target of 3 trips for the market sampling program is more realistic.

III.C.2 Data quality: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Sample size

In cases where the planned sample sizes have exceeded the planned minimum number, the over-sampling had no extra financial implications for Belgium. Once an observer is on board, the entire trip is being sampled. However, the main cost associated with the sea sampling program is getting the observer on board, thereafter any sampling in excess of the planned targets is effectively cost neutral.

Number of trips

Despite the fact that Belgium is always trying to get a wide participation of vessels in the observer program, there are always vessels that don't have enough space to take an observer on board or that are not willing to cooperate. Therefore, only a rather limited selection of vessels takes part in the sampling programme. Besides the opportunistic sampling strategy also the fact that fishermen often switch between different fishing grounds on short notice, hampers the sampling plans.

Stocks

Several species that were not mentioned in the planning 2014-2020, are mandatory to sample. This is reflected in table III.C.6, as the number of species sampled is higher than the number of species that was planned. Despite this increase in sampling intensity, it is still difficult to obtain samples from some species:

**Raja species, Loligo species Octopus vulgaris, Scylliorhinus canicula, etc..*

It has been impossible to collect the expected number of samples due to the fact that the observer has no access to the species. Because those species dissolve very rapidly, they are immediately covered with ice and stored in the fish hold.

III.C.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

There were no regional recommendations available as the report of the RCMNA was not on the RCMNA share point.

The recommendations hereunder are extracted from the LM2014 report as found on the share point of the LM2014 meeting.

12. Quality assurance – Member States QA before loading to the RDB	
RCM NA 2013 Recommendation 2	MS to document Quality Control and Quality Approach procedures in summary for review at the next RCM.
Justification	MS have a duty of care and are required under the current DCF to ensure that the data within their own MS databases are also checked for inaccuracies before uploading anything to the RDB.
Follow-up actions needed	All RCM NA Member States to ensure quality checks are in place and are being carried out and documented.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS and all RCMs
Time frame (Deadline)	Before RCMs in 2014
Reply by MS	A document with the requested description of quality checks done by Belgium, will be presented to the RCMNA 2014

13. Quality Control - Data discrepancies between official data held within Eurostat, Intercatch, RDB and that used by the Assessment Working Groups	
RCM NA 2013 Recommendation 3	It is recommended that a procedure should be in place to more easily compare the data held in each of ICES sources highlighting any anomalies. As there is data sharing between ICES and Eurostat any inconsistencies should be more easily explained.
Justification	A comparison of data held in different databases (including the RDB) highlighted substantial differences; giving rise to concerns about what data is being used in the assessments.
Follow-up actions needed	ICES to develop an easier procedure for comparing the data.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	ICES
Time frame (Deadline)	RCMs 2014
Reply by MS	Belgium agrees with this recommendation and will give input where requested by ICES

14. MARE/2012/22 LOT 2 scientific data storage and transmission under the 2014-2020 DC- MAP	
RCM NA 2013 Recommendation 6	RCMNA recommends that RCMs should take into account the results of the MARE/2012/22 LOT 2 scientific data storage and transmission under the 2014-2020 Data Collection MAP feasibility study due for completion February 2014 and consider the implications for further development of the RDB. This should be either added or included within the Tors for the next cycle of RCGs.
Justification	It is important that MS and RCMs remain up-to-date with the conclusions of evaluations and new developments of the RDB to ensure that qualitative work can be done during the RCMs and those meaningful recommendations can be made for future improvements.
Follow-up actions needed	LM to consider and add to TORs. RCGs to review the reports and advise on RDB development.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCMs
Time frame (Deadline)	RCMs 2014
Reply by MS	Belgium agrees with this recommendation and will give input where requested by the RCMs

15. Eels and Salmon and DCMAP	
RCM NA 2013 Recommendation 8	The RCM recommends that eels and salmon work be integrated within the governance structure being developed for DCMAP (and with reference to the roadmap for the development of a regional sampling programme), and that these requirements be clearly expressed in the text of the DCMAP.
Justification	It is currently unclear whether the collection of data on eels and salmon will be part of the DC-MAP.
Follow-up actions needed	DGMARE - Further consideration to be given to where eels and salmon data collection should be placed in the DCMAP and the roadmap for the development of a regional sampling programme. Representation of eels and salmon data collection in DCMAP to be considered at the STECF EWG 13-18: 'Data Collections in EMFF' and the 3rd National Correspondents meeting of 2013.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DGMARE, NC, STECF
Time frame (Deadline)	Within the time frame of the DCMAP development
Reply by MS	Belgium agrees with this recommendation. This topic has been dealt with during the last EWG 14-02. Still to be discussed by the NCs (meeting dd 9th July 2014)

- **III.C.4 Actions to avoid deviations**

Belgium is always trying to reach a wide participation of vessels in the observer programme in order to have a broad spectrum of possible variance among the vessels. However, there are always vessels that don't have enough space to take an observer on board or that are not willing to cooperate. Therefore, only a rather limited selection of vessels takes part in the sampling program. This has led to an opportunistic sampling strategy, taking sampling opportunities when they occur, irrespective if they are planned or not. Despite those difficulties, a random sampling strategy will be implemented and tested in 2015 in order to correspond with the 'statistically sound' sampling strategy,.

III D Recreational Fisheries

III D 1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

In 2014, a qualitative study regarding recreational fisheries in Belgium was undertaken. An elaborated pilot study was carried out in 2013 and continued in 2014 to estimate sea bass, cod, mackerel, common sole, plaice, and some other main species targeted by the recreational fisheries in Belgium.

Table III.D.1 lists the stocks sampled in the recreational fisheries and the deviations.

The pilot study consist of a survey distributed by mail, e-mail and online. The survey ran for a period of 9 weeks, in this time frame we received 408 online responses of which 207 were viable for analysis, and 20 responses on paper, of which 17 were usable. This resulted in a set of 224 unique responses that make up the dataset used for this research. It is clear that the majority of the respondents is a new group not sampled through the previous DCF-surveys, as 79,02% had never filled in a survey about their hobby before

The different fishing techniques have been taking into account in the pilot study surveys.

To motivate the completeness of the surveys, an incentive was sent out to the replies. As such, the contact information could be completed for most of the survey replies.

Based on this pilot study the catches for cod were estimated to amount 400 kg on annual basis, in 2014. From the same pilot study, for sea bass the average total catch by recreational fisheries was estimated to be 172 kg.

Results of the pilot study 2014

Economic Value (direct, indirect & induced), trip spend, & willingness to pay estimates

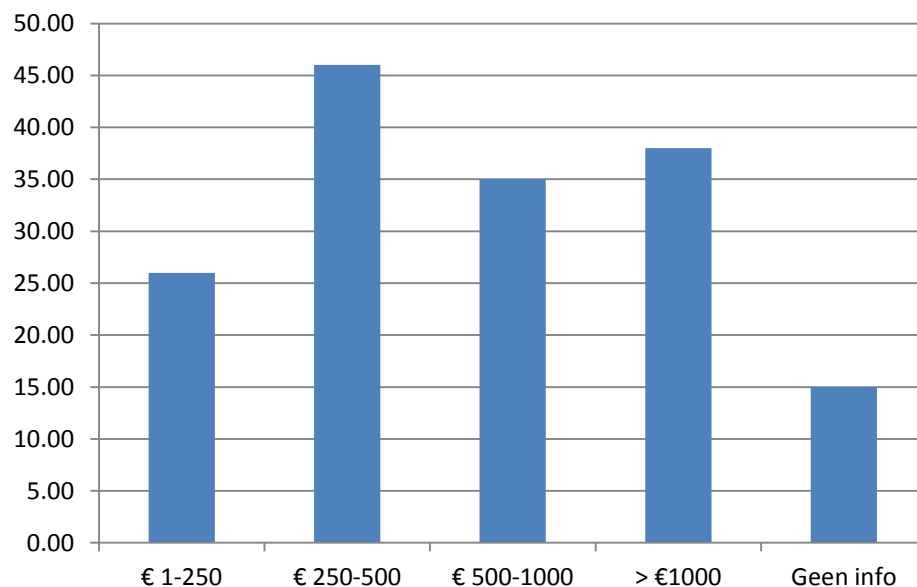


Fig. 1: Average amount of euro's spent by Belgian recreational fishermen in 2013. Y-as = Y-as = % of the replies on the questionnaire by recreational fishermen, X- axis = average amount Euro.

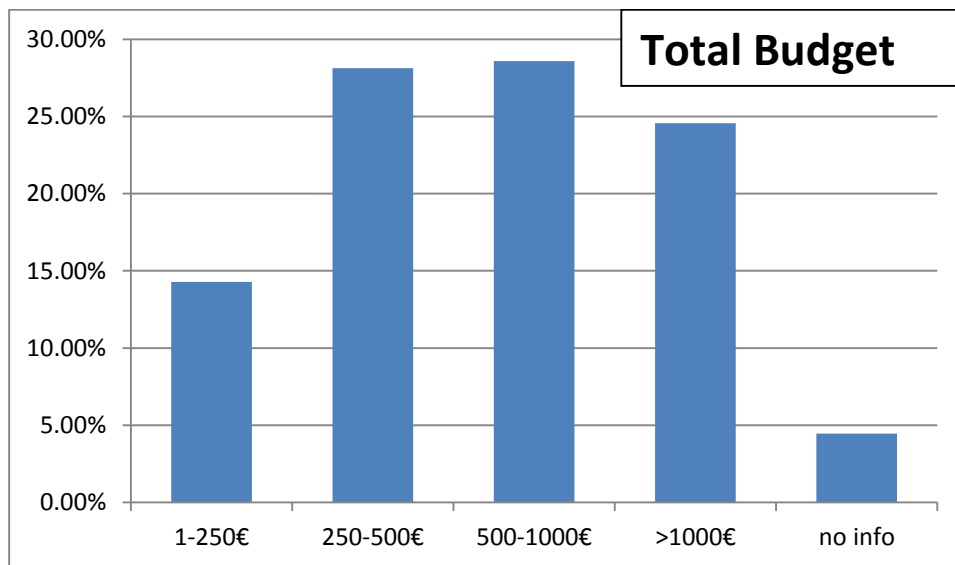


Fig. 2: Average amount of euro's spent by Belgian recreational fishermen in 2014. Y-as = % of the replies on the questionnaire by recreational fishermen, X- axis = average amount Euro.

Remark: this result is purely based on the results of a questionnaire sent to a limited number of recreational fishermen. As such, this can only be seen as an indicative budget. Future questionnaires are needed to have a better estimate of the economic value of recreational fisheries in BE.

To set up a quantitative study is very labour intensive and almost not achievable as there is no license system in Belgium for recreational fisheries.

Belgium is gradually improving a full sampling program for recreational fisheries, however, because of financial limitations in the national research budget, Belgium cannot implement all relevant international recommendations at once, e.g. the estimation of fishing trips abroad, estimations of methodological bias in the sampling. A corporation with other projects (i.e. LIVIS) and institutes such as VLIZ and the Federal Government, can support and improve the full sampling program.

Recreational fisheries for eel, *Anguilla anguilla*

No sampling activities on the recreational fisheries for eel were planned for the year 2014.

Salmon and bluefin tuna

Belgium has no recreational fisheries for salmon and bluefin tuna, and is therefore not sampling these species in the recreational fisheries.

III D 2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

The main issue with the current survey is that the total population of the Belgian recreational fishers is

unknown, hence it is unknown if the sample is representative and how the sample can be scaled up to be represent the total Belgian recreational fishers. Currently Belgium is developing an improved recreatyional fisheries survey including an omnibus survey, on-site surveys and logbook data, which will allow to make catch estimates for the entire recreational fisheries (see III D 4 Actions to avoid deviation).

III D 3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No relevant recommendation for Belgium

III D 4 Actions to avoid deviation

Based on the results of the study in 2009-2010, the study was continued in 2014.. To set up a quantitative study is very labour intensive and almost not achievable as there is no license system in Belgium for recreational fisheries.

Belgium is gradually improving a full sampling program for recreational fisheries, but because of financial restrictions in the national research budget 2014, Belgium could not implement all relevant international recommendations at once, e.g. the estimation of fishing trips abroad, estimations of methodological bias in the sampling.

However, from 2017 onwards, Belgium will implement a multi annual sampling program set up under the DCF, covering a representative sample of angler fisheries in fresh and marine waters. The surveys will be mainly directed to cod and sea bass, the main targeted species, but may as well provide information on other species. As there is no license system from which recreational fishermen can be identified, the program will consist of an omnibus screening survey covering an (to be determined) number of randomly selected households, on site surveys, in order to estimate the total Belgian population of recreational fisherman. Furthermore logbook data will be acquired for a representative sample and stratified for avidity in order to estimate total catches by recreational fishing. At the same time, the existing co-corporation with the “Sportvisserij Vlaanderen” is continued (previously the Vlaamse Vereniging van Hengel Vissers (<http://www.vvhv.be/>)). This organisation is currently already involved in the qualitative data collection of recreational fisheries.

III.E Stock-related variables

By bilateral agreement, the age-reading lab at ILVO estimates ages of otolith-samples collected by Denmark, Sweden, France and the UK. Samples collected by Denmark and Sweden originate from areas where no Belgian fisheries occur and no Belgian sampling activities are planned, so these numbers have not been included in the III.E.3-table. Samples collected by France and the UK originate from common fishing areas, so could be attributed to stock for which Belgium planned sampling events. These numbers have been included in Table III.E.3. Commission Decision 2010/93 EU paragraph III.B.2.1.1 lists the variables that need to be collected for the stocks specified in its Appendix VII. Only for a small number of stocks, individual information on weight, sex and maturity are sampled by Belgium. Sampling these parameters for the other stocks is met with so many practical difficulties and high costs, that sampling these variables for these stocks is currently not possible. Individual information on fecundity is never sampled.

Estimates of the total weight of the discards of all Appendix VII species, together with some particularly abundant Appendix VII species, were collected for the flatfish directed beam trawl fisheries in ICES Sub-area IV (North Sea), and Divisions VIIa (Irish Sea), VIId (Eastern Channel), VIIe (Western Channel), VIIfg (Celtic Sea) and VIIlab (Gulf of Biscay). The sampling programmes were also used to estimate the length and age composition of the discards (mandatory under the DCF). Planned and achieved sampling levels are summarized in Tables III.E.1 and III.E.3.

North Sea and Eastern Channel — ICES areas IV, VIId

III.E.1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

Since 2006, Lophidae are sampled for length, not for age. This is referred to in the Belgium Program Proposal Text 2006, p34. Section MP proposal, Module H. This has been accepted by the Commission and has not been changed since then.

III.E.2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

According to the Guidelines, the achieved numbers for length and age should be compared to what was planned by the MS for the stocks that:

- (i) were sampled so as to reach particular precision levels,
- (ii) are under an EC Recovery Plan, and/or
- (iii) For which the data series are used for tuning purposes; and **to what is required by the DCF for all other stocks**. The numbers and percentages achieved are presented in Table III.E.3.

For species and stocks that are primarily sampled during discard trips, it is difficult to define the number of measurements in advance, and the achieved numbers for length and age often exceed the numbers required or planned. In principle, the sea-going observers take length measurements every other haul of *all the retained and discarded fish*, and collect otoliths of 5 fish (at the most) per cm class, irrespective of the total number of length and age measurements already made. This explains the apparent and sometimes considerable 'over-shooting' of the targets (particularly for length) for several stocks such as

Stocks –Deviations from aims:

Biological sampling of *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*, *Merlangius merlangus*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* was not rolled over from 2011-2013 to 2014 and the following years, so no targets were defined and no commercial sampling was performed. Of these species, only *Merlangius merlangus*, *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* occur within the Belgian survey areas, where some data have been collected (these are reported here). More information on the practical problems encountered when trying to sample *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* on commercial vessels can be found further in the text.

Non-commercial species that were caught in surveys are not reported in the AR 2014.

New stocks sampled in market sampling:

New stocks sampled since 2014

- *Limanda limanda* IV
- *Microstomus kitt* IV
- *Platichthys flesus* IV

Minimum numbers to sample difference between NP2014-2020 and AR2014 - Deviation from aim

- Length @age: by quarter minimum number to be sampled /1000t from App VII Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, (on yearly basis *4).
- Landings rounded up to upper 1000t
- Other biological parameters: minimum number to be sampled /1000t from App VII Commission Decision 2010/93/EU for the whole year.
- *Solea solea* VIIIlab: sampling period not optimal for maturity determination.
- Because of the formulation “Where quantitative targets can be defined, they may be specified either directly by sample sizes or sampling rates, or by the definition of the levels of precision and of confidence to be achieved. (DCF)” the columns with precision targets required and achieved could in fact be made empty.

Length sampling – deviations from aim

Most fish stocks turned out to have been sampled well in excess of what was planned or required, but this is mostly because the length samples taken during observer trips were also included in the figures, on top of the numbers sampled at the auction and surveys. As mentioned before, the sea-going observers take length measurements every other haul, irrespective of the sampling levels already achieved. This causes no extra costs, since the observers are on board anyhow. In addition, the extra measurements are essential to make comparisons between the discarded and retained catch fractions, and to calculate how many fish are being discarded for each retained fish.

Since a few years, starting from 2009, sampling in excess of the DCF was a deliberate choice, as the required sampling levels were considered to be too low to yield reliable length composition data.

In 2014, there was only substantial length undersampling of *Platichthys flesus* in IV in the Belgian sampling programme (59%), mainly caused by low catches of this species during the observer trips.

Age sampling – deviation from aim

The number of age samples taken met the national targets of the NP proposal for all stocks for which targets were defined for 2014. For some stocks, excess age sampling at no extra cost occurred. This can be attributed to extra samples taken during observer trips and/or during the North Sea Beam Trawl Survey. Undersampling for age (only 8%) occurred for *Platichthys flesus*, as was the case for length (see above).

Psetta maxima and Scophthalmus rhombus in ICES Sub-area IV (North Sea)

Turbot and brill are pricey fish, and a sampling programme based on buying these species to measure lengths and collect otoliths (as is done for, e.g., plaice and sole) would be far too expensive. This can be circumvented by measuring length and 'drilling' otoliths at the market. Drilling otoliths under the operculum limits the external physical damage, but nonetheless, fishermen get a compensation for the internal damage that is caused to the fish. Despite this compensation, there is increased reluctance to allow these species to be sampled.

Effort restrictions in the North Sea in recent years, have led to an increase in the number of vessels that fish in different areas during the same trip (e.g. North Sea and eastern English Channel, where there are no effort restrictions for the beam trawler fleet). Such fishing trips however, are not suited for market sampling, since the exact origin of the fish in the landings cannot be retrieved (problems of the "mixed landings" as described in the general introduction part. Because of the difficulties to find vessels with 'pure North Sea catches', it was decided to focus sampling on the species for which the data needs are highest, i.e. plaice and sole. Unfortunately, this has been to the detriment of turbot and brill, which were left unsampled.

Rajidae - ICES Sub-areas IV and VII (except VIIId)- deviation from aim

The estimation of **growth** requires either direct ageing or tagging experiments, to establish the relationship between length and age. So far however, there is no generally approved method for age determination in rays, while tagging is expensive (and not eligible under the DCF). Commercial sampling of rays is also very complicated in the Belgian fisheries, as fisherman want these highly prized fish to be in the fridges as soon as possible, and grow more reluctant against having them sampled.

III.E.3

Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

Métier variables: Bilateral agreement on age reading of turbot and brill between UK-SCO and BEL.	
RCM NA 2010 Recommendation	RCM NA 2010 recommends Scotland to liaise with Belgium to (investigate whether it is possible to) set up a regional coordination allowing for turbot and brill otoliths that were collected by Scotland to be transferred to Belgium for age reading.
Follow-up actions needed	Document availability of turbot and brill otoliths collected by Scotland. When relevant, sign agreement on regional coordination.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	RCM NA participants from UK-SCO and BEL.
Time frame (Deadline)	Before end of 2010
Reply by MS	See text below, is ongoing since 2011.

Recommendation is still valid. Belgium provides age determination for all turbot (*Psetta maxima*) and brill (*Scophthalmus rhombus*) otoliths collected by the UK as part of the UK National Programme. In return UK will carry out the age determination of VIIa cod otoliths collected (406) as part of the Belgian National programme.

2012	<i>Psetta maxima</i>	IV,VIIId	37
		VIIa,VIIe,VIIfg,VIIh	128
	<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	IV,VIIId	24
		VIIa,VIIe,VIIfg,VIIh	161
			350

Furthermore there is a bilateral agreement with Denmark for sampling and age reading of turbot and brill in the Skagerrak (IIIa North) and North Sea (II) from the IBTS survey and the commercial harbour and at sea sampling. In return, Denmark will provide genetic samples of brill and turbot from the IBTS and their commercial sampling.

2012	<i>Psetta maxima</i>	IIIa	156
		IIIb,IIIc,IIId	352
		IV	30
		VIIe,VIIh	91
	<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	IIIa	622
		IIIb,IIIc,IIId	297
		VIIe,VIIh	85
		1633	

Stock related variables: Potential bilateral agreements on sampling of landings abroad	
RCM NS&EA 2012 Recommendation	Where it was identified that bilateral agreement is required, according to the rules agreed upon at the RCM NS&EA 2011 and endorsed by the LM8 and STECF 11-19, MS are requested to establish or update a bilateral agreement on sampling of landings abroad
Follow-up actions	MS to evaluate the need for such an agreement based on the overview provided by the RCM NS&EA
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS
Time frame	Annually. Before deadline for compilation/amendment of NP
Reply by MS	Ongoing, MS identifies on an annual basis if a new bilateral is relevant.

Since 2006, Lophidae are sampled for length, not for age. This is referred to in the Belgium Program Proposal Text 2006, p34. Section MP proposal, Module H. This has been accepted by the Commission and has not been changed since then. Below are two main tables from this NP with the reference to only length measurements for landings and discards of Lophius spp.

Type of measurements that are part of the discard studies							
Species	Flatfish directed beam trawl fisheries (a)						Nephrops fisheries FU 5
	IVbc	VIIa	VIIId	VIIe	VIIIfg	VIIIab	
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	W	L
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	W	W	W	W	W	W	L
<i>Lophius budegassa</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	L	NA
<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	W	L
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	W	L
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	W	W	W	W	W	W	L
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	W	W	NA	NA	W	W	L
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	W	L
<i>Solea solea</i>	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L & A	L
<i>Triglidae</i>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	L
All other Annex XII & Annex XV species	W	W	W	W	W	W	L

(a) Measurements in IVbc and VIIe depending on sampling opportunities (see text for details)
L = Length and weight measurements
A = Age readings
W = Weight measurements only
NA = Not applicable (not required by Regulation or species does not occur in that area)

Species	Area or Stock	Belgian quotum 2005	Average landings 2002-2004 (1) (2)	Share of EC TAC (2)	Sum of quota < 5 %	Sum of quota < 10 %	NDGP Module H		NDGP Module I
							Length (3)	Age (3)	Biological parameters (3)
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	I, II	27	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	IVc, VIId	9684	< 100	> 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	IIa, IV	807	1508	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	S	E
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	IIIa, Skagerrak and Kattegat	10	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV	1	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	VIIa	29	150	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	S	E
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X, CECAF 34.1.1	266	342	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	IIa, IV	5	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	VII	520	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Limanda limanda and Platichthys flesus</i>	IIa, IV	491	627	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Lophidae</i>	IIa, IV	319	306	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Lophidae</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV	168	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Lophidae</i>	VII	2318	930	5 % < x < 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	E	E
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	IIa, IV	544	366	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	IIIa-d	18	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV	19	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	VII, VIII, IX, X, CECAF 34.1.1	128	135	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	IIa, IV	805	181	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	VIIa	1	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	VIIb-k	211	197	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	IIa, IV	21	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Vb, VI, VII, XII, XIV	220	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	E	E
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	VIIIabde	7	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	E	E
<i>Microstomus kitt and Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	IIa, IV	352	564	5 % < x < 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	E	E
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	IIa, IV, by Functional Unit	1117	242	5 % < x < 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	NA	S
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	IIa, IV	3530	4091	5 % < x < 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	S	E
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	IIIa, Skagerrak and Kattegat	48	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIIa	41	471	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	S	E
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIIde	843	1287	> 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	S	S
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIIIfg	73	323	> 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	S	S
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIIHjk	29	< 100	5 % < x < 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	VII	529	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	IIa, IIIa-d, IV	51	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Vb (Farøer)	50	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	VII, VIII, IX, X, CECAF 34.1.1	14	< 100	< 5 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	E	E	E
<i>Poetta maxima and Scoptalmus rhombus</i>	IIa, IV	334	341	5 % < x < 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	E	E
<i>Rajidae</i>	IIa, IV	542	344	> 10 %	< 15 %	< 25 %	S	NA	S

III.E.4 Actions to avoid deviation

Belgium is looking at how to replace the oversampling during at sea sampling, by alternative activities that at-sea going observers could do in order to improve the implementation of the Belgian NP. During 2012, some trials were set up. However, the over sampling has always been done at no extra financial cost of the sampling, neither on the data analysis.

For the stocks which were under sampled, there were no implications on the stock assessments (feedback from stock assessments did not indicate negative impact).

Age sampling for *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* in ICES Sub-area IV (North Sea)

There are no other possibilities for collecting otoliths of turbot and brill than by means of the method that is currently applied. Therefore, otoliths should be drilled at the market, and ILVO-Fisheries is trying to expand the list of fishermen who, in return for a financial compensation, are willing to co-operate on this issue. However, no fishermen have agreed during 2014 for drilling otoliths. Furthermore, Belgium is also using surveys undertaken by other ILVO-research groups to collect more otoliths from turbot and brill, but the numbers remain very low. This is at no extra cost to Belgium.

North East Atlantic and Western Channel — ICES areas V, VI, VII (excluding d), VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV

III.E.1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

Due to the derogation for age sampling of *Lophiidae* and not sampling other parameters (weight, sex ratio, maturity, etc) this was left out of table III.E.3.

Since 2006, Lophidae are sampled for length, not for age. This is referred to in the Belgium Program Proposal Text 2006, p34. Section MP proposal, Module H. This has been accepted by the Commission and has not been changed since then.

III.E.2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

.According to the Guidelines, the achieved numbers for length and age should be compared to what was planned by the MS for the stocks that :

- (iv) were sampled so as to reach particular precision levels,
- (v) are under an EC Recovery Plan, and/or
- (vi) for which the data series are used for tuning purposes; and **to what is required by the DCF for all other stocks**. The numbers and percentages achieved are presented in Table III.E.3.

Following the recommendations of STECF-SGRN, achieved sampling was considered as 'deviating from the objective' when it was > 10% below or > 50% above the target.

For species and stocks that are primarily sampled during discard trips, it is difficult to define the number of measurements in advance, and the achieved numbers for length and age often exceed the numbers required or planned. In principle, the sea-going observers take length measurements every other haul of *all the retained and discarded fish*, and collect otoliths of 5 fish (at the most) per cm class, irrespective of the total number of length and age measurements already made. This explains the apparent and sometimes considerable 'over-shooting' of the targets (particularly for length) for several stocks such as *Gadus morhua*, *Pleuronectes platessa* and *Solea solea*.

Stocks –Deviations from aims:

Biological sampling of *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*, *Merlangius merlangus*, *Merluccius merluccius*, *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* was not rolled over from 2011-2013 to 2014 and the following years, so no targets were defined and no commercial sampling was performed. Of these species, only *Merlangius merlangus*, *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* occur within the Belgian survey areas, where some data have been collected (these are reported here). More information on the practical problems encountered when trying to sample *Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* on commercial vessels can be found further in the text.

- *Solea solea* and *Pleuronectes platessa* in VIIe were not mentioned in the planning 2014-2020. It is not possible to plan a minimum number of targets as the sampling is done as opportunities arise.

New stocks sampled

- *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* VIIfg

Minimum numbers to sample difference between NP2014-2020 and AR2014 - Deviation from aim

- Length @age: by quarter minimum number to be sampled /1000t from App VII Commission Decision 2010/93/EU, (on yearly basis *4).
- Landings rounded up to upper 1000t
- Other biological parameters: minimum number to be sampled /1000t from App VII Commission Decision 2010/93/EU for the whole year.
- *Solea solea* VIIIab: sampling period not optimal for maturity determination
- Because of the formulation “Where quantitative targets can be defined, they may be specified either directly by sample sizes or sampling rates, or by the definition of the levels of precision and of confidence to be achieved. (DCF)” the columns with precision targets required and achieved could in fact be made empty.

Length sampling – deviations from aim

Most fish stocks turned out to have been sampled well in excess of what was planned or required, but this is mostly because the length samples taken during observer trips were also included in the figures, on top of the numbers sampled at the auction and surveys. As mentioned before, the sea-going observers take length measurements every other haul, irrespective of the sampling levels already achieved. This causes no extra costs, since the observers are on board anyhow. In addition, the extra measurements are essential to make comparisons between the discarded and retained catch fractions, and to calculate how many fish are being discarded for each retained fish.

Lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*): from 2010 onwards, is not sampled anymore on commercial vessels in Subarea VII.

Since a few years, starting from 2009, sampling in excess of the DCF was a deliberate choice, as the required sampling levels were considered to be too low to yield reliable length composition data.

In 2014, there was length undersampling of *Solea solea* in the Belgian sampling programme in both VIIa and VIIfg (80% and 71% respectively). Too less in numbers available to sample.

Age sampling – deviation from aim

The number of age samples taken met the national targets of the NP proposal for all stocks for which targets were defined for 2014. For some stocks, excess age sampling at no extra cost occurred. This can be attributed to extra samples taken during observer trips and/or during the North Sea Beam Trawl Survey.

Undersampling for age occurred for *Solea solea* in VIIa (80%) and VIIfg (63%). Too less in numbers available to sample.

***Psetta maxima* and *Scophthalmus rhombus* in ICES areas V, VI, VII (excluding d), VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV**

Turbot and brill are pricey fish, and a sampling programme based on buying these species to measure lengths and collect otoliths (as is done for, e.g., plaice and sole) would be far too expensive. This can be circumvented by measuring length and 'drilling' otoliths at the market. Drilling otoliths under the operculum limits the external physical damage, but nonetheless, fishermen get a compensation for the internal damage that is caused to the fish. Despite this compensation, there is increased reluctance to allow these species to be sampled.

Effort restrictions in the North Sea in recent years, have led to an increase in the number of vessels that fish in different areas during the same trip (e.g. a combination of the two region occurs: North Sea and eastern English Channel, where there are no effort restrictions for the beam trawler fleet). Such fishing trips however, are not suited for market sampling, since the exact origin of the fish in the landings cannot be retrieved (problems of the "mixed landings" as described in the general introduction part. Because of the difficulties to find vessels with 'pure North Sea catches', it was decided to focus sampling on the species for which the data needs are highest, i.e. plaice and sole. Unfortunately, this has been to the detriment of turbot and brill, which were left unsampled.

Rajidae - ICES Sub-areas ICES areas V, VI, VII (excluding d), VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV)- deviation from aim

The estimation of **growth** requires either direct ageing or tagging experiments, to establish the relationship between length and age. So far however, there is no generally approved method for age determination in rays, while tagging is expensive (and not eligible under the DCF

III.E.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No specific biological recommendations were formulated in the RCM2013.

III.E.4 Actions to avoid deviation

General:

Belgium is looking at how to replace the oversampling during at sea sampling, by alternative activities that at-sea going observers could do in order to improve the implementation of the Belgian NP. During 2012, some trials were set up. However, the over sampling has always been done at no extra financial cost of the sampling, neither on the data analysis.

For the stocks which were undersampled, there were no implications on the stock assessments (feedback from stock assessments did not indicate any negative impact).

III.F Transversal Variables

Some effort data such as hours dredged, length of nest or prices are not available.

These fishing gears have not handed in this information.

In general the passive gears are not prominently present in the Belgian fisheries.

III.F.1 Capacity

III.F.1.1 Achievements: Results and deviations from NP proposal

Data collection was exhaustive and comprised all fishing vessels in the EU Fleet Register that were active in 2014, so no estimation was required. The programme was executed as planned. Fleet segmentation for gathering fishing capacity data took into account the amendments imposed by Council Regulation EC no 199/2008 and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU . The data that are currently collected on the Belgian vessels include gross tonnage, maximum continuous power (kW) of the main engine (as registered by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure) and vessel age based on the hull (years).

III.F.1.2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

As the data collection was exhaustive, it is not meaningful to apply any data quality issues in the context of the DCF.

No deviations from the aim have been identified.

III.F.1.3 Actions to avoid deviations

No deviations identified.

III.F.2 Effort

III.F.2.1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

Data collection was exhaustive and comprised all fishing vessels in the EU Fleet Register that were active in 2014. No deviations from the aim have been identified. No shortfalls were identified.

❖ **Fishing effort**

Fishing effort data are collected by fishing voyage as part of the routine effort, landings and revenue data collection system and can be reported by fleet segment, gear type and ICES Sub-area as requested by the DCF, or by any other type of spatial or temporal aggregation.

❖ **Species specific effort**

Landings (and revenues) by species were recorded as foreseen in the NP proposal, for all species listed in the text table below.

Species for which species-wise landings (and revenue) data were collected in 2014

Species for which species-wise landings (and revenue) data were collected in 2014			
Scientific name	Code	Scientific name	Code
<i>Amblyraja radiata</i>	RJR	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	MUR
<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	CAA	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	NEP
<i>Aspitrigla cuculus</i>	GUR	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	NEP
<i>Bivalvia</i>	CLX	<i>Octopus spp.</i>	OCZ
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	USK	<i>Pecten maximus</i>	SCE
<i>Buccinum undatum</i>	WHE	<i>Perciformes</i>	DPX
<i>Cancer pangurus</i>	CRE	<i>Perciformes</i>	PPX
<i>Cancer pangurus</i>	CRE	<i>Plathichthys flesus</i>	FLE
<i>Chelidonichthys lucerna</i>	GUU	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	PLE
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	HER	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	POL
<i>Conger conger</i>	COE	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	POK
<i>Crangon spp.</i>	CSH	<i>Psetta maxima</i>	TUR
<i>Crustacea</i>	CRU	<i>Raja brachyura</i>	RJH
<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	BSS	<i>Raja circularis</i>	RJI
<i>Dipturus batis</i>	RJB	<i>Raja clavata</i>	RJC
<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>	GUG	<i>Raja fullonica</i>	RJF
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	COD	<i>Raja microocellata</i>	RJE
<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	HAL	<i>Raja montagui</i>	RJM
<i>Homarus gammarus</i>	LBE	<i>Raja spp.</i>	SKA
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	LEZ	<i>Scomber scrombus</i>	MAC
<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>	RJN	<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	BLL
<i>Limanda limanda</i>	DAB	<i>Scyliorhinus spp.</i>	SCL
<i>Loligo spp.</i>	SQC	<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	RED
<i>Lophiidae</i>	ANF	<i>Selachimorpha</i>	SKH
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	HAD	<i>Sepia officinalis</i>	CTC
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	WHG	<i>Solea solea</i>	SOL
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	HKE	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	SPR
<i>Microstomus kitt</i>	LEM	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	DGS
<i>Mollusca</i>	MOL	<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	JAX
<i>Molva molva</i>	LIN	<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>	BIB

III.F.2.2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

As the data collection was exhaustive, it is not meaningful to apply any data quality issues for the reported variables in the context of the DCF. No deviations from the aim have been identified.

III.F.2.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

There were no specific recommendations relevant for Belgium.

III.F.2.4 Actions to avoid deviations

No deviations were identified.

III.F.3 Landings

III.F.3.1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

Data collection was exhaustive and comprised all fishing vessels in the EU Fleet Register that were active in 2014.

❖ Conversion factors

The conversion factors used to convert landed weights to live weights are conform the Commission implementing regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011, Annex XIII – European Union conversion factors for fresh fish.

III.F.3.1 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

As indicated in section General Framework of this report Belgium has to take in to account the problem of the 'restricted' list and 'mixed' landings. However, no deviation of the national proposal was identified. As the data collection was exhaustive, it is not meaningful to apply any data quality issues in the context of the DCF.

III.F.3.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

There were no specific recommendations relevant for Belgium.

III.F.3.4 Actions to avoid deviations

No deviations were identified.

III G Research surveys at sea

III G 1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

Belgium was expected to take part in two Priority 1 surveys, viz. the Demersal Young Fish Survey (DYFS) and the North Sea Beam Trawl Survey (BTS). Both surveys were carried out as planned in the NP proposal.

- ***Demersal Young Fish Survey (DYFS)***

As part of the international Demersal Young Fish (and Brown Shrimp) Survey, an annual autumn sampling survey was carried out in the Belgian coastal waters, to collect data on the abundance of juvenile flatfish (primarily plaice, *Pleuronectes platessa*, dab, *Limanda limanda*, and sole, *Solea solea*) and brown shrimp (*Crangon crangon*). The vessel used was the newly built Research Vessel 'Simon Stevin' (LOA 36,3 m; engine power 2 x 520 kW). The location of the sampling area matches the main flatfish nursery grounds along the Belgian coast. The stations planned to sample are given in Map III G 1 a. The planned and achieved numbers of days at sea, and the planned and achieved sampling stations are summarized in Table III.G.1.

The weather did not interfere with the sea-going operations in 2014, and no technical problems were encountered. This allowed for all 33 sampling stations to be fished successfully (Map G III 1 a), and this was realised in only six days. Already in 2010, five stations had become dredging points and could not be sampled. Three of these could be relocated to suitable alternative locations in 2011, and new locations were identified for the remaining two stations in 2014. None of the fished stations were declared invalid in 2014.

Methodology

All DYFS sampling stations are fished for approx. 30 min, with a standard shrimp beam trawl (beam length 6 m; codend mesh size 11 mm). Commercial fish are hand-picked from the catches, sorted by species and measured to the cm below.

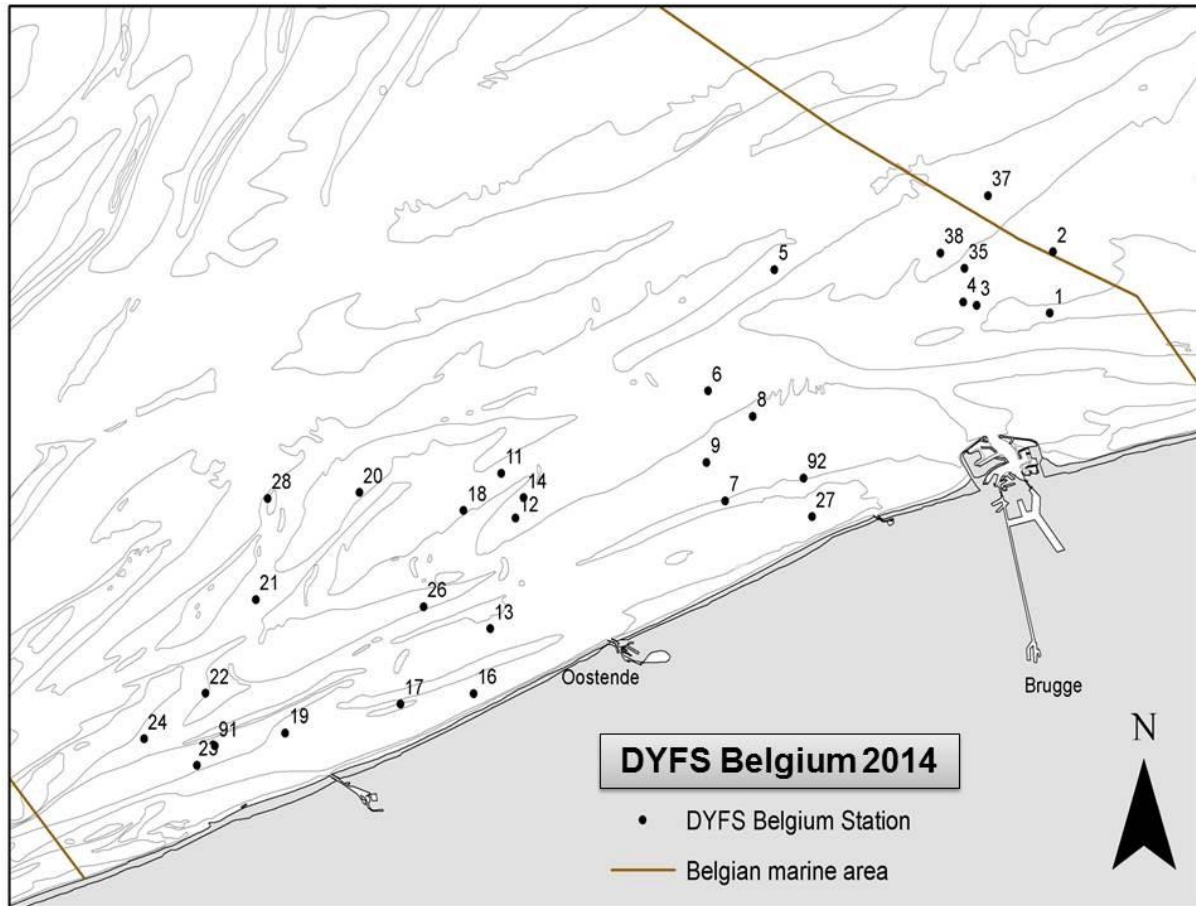
Brown shrimp are first graded into 'small' and 'large' by means of a rotating shrimp riddle (of the type that is also used on commercial shrimpers). From these two fractions, samples are taken of 1-2 litre each (depending on the proportions of shrimp and other organisms in the catch fractions). Samples are further sub-sampled in the lab (by weight) to an equivalent of approx. 250 shrimps, which are then measured in 5 mm size classes..

The DYFS focusses on measuring the most important commercial fish species (value and/or volume) to the cm below being cod, whiting, plaice, flounder, dab, sole, brill and turbot. From 2009 on, the species list was extended to cover all commercial fish species caught (e.g. including lesser spotted dogfish, gurnards, lemon sole, horse mackerel...). In this way, 12 species were documented in 2014.

Ordered by number, these are:

Species	Total number
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	6894
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	3372
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	3169
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	832
Horse Mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>)	200
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)	170
Tub Gurnard (<i>Chelidonichthys lucerna</i>)	167
Turbot (<i>Psetta maxima</i>)	20
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	13
Lemon Sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>)	8
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)	2
Seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	1

All data are stored in Excel spreadsheets at ILVO-Fisheries, and are presented to WGBEAM. Non-commercial fish and all non-fish species have never been documented during the Belgian DYFS until 2012. In 2013, trials to document all species caught were carried out on three stations. Only 11 invertebrate species and 10 non-commercial fish species were encountered in the catches on these stations (not included in the table above). Belgium will continue these trials in 2014, testing new stations and repeating the ones that were sampled in 2014. Using the insights on the spatial and temporal variation in distribution and abundances of invertebrates and non-commercial fish that will be gained in this way, the next step will be to decide whether documenting all species caught will be taken forward on all stations or on a subset of stations in the future.



Map III G 1 a: Stations planned to be sampled during the DYFS 2014.

- **Beam Trawl Survey (BTS)**

This survey is conducted with the RV 'Belgica' (LOA 51,12 m, engine power 1154 kW), as part of the annual international North Sea Beam Trawl Survey.

An annual North Sea Beam Trawl Survey is carried out in the south-western part of the North Sea (IVb and IVc West) to sample the adult flatfish stocks, primarily targeting plaice *Pleuronectes platessa* and sole *Solea solea*. From 1992 onwards, the RV Belgica samples 62 fixed sampling stations in BTS Areas 2, 3 and 4 on an annual basis. The map of the BTS survey and the stations to be fished is given in Map III G 1 b. The planned and achieved numbers of days at sea, and the planned and achieved sampling stations are summarized in Table III.G.1.

Although some hard winds were encountered during the first week of the campaign, this didn't influence the fishing operations in a negative way. Technical problems were always quickly solved by the crew of RV Belgica, and didn't cause substantial delays or a loss of stations (one station was missed during the first week, but we were able to make up for this later in the campaign). In the end, only one station (station 18) was missed due to the presence of several lines with static crab pots on the fishing track.

Conclusion: 61 out of the total of 62 planned stations have been fished successfully and were declared valid.

Methodology

All BTS stations are fished for 20-30 min (depending on quantities to be expected and the likely presence of potentially damaging obstructions such as rocks, boulders, etc.) with a 4 m beam trawl.

The NS BTS measures all commercial fish species to the 5 mm below (no subsampling, unless the total catch or the catch of a certain species is exceptionally big), and also records all other fish species by length (mostly all individuals, but sometimes based on subsamples). 52 different species were caught and documented in this way. 5 otoliths per cm size class are collected per ICES Statistical Rectangle for cod, brill, turbot, plaice and sole, and the fish these came from are also sexed. This was the fourth time that the collection of biological samples was geographically organised based on the ICES rectangles instead of the formerly used ALK-areas.

Indices for plaice and sole are the numbers per hour, averaged by ICES rectangle and averaged over all sampled ICES rectangles.

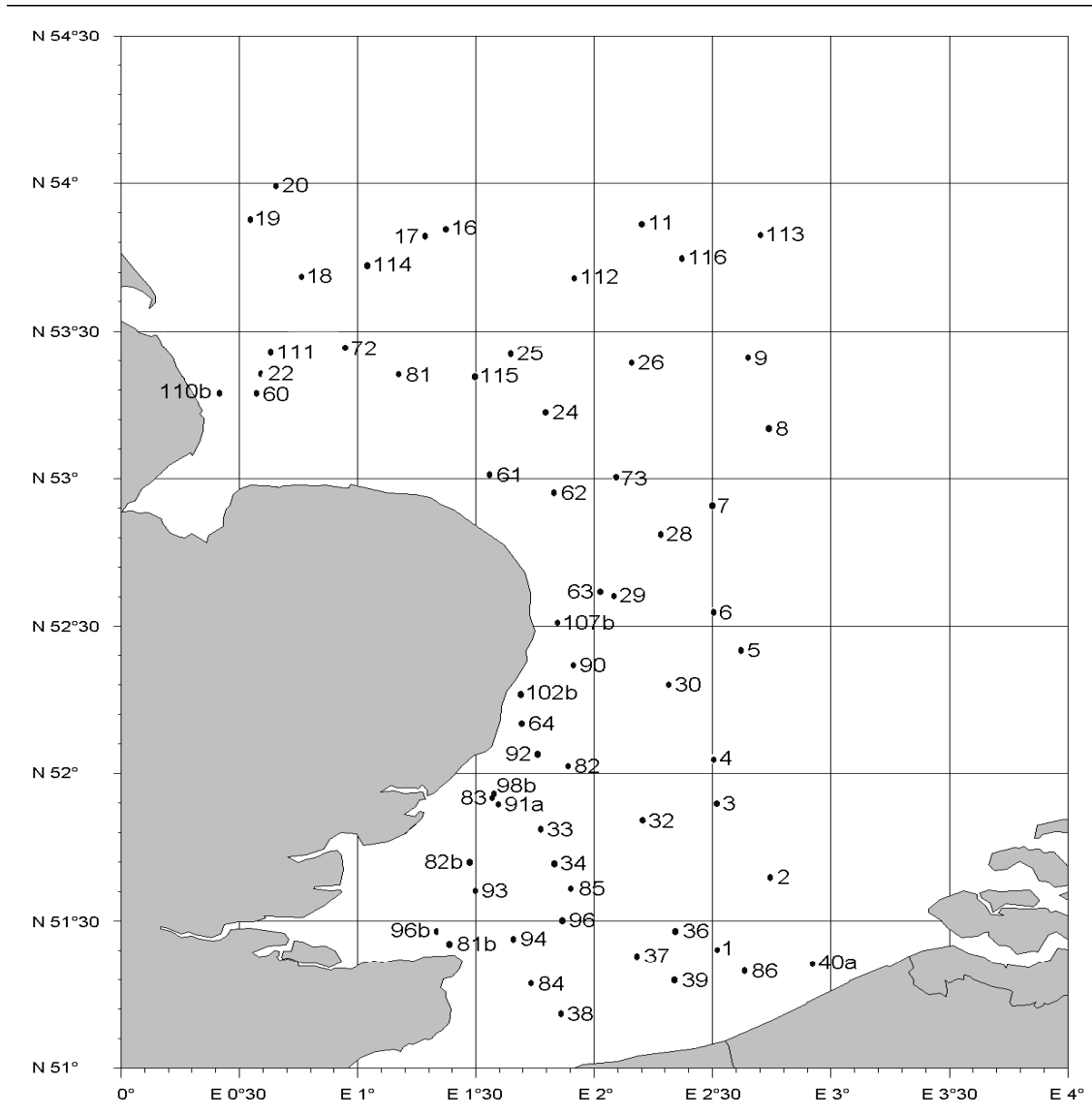
No maturity information is recorded (inappropriate period of the year)..

The top 10 of the species caught, by number are:

Species	Total number
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>)	5335
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>)	4616
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>)	3577
Lesser Weever (<i>Echiichthys vipera</i>)	3447
Solenette (<i>Buglossidium luteum</i>)	1988
Pogge (<i>Agonus cataphractus</i>)	1860
Bib (<i>Trisopterus luscus</i>)	1642
Common Dragonet (<i>Callionymus lyra</i>)	1573
Scaldfish (<i>Arnoglossus laterna</i>)	1261
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>)	1197

In addition, quantitative data are collected on the abundance and length distributions of all non-commercial fish species, and on the abundance of the most important bycatch species. Additionally, size compositions of the bycatches of Edible Crab (*Cancer pagurus*) and Common Cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*) are composed. Also the presence of marine litter in all catches was documented.

All data are stored in Excel spreadsheets at ILVO-Fisheries, and are given through to WGBEAM. The data will be uploaded in DATRAS before 31st December 2015. In the planning of the Chief Scientist this is taken into account as a priority to be finalized by end 2015.



Map III G 1 b - Sampling stations fished by the RV 'Belgica' in the SW North Sea in August-September 2014, as part of the annual late summer BTS survey.

III G 2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

No changes to any kind of settings were done that could have impaired the quality of the indices, thus no deviations were present.

III G 3 Follow up of regional and international recommendations

Belgium changed the geographical resolution of the age information that is collected on the BTS from the coarser ALK-areas (three in the survey area) to the ICES-statistical rectangles (14 in the survey area) since the 2011 survey campaign, as was suggested by WGBEAM. This way Belgium collects age data in the exact same way as the other Member States conducting similar surveys, and obtain a geographically more detailed view on the age compositions of the exploited commercial fish populations.

The addition of trials on documenting non-commercial fish and invertebrates to the survey plan was also initiated in response to a recommendation from WGBEAM.

III G 4 Actions to avoid deviations

Since there were no major deviations under the Module Surveys, the surveys will largely remain unchanged in the years to come. Regarding the DYFS, all stations that have become dredging points in the past were shifted to new positions with similar depths and substrates in the vicinity of the old positions. Regarding the non-availability of survey data in Dattras: the BTS-data will be uploaded in DATRAS before 31st December 2015. In the planning of the Chief Scientist this is taken into account as a priority to be finalized by end 2015.

IV Module of the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and processing industry

IV A Collection of data concerning aquaculture

IV A 1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

During the past years, Belgium requested a derogation for collecting data on the economic situation of aquaculture in Belgium. The derogation has been granted by DGMare with reference number Ares(2014)685516:

From: EC ARES NOREPLY [mailto:DIGIT-NOREPLYARES@ec.europa.eu]
Sent: woensdag 12 maart 2014 11:41
To: Els Torreele' (els.torreele@ilvo.vlaanderen.be)
Cc: GARZON Isabelle (MARE); DRUKKER Bas (MARE); URBANSKA Magdalena (MARE); BORG Greta (MARE-EXT)
Subject: Ares(2014)685516 - FW: Aquaculture data collection in Belgium - derogation

Sent by KNAPP Amelie (MARE) <Amelie.KNAPP@ec.europa.eu>. All responses have to be sent to this email address.

Envoyé par KNAPP Amelie (MARE) <Amelie.KNAPP@ec.europa.eu> . Toutes les réponses doivent être effectuées à cette adresse électronique.

Dear Els,

Belgium has requested a derogation to provide socio-economic data on aquaculture on the basis that:

- 1) You only have freshwater (FW) aquaculture in Belgium and under the DCF regulation it is not mandatory to collect socio-economic data on FW aquaculture

- 2) Although you do gather data on part of the FW aquaculture sector (on a voluntary basis), you have to date only gathered data on 3 (FW) aquaculture companies so confidentiality issues arise to share the data with end users.

On this basis, we can grant Belgium a derogation to provide the FW aquaculture data you do collect to end users, but we would like to remind you that you should nevertheless provide meta-data about the sector and the data you do collect, in the Annual Reports (as noted in several exchanges between DG MARE and Belgium). We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that when the DCF revision enters into force, data collection on FW aquaculture may become mandatory so it may be advisable that Belgium already starts planning towards that end, for example by carrying out further work to identify the full population of (FW) aquaculture facilities in your member State. “

IV A 2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

As explained in IV A 1 no data were reported, hence not applicable

IV A 3 Follow up of regional and international recommendations

No regional and international recommendations are set up.

IV A 4 Actions to avoid deviation

The Belgian aquaculture experts closely monitor the sector and recommence data collection and reporting when appropriate.

When the DCF revision enters into force, data collection on FW aquaculture may become mandatory so Belgium already starts planning towards that end, by carrying out further work to identify the full population of (FW) aquaculture facilities in Belgium..

IV B Collection of data concerning the processing industry

IV B 1 Achievements: results and deviations from NP proposal

All data collection was done in accordance with the NP proposal. On the date of drafting the AR2014 the most recent economic data available were the data for the account year 2012, which considered 2012-2013 as a reference year (see figure under section General Framework). This one-year time lag in the data collecting system is caused by the incompatibility between the year of reporting and the “account year” kept by the company. Most of the companies have their accountant year from 1st of April 2012 until 31st of March 2013, some of them from 1st of June 2012 until 31st of May of the year 2013. The collection of economic data for 2012-2013 is done in accordance with the NP proposal. An overview of the collected data is reported in the Excel tables IV.B.1 and IV.B.2. The questionnaire was sent to 240 companies.

❖ What data are being collected?

The economic data/variables for the Belgian processing industry that were collected under the NP correspond to the list in Appendix XII of the EU Decision 2010/93. For details on information requested from the companies and parameter definitions, see Annex 3 and Annex 4 respectively.

❖ What are the data collected from and how are the data collected?

In Belgium, there is no reference list of fish processing companies in the strict sense of the word. Therefore in the previous years, ILVO-Fisheries addressed the top-255 (ranking based on company turnover and number of employees) of the Belgian companies that were identified as being involved in 'fish processing' in a national survey of private company performance indicators. A priori, most of these companies could be expected to have different types of food processing activities, of which fish and shellfish could be one, but not necessarily the most important one. In order to up-date and fine-tune the list of fish processing companies a list with postal addresses of companies involved in fish processing was obtained from the 'Belgische groepering van de visindustrie', the Belgian representative of AIPCE-CEP (European Fish Processors Association - European Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish). Based on the already available information and an Internet search the e-mail addresses for these companies were included where possible.

In the beginning of 2014, 240 companies received a questionnaire (see Annex 3) and the explanatory note with variables definitions (see Annex 4) by e-mail (when a correct e-mail address was available) or by post. Several companies informed ILVO via a phone call, an E-mail message or the comment box on the questionnaire that processing fish was only a very minor part of their activities. Others responded that they did not have the time or that they were not willing to provide the requested economic data. In order to fine-tune the list of fish processing companies, companies were requested to fill-out the contact details of the person best placed within the company to fill out the questionnaire. This feed-back will be used to further fine-tune the sampling scheme and the list of companies active in the processing industry.

In total 34 replies were received, including 8 non-valid responses as the respondent indicated that the company only used very low quantities of fish or shellfish for the preparation of meals or that they did not have the time to fill-out the questionnaire. In total y 26 useful questionnaires were received, hence a response rate of 11% was achieved.

IV B 2 Data quality: results and deviations from NP proposal

There were no deviations from the objective

IV B 3 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

There were no specific recommendations relevant for Belgium.

IV B 4 Actions to avoid deviations

Belgium will continue its effort to improve the data collection concerning the processing industry. The list of fish processing companies will be rigorously up-dated by cross-checking different sources of companies involved in fish-based activities. When in doubt whether the company is truly involved in fish processing, the company will be contacted by phone. To ensure that only active companies receive a questionnaire, the companies on the (draft) list will be looked up in the databases of FPS Economy, S.M.E.s, Self-employed and Energy (Federal Government).

It is also the intention to collect the contact details of the person best placed within the company to fill out the questionnaire as well as other information to improve the knowledge related to Belgium's fish processing industry. Belgium aims at sending out as many questionnaires as possible electronically, e.g. by E-mail, to facilitate the follow-up of each contact and the input of the returned data into the data base. Potentially (in 2015) an online questionnaire is developed to improve efficiency and consistency. It may also be less time consuming for the companies themselves, which may increase the response rate. This will be reported in AR2015.

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V Module of evaluation of the effects of the fishing sector on the marine ecosystem

V 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Indicators 1-3 are calculated from fisheries survey results. As Belgium only organises such surveys in the North Sea, indicators 1-3 can be delivered for the North Sea and Eastern Arctic region, but not for the North Atlantic region.

Source data for indicator 4 can be collected on research surveys or through market sampling programmes. However, due to the lack of internationally standardised maturity scales, Belgium did not collect maturity data so far.

The Fuel efficiency indicator is calculated based on the value of landings calculated as the product of landings by species and the cost of fuel. The indicator would be calculated for each métier according to level 6 métiers.

Data on the fuel cost are collected from the relevant company accounts, on which the actual cost paid for fuel is registered and available.

The source of data for collecting the value of landings and the price of the species are the Fishstats, which is the official database of DVZ and contains the information from sales notes and log books.

In the section and Table III.B.3, a detailed overview is given of data sources and methodologies used for collecting economic data.

❖ Fuel consumption

Currently, the estimates of fuel consumption are based on annual fuel costs, as reported by vessel owners on a voluntary basis (also see Section III.B.3). The most recent data available relate to 2009 and are applicable to the beam trawlers only. For the other fleet segments (with < 10 vessels in total), no data to calculate fuel consumption were provided by the vessel owners.

❖ VMS data

Indicator 5,6 and 7 are calculated based on the VMS data. Since begin of 2010, Belgium has access to the Belgian VMS data and received the first data by the end of March 2010. Time lag between two registrations is two hours.

V 2 Actions to avoid deviation

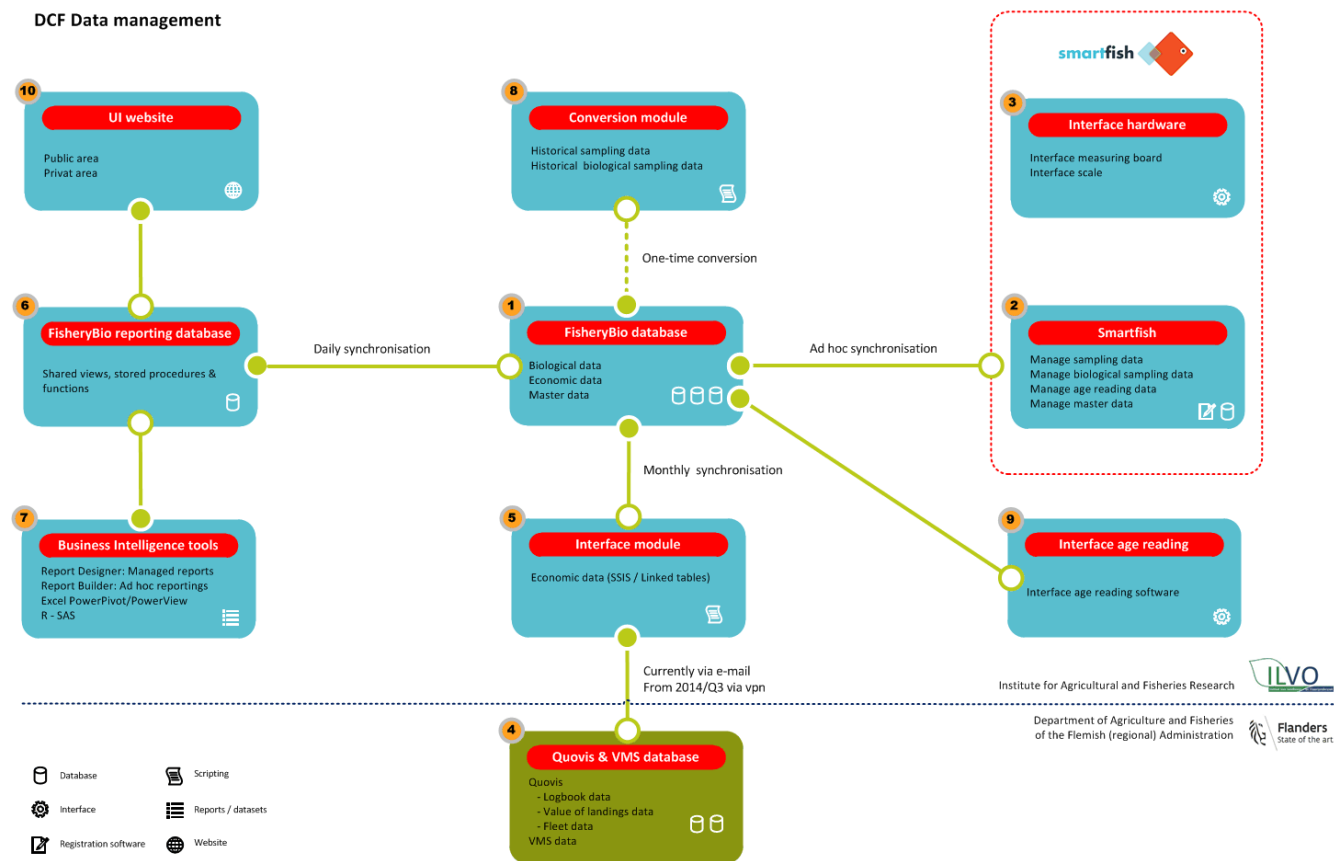
Maturity data, needed for the calculation of indicator 4 but currently lacking, and were collected from 2014 onwards on research surveys by Belgium. However, these data are not relevant as the time in the year that survey takes place is not the correct timing for determining maturity stages. See section G– Surveys.

VI Module for management and use of the data

VI 1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

1. Overview set-up

1.1. Scheme



1.2. Data owners

- **Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO)**
 - Address: Ankerstraat 1, 8400 Oostende
 - Contact persons: els.torrelee@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
 - Data management:
 - Biological data
 - Sampling at sea
 - Onshore sampling
 - Survey data
- **Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Flemish Administration (L&V/DZ)**
 - Address: Vrijhavenstraat 5, 8400 Oostende
 - Contact person: eddy.tessens@lv.vlaanderen.be

- Data management:
 - Economic data
 - Logbook data
 - Value of Landing data
 - Fleet data
 - Accountancy data
 - VMS data

1.3. **Databases**

- **ILVO / FisheryBio database (scheme n° 1) :**
 - **Purpose:** Manage of sampling at sea, onshore sampling & surveys data (sampling and biological sampling data).
 - **Technical:** SQL Server 2012 database
 - **Users:** 4 observers have access to enter data via the SmartFish user interface. Scientists have read-only access via business intelligence tools.
- **L&V/DZ Quovis database (scheme n° 4):**
 - **Purpose:** Quovis has two main purposes :
 - Record daily fishing activities from fishing trip to sales
 - Manage periodical data, such as yearly quota, fleet modifications and national management measures. It manages data from the following domains: fleet register, fishing licences and authorizations, logbook, fishing effort, landing declarations and sales notes.
 - **Technical:** Oracle 11g database
 - **Users:** Only 5 people currently have access to enter data to the system through the user interface. The reporting tool is currently accessible to users of the Intranet.
- **VMS database (scheme n° 4)**
 - **Purpose:** The purpose of the VMS is to provide the FMC with a GIS for the surveillance of the activities of fishing vessel as foreseen by Council regulation n° 1224/2009.
 - **Technical:** The VMS is a standalone system with off the shelf software of OTS (Omni Tracking Systems) TerraVision 4.83. The TerraVision users interface is based on Mapinfo 5.5 connecting to an Oracle 8.1 database.
 - **Users:** All staff members have access to the system. One person from the Control and Inspection Unit is designated to perform ad hoc queries, and the general administration of the system.

1.4. **Interface Quovis & VMS - FisheryBio database (scheme n° 5)**

- **General:** At short notice there will be a extension of the interface of economic data between ILVO and L&V/DZ. The extension of the interface has already been analysed, the implementation will start in 2014/Q3.
- **Data:**
 - Currently:
 - Detailed logbook & fleet data
 - Aggregated value of landing & accountancy data
 - From 2014/Q4: all economic data in detailed format
- **Technical:**
 - Currently: data transfer via e-mail
 - From 2014/Q4:

- Direct data access via a virtual private network connection
- The economic data will be available for the scientists in their business intelligence tools via shared views, stored procedures & functions.

2. Overview changes

2.1. *Transition to a new IT-system*

- Since 2014/Q1 the process for managing the DCF data in ILVO is in transition to a completely new IT-system.
- The transition is managed by internal IT-staff.
- The different modules are implemented according to their priority. The first major steps has been taken:
 - The different individual databases are centralized into one professional relational domain model (scheme n° 1).
 - A first version of SmartFish, the data input software, has been deployed (scheme n° 2).
 - The business intelligence environment has been installed (scheme n° 6).
 - The data conversion of the historical sampling at sea data has been implemented (scheme n° 8).
 - A prototype of a new digital measuring board has been engineered and is ready to use (scheme n° 3).

2.2. *Further implementation of the new IT-system*

- SmartFish (scheme n° 2): extension of the registration functionalities.
- Interface hardware (scheme n° 3):
 - Implementation of an fully automated interface with the digital measuring board and scales.
 - In the future all sampling data will be registered via the digital measuring board. This will be a major improvement in the context of efficiency and data quality.
- Interface SmartFish - FisheryBio database (scheme n° 1,2)
 - The synchronisation between the data on the local database (registered on board of the vessel) and database on the central database server will be fully automated.
- Business intelligence tools (scheme n° 7)
 - Development of shared views, stored procedures and functions. All scientists will connect to the same datasets. Calculated fields (eg for effort calculation) will be generated via database functions in an automated way.
 - Development of managed reports in the context of fixed format DCF reports, ICES reports, ...
- One-time conversion of the historical data (scheme n° 8)
 - Data migration of historical Sampling data: sampling at sea data, onshore data, survey data
 - Data migration of historical biological sampling data: sampling at sea data, onshore data, survey data
 - Data migration of age-reading data
- Interface age reading (scheme n° 9)
 - Implementation of an data interface between the age-reading software and the FisheryBio database

- Website (scheme n° 10)
 - Implementation of a secured webplatform:
 - Information on available data
 - Data distribution to external partners

3. Data quality control procedures

3.1. *General*

In general ILVO performs the data quality checks on the biological data, L&V/DZ performs the data quality checks on the economic data. Currently many of the data quality checking is done manually. Given the small size of the Belgian fleet the manually performed data controls are still manageable. Nevertheless the intention is to automate the data quality control procedures as much as possible in the future.

3.2. *Currently quality control checks*

- **Data quality controls** are performed on:
 - **Biological data (ILVO)**
 - Biological stock related data (primary detailed)
 - Biological metier related data (primary detailed)
 - **Economic data (L&V/DZ)**
 - Catch / landings data (primary detailed)
 - Capacity data (primary detailed)
 - Effort data (primary detailed)
 - Economic data of fleet (primary detailed)
 - Economic data on processing (primary detailed)
 - Economic data on aquaculture (primary detailed)
- **Checked indicators**
 - Qualitative indicators: availability, accessibility, missing values, duplicated records, timeliness, coding
 - Quantitative indicators: std. deviation, coefficient of variation, sample size, sampling rate, response rate, coverage rate
 - Other quality checks: typing errors, arithmetic checks, logical checks

3.3. *Future extension of quality control checks*

- **General**
 - ILVO will extend and automate the data quality checks as part of the transition to the new IT-system for the management of the biological data
- **Smartfish**
 - Extension of data quality controls during the registration process
- **Digital measuring board**
 - All data will be entered via a digital measuring board in the FisheryBio database. Manual registration is being phased out. The automation will be a major improvement in the context of efficiency and data quality.
- **Business intelligence**
 - All data will be available for scientist via shared views, stored procedures & functions.
 - Reporting tools will be used to perform automated data quality checks.

Data transmitted

In 2014, all data collected under the DCF were transmitted to the relevant assessment working groups, study groups, advisory committees, ad hoc expert groups, etc., when and as requested

In 2014, there were several calls from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and they are included in Table VI.1.

VI 2 Actions to avoid deviation

See new system implemented as described in VI 1.

VII Follow up of STECF recommendations

The recommendations, dealt with in this section, are addressed to the MS by the STECF EWG in 2010 and 2011. The recommendations for 2012 originate from the STECF reviews (in the STECF plenary reports) of the EWG held in 2012.

1.1.1 STECF EWG in 2010

The following recommendations were selected from the SGRN 10-02 and SGRN 10-03. The selection contains the recommendation which are considered relevant to Belgium or the MS in general.

No final SGRN 10-01 report is available (also not on the JRC website). In a draft report, provided by a participant of the meeting, no recommendations are highlighted.

The numbering of recommendations of SGRN 10-02 is applied by the MS. In the report of SGRN 10-03, no recommendations addressed to the MS were found.

2 Topic: Reporting of landings vs. retained catches	
STECF SGRN 10-02 Recommendation	SGRN recommends using the term 'retained catches' instead of 'landings' throughout.
Follow-up actions needed	European Commission, MS, SGRN.
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	MS considers this recommendation redundant

3 Topic: Data calls		VI-1
STECF SGRN 10-02 Recommendation	SGRN recommends MS to report technical problems with the upload of data in detail to JRC and DG MARE. The consistency of data with the DCF and Data Call lies in the responsibility of the Member States.	
Follow-up actions needed	Member States to report technical uploading problems to JRC and DGMARE. Member States to ensure consistency of the data with the DCF and Data Calls	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions		
Time frame (Deadline)		
MS response	BE reports possible problems to JRC when applicable. MS strives for consistency of the data throughout all data calls.	

4 Topic: Data calls		VI-1
STECF SGRN 10-02 Recommendation	SGRN recommends that all MS to thoroughly check the data quality before submitting them and to use the electronic upload procedure and eventual built-in automatic quality checks. SGRN strongly recommends that all MS to submit data in the given time frame.	
Follow-up actions needed	Member States to respect these recommendations	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions		
Time frame (Deadline)		
MS response	BE respects these recommendations.	

5 Topic: Data calls		VI-1
STECF SGRN 10-02 Recommendation	SGRN recommends MS to report problems with the upload of data in detail to JRC and DG MARE	
Follow-up actions needed	Member States to report uploading problems to JRC and DG MARE.	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions		
Time frame (Deadline)		
MS response	see topic 3	

6 Topic: Transversal variables		VI-1
STECF SGRN 10-02 Recommendation	SGRN recommends that all MS to thoroughly check the data quality before submitting them and to use the electronic upload procedure and eventual built-in automatic quality checks.	
Follow-up actions needed	Member States to respect these recommendations.	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions		
Time frame (Deadline)		
MS response	MS agrees with this recommendation and has implemented internal quality checks of the data.	

7 Topic: Fish processing industry

**VI-1
IV-B3**

<p>STECF SGRN 10-02 Recommendation</p>	<p>SGRN recommends that MS should consult with the national statistical offices in order to improve efficiency and guarantee consistency in the data collection process. Efficiency can be improved because national statistical offices could already have information required to be collected under the DCF. Data consistency will be met if the same definitions are applied.</p> <p>SGRN recommends that MS to follow the specification stated in the DCF and fully comply with future data calls on economic data related to the fish processing sector.</p>
<p>Follow-up actions needed</p>	<p>Member States to respect these recommendations.</p>
<p>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</p>	
<p>Time frame (Deadline)</p>	
<p>MS response</p>	<p>Member State started consultation with national statistical office about the data collection of the processing industry</p>

1.1.2 STECF EWG in 2011

The following recommendations were selected from STECF EWG 11-02, EWG 11-08 and EWG 11-19. The selection contains the recommendation which are considered relevant to Belgium or the MS in general. The numbering of recommendations of EWG11-02 is applied by the MS. The numbering of the recommendations of the other EWG corresponds with those in their reports.

1 Topic: STECF, RCM and LM recommendations	
STECF EWG 11-02 Recommendation	EWG 11-02 recommended that all relevant recommendations issued by RCMs, LM, STECF and its sub-groups should be compiled,
Follow-up actions needed	Compile the Information – Circulate to NC
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Frans van Beek volunteered to do a list of STECF 2009 recommendations (see Annex 4) Recommendations are compiled in RCM report.
Time frame (Deadline)	By end April 2011
MS response	Frans van Beek has produced and distributed the list, Belgium has received this list

2 Topic: Co-operation between Control Authorities and the NP of the DCF

STECF EWG 11-02 Recommendation	<p>EWG 11-02 recommends including in the new DCF, commitments for Member States to set up at national or regional level, a system to encourage cooperation between control authorities and the National Programmes of the DCF. The cooperation system should address all issues of relevance for the collection and processing of data to be collected under the CR and the DCF Follow Up Action Needed : Scope out requirements for such</p>
Follow-up actions needed	<p>Scope out requirements for such a co-operation</p>
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	<p>MS DG MARE</p>
Time frame (Deadline)	<p>2011 et seq.</p>
MS response	<p>MS agrees with this recommendation and will strive to implement such a system when needed.</p>

3 Topic: Control Regulation and Sampling Plans for Vessels not Subject to Logbooks	
STECF EWG 11-02 Recommendation	The CR includes commitments for MS to develop and implement sampling plans for vessels not subject to logbook requirements and landing declarations. EWG 11-02 recommends that when MS develop the sampling plans due notice is taken to the data requirements under the DCF. This could be done by actively involving at national level the DCF experts in the development of the sampling plans.
Follow-up actions needed	MS to Identify Sampling Plans under CR
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	MS Control Authority and DCF Personnel DG MARES
Time frame (Deadline)	2011 et seq.
MS response	This recommendation is not relevant for Belgium

3 Topic: Calculation of CV		III-B3
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that information and description on the method/software used for calculation of CV's should be included (or referred to) in the AR if not provided in NP.	
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE MEMBER STATES	
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary Address in 2012	
MS response	In the reply of the MS to the comment of the evaluation of the AR2012, of this report contains a short description on the method/software used for calculation of CV's including	

	<p>references. A paper with a description of the methods is in preparation</p> <p>For Economic variables, MS has followed the suggested calculation of CV as provided in the definitions on the JRC website.</p>
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4 Topic: List of Meetings Attended		II-B2
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends for the AR tables, Table II.B.1 (list of eligible meetings) that is provided by the Commission should be used and all meetings and not only the meetings attended should be provided.	
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States	
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary. Action in 2012	
MS response	MS has followed this approach in the AR	

5 Topic: Recommendations from LM, STECF

STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	<p>EWG 11-08 recommends that STECF compiles the filtered LIST of recommendations by region (from the previous year) for use by Member States in compiling AR and NP. This list should be available on the DCF website.</p> <p>MS put in a filtered list of Recommendations and show what actions that have been taken to follow up recs.</p> <p>Amend the current guidelines to say only previous year recs. should be followed. (EWG 11-08 would point out that a recurring recommendation should be a guideline).</p>
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, STECF, Member States
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary, Address in 2012
MS response	STECF has not taken this action. The approach of BE with dealing of regulation is explained in this report.

6 Topic: Derogations Table

STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that a table including derogations asked for and if granted or rejected to be included in the AR tables. Adjust Guidelines for AR to include this.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary, Address in 2012
MS response	The guidelines to the 2012 AR have not been adjusted to this request. BE has provided a table with derogations in its NP.

7 Topic: Tables from NP included in AR	
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that. Table III.C.1 and III.C.2 III E 1 should not to be deleted from the AR. Maintaining the tables is what is expected. This should be included in the revision of the AR guidelines.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary, Address in 2012
MS response	MS has not deleted any table from the AR

10 Topic: MS Website		VI-1
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that MS set-up a website on their data collection. They are obliged (by DCF regulation) to do so. No MS mentioned or referenced in the AR to such websites.	
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States	
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary. Address in 2012	
MS response	MS has set up a DCF website www.smartfisheries.be	

11 Topic: MS unable to conduct a Survey		III-G3
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that in cases that a research vessels is not available for carrying out a contribution to a DCF survey, that MS in question should demonstrate that it made all necessary efforts to carry out the survey. MS must make provisions so that such problems do not happen e.g. seek assistance from other MS or charter a vessel.	
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States	
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary, Address in 2012	
MS response	MS agrees with the recommendation. In the past, in such situation MS has managed to find replacing vessel capacity.	

14 Topic: Capital Value Calculation		III-B3
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that for the calculation of Capital value, all MS shall use PIM (Perpetual Inventory Method) in the future. A Workshop has already explained the method (DCF Workshop on Capital Valuation, Naples June 2011). MS should use this report in next AR. Also explore the need for a Training Workshop. This Report should be made available on the on DCF WEB site.	
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States	
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary Address in 2012	
MS response	MS was not able yet to full fill this recommendation, in progress	

16 Topic: AR TEMPLATE	
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that files with filters, hidden cells, track changes, coloured cells etc. should not be submitted in AR
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary, Address in 2012
MS response	Yes, MS agrees and applies

17 Topic: Guide Line Review		III-C3
STECF EWG 11-08 Recommendation	EWG 11-08 recommends that non conformities in the tables of the AR needs to be explained in the text.	
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in July	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE, Member States	
Time frame (Deadline)	After STECF July Plenary, Address in 2012	
MS response	Yes, MS will do so.	

1 Topic: Annual Reports 2013 – Reporting of Adjustments to NP

STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	EWG 11-19 recommends that for Annual Report 2013, all the adjustments carried out by MSs must be clearly reported to illustrate the activities implemented in the reference year. This rule has to be applied to all kind of adjustments (minor, major, substantial etc etc) even in case MS have submitted or not a revised version of the National Program. All these “adjustments” should then appear in the relevant tables of the Annual Report Changes in AR tables with respect to the NP tables should be tracked in red.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States, Data End Users
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 after STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	This recommendation is unclear. Also, if this is relevant, it should be dealt with in the guidelines.

2 Topic: Metier Ranking System

STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	According to Commission Decision 93/2010, all MS performing the ranking system should use the average values of the 2 previous years. EWG 11-19 recommends that MS (even if they submitted or not a revised version of the National Program) use the most update set of values (i.e. landing values, tons, fishing days) in order to select the metiers to be sampled.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States, Data End Users
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 after STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	BE does partly agree with this recommendation. The programme is made for a period of three years and if a recalculation of petiers is used, the harmonistaion of the data

	collection could be hampered; On the other hand, it is of importance that the correct data are sampled, in order to follow up the actual situations.
--	--

5 Topic: On the revision of the National Programmes within a Programme Period

STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	EWG 11-19 recommends that revisions in the text of the NP proposals within the programme period should be done in a way allowing the reader to follow the development in the MS. This means that all information valid for the first years of the triennial programme should be kept and not deleted. For example, if a pilot study was carried out in 2011 and the NP for 2012 was revised in accordance with the result from the pilot study, information about the pilot study should be kept in the text of the NP, specifying that this was the situation in 2011, and description of the related modifications should be added, specifying that this was the revised situation for 2012.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 after STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	MS does not agree with the recommendation. The NP for a specific year should contain the intended actions and not the history of the actions done in the past. These can be found in NP's of previous years.

14 Topic: Issues identified from a Brainstorm of the DCF

STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	EWG 11-19 recommends that the issues raised during the DCF brainstorm session (list of 46) should be used to inform the debate on the new DCF. The focus should be on addressing these issues rather than identifying new issues.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States, Data End Users
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 after STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	This recommendation is incorrectly addressed to the MS

15 Topic: Updated SWOT on DCF

STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	EWG 11-19 recommends that the updated SWOT analyses (Table 3.2) should be used to inform the debate on the new DCF. The focus should be on addressing the issues in the SWOT rather than identifying new issues.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States, Data End Users
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 after STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	This recommendation is incorrectly addressed to MS

16 Topic: STECF Comments and Recommendations on new DCF	
STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	EWG 11-19 recommends that the 18 issues outlined in the Table 4.1 of this report are included in the discussion on a new DCF during the early part of 2012.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States, Data End Users
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 after STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	This recommendation is incorrectly addressed to MS

17 Topic: Concurrent Sampling	
STECF EWG 11-19 Recommendation	EWG 11-19 recommends that for on-shore sampling, MS should continue to sample the metiers and make sure to cover all the species/stocks where a demand is formulated by an end-user (or listed in Appendix VII of the Comm. Dec.), but the methodology used to achieve the goals remains at the discretion of the MS, provided that it is fully documented and approved within their NP proposal.
Follow-up actions needed	Await review by STECF Plenary in April 2012
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	DG MARE , STECF, Member States, Data End Users
Time frame (Deadline)	During early 2012 After STECF Plenary April 2012
MS response	MS agrees with the recommendation and proposes to apply the concept in the revision of the DCF.

1.1.3 STECF EWG in 2012

The following recommendations were selected from STECF PLEN-01, PLEN 12-02 and PLEN 12-03. In its second meeting in 2012 STECF stated that conclusions and recommendations from EWG reports are NOT the opinion of the STECF before review and adoption by the committee.

Therefore, recommendations were collected not from the EWG reports but from STECF. This section presents a selection of recommendation which apply to data collection and which are considered relevant to Belgium or the MS in general. The numbering of the selected recommendations is applied by the MS.

1 Topic: National Programme and Annual Report	
STECF PLEN 12-01 Recommendation	<p>In order to facilitate enhancements in the NPs, STECF recommends that the Commission should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - include in the guidelines definitions of minor, major, or substantial changes (e.g. methodological issues, sampling design, changing in the surveys, derogations etc etc). - request all MS to include a summary page giving a brief overview of the main revision made to the NP. - publish the list of all relevant recommendations from STECF, RCM, Liaison meetings in the data collection web site. <p>STECF recommends that the Commission provide to the NP review group, the original text and the proposed NP revisions for ease of comparison. The final version of the approved NP is what should appear on the DCF website. This website is currently not up to date.</p>
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	Commission
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	MS endorses the recommendation and regrets that no list of relevant recommendations of STECF has been provided so far.

2 Topic: Overview of selectivity of gears used in EU fisheries

STECF PLEN 12-01 Recommendation	STECF recommends that a more detailed analysis of discard data gathered under the Data Collection Framework should be undertaken to provide a quantitative rather than a qualitative assessment and this analysis be used to identify the level of discards for the aggregated fleets.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	MS strongly supports this recommendation. Belgium has started a quantitative analyses in 2013 and urges other MS also to do so. The information is relevant to for the implementation of the landing obligation under the new CFP. The Netherlands also would support an initiative to coordinate this internationally.

3 Topic: International dimension

STECF PLEN 12-02 Recommendation	STECF recommends that FPAs be based on management plans, which should include management objectives, harvest control rules, TAC or effort allocation keys and should be supported by data collection programs, scientific advice and monitoring.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	MS supports this recommendation. Future legislation on data collection should accommodate for this.

4 Topic: fishing effort data call

<p>STECF PLEN 12-02 Recommendation</p>	<p>STECF would like to reiterate its recommendation from STECF PLEN-11-03 that data collected under different EU programs and DCF have to be compatible if bioeconomic modeling should be further developed and improved. In particular, there is an urgent need to harmonize gear and area descriptors between economic and biological data calls, as well as to improve the consistency of transversal data such as effort and landings by fleet and métier across these data calls. At present, economic data are only available for aggregated groups of vessels assigned to a single majority activity (to preserve confidentiality) without detailed information on their actual fishing activities, while biological data are collected at the scale of fishing activities =(or métiers) without insights of how individuals select different combinations of activities, making the two data sets largely irreconcilable as they are currently requested under Data Calls. In practice, it might be possible to link the two through allocation to fleets and métiers of logbooks data crossed with fleet register. STECF emphasizes that the DCF needs to explicitly improve this link.</p>
<p>Follow-up actions needed</p>	
<p>Responsible persons for follow-up actions</p>	
<p>Time frame (Deadline)</p>	
<p>MS response</p>	<p>MS agrees, but it is unclear what kind of action has to be taken by who and when.</p>

5 Topic: STECF advice from July 2012 on tuna fisheries where sharks are associated species	
STECF PLEN 12-03 Recommendation	To facilitate data collection and accurate documentation and reporting of catches, STECF recommends that any sharks caught in FPA fisheries should be retained and landed whole (with fins wholly or partly attached to their respective carcass).
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	The recommendation does not apply to Belgium

1.1.4 STECF EWG in 2014

The following recommendations were selected from STECF PLEN 13-01, PLEN 13-02, PLEN 13-03 and PLEN 14-01. In its second meeting in 2012 STECF stated that conclusions and recommendations from EWG reports are NOT the opinion of the STECF before review and adoption by the committee. Therefore, recommendations were collected not from the EWG reports but from STECF. This section presents a selection of recommendation which apply to data collection and which are considered relevant to Belgium or the MS in general. The numbering of the selected recommendations is applied by the MS.

1. Topic: STECF advice from April on the evaluation of Member States' reports assessing the balance between capacity and fishing opportunities	
STECF PLEN 13-01 Recommendation	to evaluate the added value of the sustainable harvest indicator based on a comparative analysis of trends in this indicator and the other biological indicators.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	MS agrees, but it is unclear what kind of action has to be taken

	by who and when.
--	------------------

2.	
STECF PLEN 13-02 Recommendation	No recommendations arose during discussions at the 43rd plenary meeting of the STECF
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	

3.	
STECF PLEN 13-03 Recommendation	No recommendations arose during discussions at the 44th plenary meeting of the STECF.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	

4.	
STECF PLEN 14-01 Recommendation	No new recommendations arose during discussions at the 45th plenary meeting of the STECF.
Follow-up actions needed	
Responsible persons for follow-up actions	
Time frame (Deadline)	
MS response	

VIII List of acronyms and abbreviations

ACOM	ICES Advisory Committee
ALK	Age-length-key
AMAWGC	ICES Annual Meeting of Advisory-related Working Group Chairs
AR	Annual Report
BTS	Beam Trawl Survey
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (England)
CL	Carapace length (standard measure for whole Nephrops)
CPUE	Catch per unit effort
DCF	Data Collection Framework
DYFS	Demersal Young Fish (and Brown Shrimp) Survey
DZV	Dienst Zee Visserij
EC	European Commission
EP	Extended Programme under the requirements of the DCF
EWG 11-18	Review of economic data collected in relation to the DCF and harmonisation of sampling strategies
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FU	Functional Unit (geographical definition of Nephrops stocks)
GT	Gross tonnage
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (Denmark)
ICES BRG	ICES Baltic Review Group
ICES CSRG	ICES Celtic Sea Review Group
ILVO	Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research (Belgium) (successor of Centre for Agricultural Research, CLO)
IMARES	Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies (Netherlands)

JRC	Joint Research Centre (Italy)
LOA	Length over all
LPUE	Landings per unit effort
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Minimum Programme under the requirements of the DCF
MS	EU Member State(s)
NP	National Proposal
NDGP	(Belgian) National Data Gathering Programme
PCU	Price Per Capacity
PGCCDBS	ICES Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling
PGECON	ICES Planning Group on Economic Issues
RAC	Regional Advisory Council
RCM	Regional Co-ordination Meeting
RCM NEA	Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North-East Atlantic
RCM NS&EA	Regional Co-ordination Meeting for the North Sea & the East Arctic
RDB	Regional Database
RFO	Regional Fisheries Organisation
SGMix	STECF Sub-group on Mixed Fisheries
SGRN	STECF Sub-group on Research Needs
SGRST	STECF Sub-group on Review of Stock Status
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
WKACCU	Workshop on Methods to Evaluate and Estimate the Accuracy of Fisheries Data used for Assessment
WGBEAM	ICES Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys
WGCRAN	ICES Working Group on the Life History, Population Biology and Assessment of Crangon Stocks
WGEF	ICES Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes
WGHMM	ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Stocks of Hake, Megrim and Monk
WGMIXMAN	ICES Workshop on Simple Mixed Fisheries Management Models
WKMOG	Workshop on Maturity Ogive Estimation for Stock Assessment
WGNEPH	ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Nephrops Stocks
WGNEW	ICES Working Group on New MoU Species
WGNSDS	ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Northern Shelf Demersal Stocks
WGNSSK	ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak
WGQAF	ICES Working Group on Quantifying All Fishing Mortality
WGSSDS	ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Southern Shelf Demersal Stocks
WKDRP	ICES Workshop on Discard Raising Procedures
WKMAT	ICES Workshop on Maturity
WKMSCHWS	ICES Workshop on Maturity staging of Cod, Haddock, Whiting and Saithe
WKNEPH	ICES Workshop on Nephrops Stocks (successor of WGNEPH)
WKSCMFD	ICES Workshop on Sampling and Calculation Methodology for Fisheries Data

IX Comments, suggestions and reflections

The use of drop down lists in the excel tables would limit the possibilities for recording data in certain columns. For example, the list of variables in the III.E.3 table could easily be put in a hidden spreadsheet and used as a drop down list in table III.E.3. This would greatly reduce the confusion encountered when completing the Tables.

X References

- Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy
- **2010/93/EU** Commission Decision of 18th December 2009 adopting a multiannual Community programme pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 establishing a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy
- 9th Liaison Meeting – Final Report 2012_10_30, 97pgs.
- RCMNS&EA _ 2012 Report: <https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/nsea/default.aspx>
- RCMNEA _ 2012 Report : <https://groupnet.ices.dk/rcm2012/na/default.aspx?PageView=Shared>
- Study N° FISH/2005/03 on the evaluation of the capital value, investments and capital costs in the fisheries sector
- □ Study FISH/2005/14 and amendments made by SGECA 07-01 report (15-19 January 2007, Salerno).
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – 42nd Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-13-01). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR XXXX EN, JRC XXXX, XXX pp.
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – 43rd Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-13-02). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR XXXX EN, JRC XXX, XX pp.
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – 44th Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-13-03). 2013. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26332 EN, JRC 86096, 124 pp
- Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – 45th Plenary Meeting Report (PLEN-14-01). 2014. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, EUR 26616 EN, JRC 89783, 86 pp.

XI Annexes

Annex 1

Collection of economic data of the fisheries sector

Questionnaire

Accounting excerpt Sea Fisheries for the year 2010

ALV-100401



Departement Landbouw en Visserij
Afdeling Landbouw- en Visserijbeleid
Dienst Zeevisserij
Vrijhavenstraat 5, 8400 OOSTENDE
Tel. 059 43 19 20 – Fax 059 43 19 22
E-mail: zeevisserij@vlaanderen.be
Website: www.vlaanderen.be/zeevisserij

Date of receipt

The purpose of this form?

With this form owners of a fishing vessel report the accounting results for the year 2010 to the Landbouw- en Visserijbeleid van het Departement Landbouw en Visserij.

Who completes this form?

The Legal or natural person who is the owner of the vessel or the accountant of the company.

Company details

Contact details vessel owner

1 Fill in company details

Name _____
Street and Number _____
Postal number and city _____

2 Fill in contact details of the contact person within the company

Name _____
Street and Number _____
Postal number and city _____
Telephone number _____
e-mail address _____

Contact details accountant

3 Fill in your personal contact details

Name _____
Accounting company _____
Street and Number _____
Postal number and city _____
Telephone number _____
e-mail address _____

Details fishing vessel

4 Fill in the administrative details of the fishing vessel.

Registration number and letter

Name

Accounting results of the fishing vessel

5 Fill in the accounting results of the fishing vessel

Reference period for 2010

from day month year
 to day month year

Section	Amount	Box reserved for the administration of Zeevisserij
Income		
Gross value of landings		
Subsidies		
Other income		
Personnel costs		
Wages and salaries of crew		
Possible advanced rebate by ship owner		
Other costs		
Fuel costs		
Repair and maintenance costs		
Costs related to landing and selling		
Fishing gear, nets, etc.		
Ice, gas, salt		
Insurance vessel		
Rent of onboard appliances		
Other cost related to the vessel		
Capital		
Depreciation vessel and material		
Financial costs (interests)		
Capital value	Replacement value	
	Or historical value	
Investments		
Financial situation		
Employment		
Number of crew members		
Effort		
Fuel consumption		

Signature

6 Fill in the statement given below.

- I confirm that this form is completed truthfully.

Date day month year 2 0 1 1

Signature

Name

To whom you return this form?

7 Stuur deze aanvraag vóór 1 september 2011 naar de dienst Zeevisserij, waarvan het adres vermeld staat in het formulierhoofd. U kunt dit formulier ook faxen naar 059 43 19 22.

What will happen with your data?

8 De afdeling Landbouw- en Visserijbeleid, dienst Zeevisserij, verwerkt de verstrekte gegevens voor de volgende doeleinden:

- De jaarlijkse publicatie "Uitkomsten van de Belgische Zeevisserij", die een algemeen beeld schetst van de economische situatie van de sector.
- De verplichte melding van gegevens in het kader van de Europese regelgeving, meer bepaald het Data Collection Framework (Verordeningen nr. 199/2008 en 665/2008, en Besluit 2008/949). De gegevens worden gemeld aan het Joint Research Center van de EU, en dienen onder meer voor het Annual Economic Report over de Europese zeevisserij.
- Op aanvraag kan ook ILVO-Zeevisserij deze gegevens voor wetenschappelijke doeleinden aanwenden.

In geen enkel geval worden gegevens van individuele vaartuigen publiek gemaakt. Gepubliceerde informatie betreft steeds gegroepeerde gegevens die niet kunnen teruggevoerd worden tot vaartuigen waarop ze gebaseerd is.

Annex 2

Collection of economic data of the fisheries sector

Variables definitions

Appendix with clarifications

For each vessel a separate forms needs to be completed!

Terminology on accounting excerpt	Terminology Annex VI the Decision of the EU-Commission (2008/949/EG)	Description
Income		
Gross value of landings	Gross value of landings	Sum of earnings for selling fish including fish sold outside the fish auction
Direct subsidies	Direct subsidies	Includes subsidies and compensations (for example for temporary cessation)
Other income	Other income	Other income, for example from tourism, recreational fisheries, insurance premiums for damage to vessel
Personnel costs		
Wages and salaries of crew	Wages and salaries of crew	unaltered (wages + RSZ)
Possible advanced rebate by ship owner	Imputed value of unpaid labour	Value assigned to unpaid labor executed by the vessel owner
Other costs		
Fuel costs	Energy costs	Preferably only fuel costs (without lubricants)
Repair and maintenance costs	Repair and maintenance costs	
Costs related to landing and selling	Variable costs	Costs related to fishing activities
Fishing gear, nets, etc.	Variable costs	
Ice, gas, salt	Variable cost	
Insurance vessel	Not-variable costs	Costs related to the vessels, even when its not leaving the harbour
Rent of onboard appliances	Not -variable costs	
Other cost related to the vessel	Not -variable costs	
Capital		
Depreciation vessel and material	Annual depreciation	Provisional unaltered
Financial costs (interests)	-	Interests on outstanding loans
Capital values	Value of physical capital: depreciated replacement value	See remark below table
	Value of physical capital: depreciated historical value	See remark below table
Investments	Investment in capital value	verbeteringen aan het vaartuig gedurende het betrokken jaar
Financial situation	ratio debts/assets	schulden als % van de kapitaalwaarde
Employment		
Number of crew members	Crew engaged	Number of crew members onboard per trip
Effort		
Fuel consumption	Energy consumption	Litters of fuel consumed per year
Remark: For the calculation of capital value of the vessel, engine and all on board equipment two options (replacement value or historical value), please select one option. Replacement value: the cost estimated for replacing the current vessel and its equipment, the insured value may be used. Historical value: calculated using the price actually paid and apply an annual depreciation scheme. In principle the depreciation rate used is the one commonly used in tax related matters.		

Annex 3

2012 Survey of the fish processing industry Questionnaire

Enquête Visverwerkende Nijverheid

Contact

Bedrijf	
Adresse	
Tel.	
E-mail	
Websit	
Contactpersoo	
Functi	
Tel	
E	

Gelieve de definities te hanteren zoals vermeld in bijgevoegd document

Referentie ¹		
Bedrijfsopbrengste		
Opbrengsten uit goederen en		Eur
Subsidie ²		Eur
Andere		Eur
Personeelskosten		
Loonkosten ³		Eur
Toegerekende waarde onbetaalde		Eur
Energiekosten		
Aankoopgrondstof		Eur
Andere ⁴		Eur
Kapitaalkosten		
Kapitaalafschrijvingen		Eur
Financiële kosten,		Eur
Uitzonderlijke kosten,		Eur
Kapitaalwaarde ⁵ Totale waarde van de		Eur
Investerings, ⁶		Eur
Schulde ⁷		Eur
Tewerkstellin		
Mannelijke		Numbe
Vrouwelijke		Numbe
ET		Numbe
Opmerkinge		

Gelieve het ingevulde en opgeslagen (!) formulier terug te bezorgen

Els Torreale, ILVO-Visserij, Ankerstraat 1, 8400 Oostende

E-mail: fish.forms@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

Annex 4

Survey of the fish processing industry

Variables definitions

<p style="text-align: center;">Enquête Visverwerkende Industrie - 2012 Definities</p>

- **Algemene opmerking**

Gelieve de gevraagde informatie in te vullen in de grijsgekleurde cellen. Kosten en waarden dienen te worden uitgedrukt in Euro.

- **Referentiejaar**

Jaar waarop de verstrekte gegevens betrekking hebben.

- **Bedrijfsopbrengsten**

Opbrengsten uit goederen en diensten: Alles wat aan de klant wordt doorgerekend, inclusief BTW, voor marktverkopen, goederen en diensten, inclusief kosten voor transport, verpakking, enz., ook al vallen deze, op factuur, eventueel in een andere categorie. Kortingen, terugbetalingen en afslagen dienen in mindering gebracht op het totaal.

Subsidies: Inclusief rechtstreekse betalingen. Exclusief sociale uitkeringen en indirecte subsidies.

Andere opbrengsten: Alle inkomsten, inclusief BTW, andere dan uit de verkoop van goederen of de levering van diensten.

- **Personeelskosten**

Loonkosten: Alle bruto uitkeringen aan de werknemers van het bedrijf, inclusief bonussen, 13^e maand, overuren, premies voor nachtwerk, transport- en verblijfskosten, onkostenvergoedingen, haard- en standplaatsvergoedingen, fooien, commissies, zitpenningen, enz., alsook alle extralegale sociale voordelen (bvb. aanvullende hospitalisatieverzekering).

Sociale bijdragen: Sociale zekerheid, met inbegrip van pensioenen, ziekten- en ongevallenverzekering, zwangerschap, werkloosheid, familiale toelagen, enz.

- **Toegerekende waarde onbetaalde arbeid**

De toegerekende waarde van onbetaalde arbeid is de waarde van de arbeid geleverd door mensen die onbetaalde arbeid leveren en niet werken op een regelmatige basis.

- **Energiekosten**

Alle aankopen van gas, elektriciteit, olie en brandstof, voor zover ze als energiebron gebruikt worden, en dus niet voor voortverkoop of als grondstof voor transformatie. Inclusief BTW.

- **Aankoop grondstoffen**

Alle aankopen van primaire of gedeeltelijk bewerkte grondstoffen van dierlijke of plantaardige oorsprong, die in het transformatieproces aangewend worden. Inclusief BTW.

Verpakking: Alle kosten voor verpakking. Inclusief BTW.

- **Andere productiekosten**

De waarde van alle goederen en diensten, inclusief BTW, andere dan de productiekosten voor tewerkstelling, energie, grondstoffen en verpakking, met uitzondering van investeringen die afgeschreven worden. Het betreft onder meer: gebruiksgoederen, water, onderhoud en herstel van toestellen en machines, kantoorbenodigdheden, opdrachten uitgevoerd door derden, kosten voor boekhoudkundige en rechtsbijstand, bankkosten, verzekeringspremies, kosten voor vergaderingen, bijdragen aan beroepsorganisaties, verzendkosten, telecommunicatie (telefoon, fax en internet), reclame, huurgelden, enz.

- **Kapitaalkosten**

Kapitaalafschrijvingen: Consumptie van vast kapitaal voor gebruik en slijtage, inclusief waardeverlies door toevallige schade, volgens de gangbare manier van afschrijving voor de verschillende onderdelen van het Vast Actief.

Financiële kosten, netto: Intresten, commissies en kosten verbonden aan schulden en de afschrijving van kosten bij uitgifte van leningen. Inclusief BTW (voor zover van toepassing).

- **Uitzonderlijke kosten**

Uitzonderlijke kosten die niet te wijten zijn aan de normale activiteiten van het bedrijf. Inclusief BTW (voor zover van toepassing).

- **Kapitaalwaarde - Totale waarde van de activa**

Totale bij elkaar opgetelde waarde van alle netto-investeringen in de onderneming aan het eind van het jaar.

- **Investerings, netto**

Aankoop en verkoop van activa gedurende het jaar. Inbegrepen zijn nieuwe en bestaande tastbare kapitaalgoederen, of gekocht van derden of voor eigen gebruik met een levensduur van meer dan één jaar, inclusief niet-geproduceerde materiële goederen zoals grond.

- **Schulden:**

Schulden op ten hoogste één jaar, schulden op meer dan één jaar en overlopende rekeningen.

- **Tewerkstelling**

Werknemers: Het aantal werkzame personen wordt gedefinieerd als het totale aantal personen dat in het bedrijf werken (inclusief meewerkende eigenaren, partners die regelmatig in de eenheid en betaalde meewerkende gezinsleden), alsmede personen die buiten de eenheid werken en erdoor worden betaald (bv. vertegenwoordigers, bezorgers, reparatie-en onderhoudsteams). Hieronder vallen ook personen afwezig zijn gedurende een korte periode (bijvoorbeeld wegens ziekte, betaald vakantie, speciaal verlof enz.) en ook die in staking, maar niet die afwezig voor onbepaalde tijd.

FTE: FTE staat voor fulltime-equivalent. Het is een rekeneenheid waarmee de omvang van een dienstverband of de personeelssterkte wordt uitgedrukt. Eén FTE is een volledige werkweek. Een functie van 0,6 FTE bijvoorbeeld is — uitgaande van een werkweek van 38 uur — een functie van $0,6 \times 38 = 22,8$ uur.

ANNEX 5 DEROGATION Collection of economic variables aquaculture

From: EC ARES NOREPLY <DIGIT-NOREPLYARES@ec.europa.eu>
Sent: woensdag 12 maart 2014 11:41
To: Els Torreele' (els.torreele@ilvo.vlaanderen.be)
Cc: GARZON Isabelle (MARE); DRUKKER Bas (MARE); URBANSKA Magdalena (MARE); BORG Greta (MARE-EXT)
Subject: Ares(2014)685516 - FW: Aquaculture data collection in Belgium - derogation

Sent by KNAPP Amelie (MARE) <Amelie.KNAPP@ec.europa.eu>. All responses have to be sent

to this email address.

Envoyé par KNAPP Amelie (MARE) <Amelie.KNAPP@ec.europa.eu> . Toutes les réponses doivent être effectuées à cette adresse électronique.

Dear Els,

Belgium has requested a derogation to provide socio-economic data on aquaculture on the basis that:

- 1) You only have freshwater (FW) aquaculture in Belgium and under the DCF regulation it is not mandatory to collect socio-economic data on FW aquaculture
- 2) Although you do gather data on part of the FW aquaculture sector (on a voluntary basis), you have to date only gathered data on 3 (FW) aquaculture companies so confidentiality issues arise to share the data with end users.

On this basis, we can grant Belgium a derogation to provide the FW aquaculture data you do collect to end users, but we would like to remind you that you should nevertheless provide meta-data about the sector and the data you do collect, in the Annual Reports (as noted in several exchanges between DG MARE and Belgium). We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that when the DCF revision enters into force, data collection on FW aquaculture may become mandatory so it may be advisable that Belgium already starts planning towards that end, for example by carrying out further work to identify the full population of (FW) aquaculture facilities in your member State.

Best wishes,
Amelie

AMELIE KNAPP
Science and Policy Officer
European Commission
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
Unit C3: Structural action: Ireland, Spain, France, Portugal and UK. Horizontal management of data collection.
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Annex 6
Overview of meetings attended

Country	City	When		Meeting	no attendees
		Start	End		
Frankrijk	Nantes	20-01-2014	24-01-2014	WGISUR	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	02-02-2014	07-02-2014	Benchmark workshop on Celtic Sea stocks (WKCELT)	2
Italië	Varese	10-02-2014	14-02-2014	"landings obligation" (EWG 14-01), subgroep van het Scientific Technical and Economic Committee (STECF) van de EU	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	07-01-2014	09-01-2014	Steering Group RDB	
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	27-01-2014	30-01-2014	WGCHAIRS	1
Portugal (Azoren)	Horta	16-02-2014	25-02-2014	ICESPGCCDBS	2
Italië	Rome	02-03-2014	07-03-2014	Deelname aan 'Fisheries-Dependent Information Conference'	1
Duitsland	Hamburg	11-03-2014	12-03-2014	Deelname aan Scheveingen group vergadering over discard plannen	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	23-03-2014	28-03-2014	WGNEW	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	29-04-2014	08/05/014	WGNSSK	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	12-05-2014	23-05-2014	WGCSE	2
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	25-05-2014	31-05-2014	WGMIXFISH-NS	1
Duitsland	Hamburg	05-05-2014	10-05-2014	WGBEAM	
Ierland	Dublin	01-07-2014	04-07-2014	North Western Waters AC meeting	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	22-06-2014	27-06-2014	ICES Training Course on TCDESIGN	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	22-06-2014	27-06-2014	Deelname aan 'Statistically sound sampling ICES Training'	1
Spanje	La Coruna	14-09-2014	20-09-2014	ICES ASC	
Verenigd Koninkrijk	London	24-07-2014	25-07-2014	Workshop 'Discards Atlas for North Western Waters'.	1
Verenigd Koninkrijk	London	24-07-2014	25-07-2014	Bijwonen van Workshop ivm 'Discards Atlas for North Western Waters'.	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	03-08-2014	06-08-2014	Participation in WKGMSFD-D3	1
Spanje	La Coruna	14-09-2014	20-09-2014	ICES ASC	1
Frankrijk	Wimereux	09-07-2014	11-07-2014	opleiding voor onderzoek naar microstructuur van otolithen	1
Zweden	Lysekill	07-09-2014	12-09-2014	Deelname aan de RCM NS&EA2014	2
Portugal	Azoren Horta	21-09-2014	11-10-2014	Deelname aan RCM North Atlantic	2
Spanje	Balearen Mallorca	19-10-2014	25-10-2014	5e symposium over Otholieten	1
Schotland	Aberdeen	26-10-2014	01-11-2014	Deelname aan de WKRDB 2014-01	2
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	09-11-2014	16-11-2014	Bijwonen WGCATCH	2
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	09-11-2014	12-11-2014	Deelname aan de DCWKSEA	1
Schotland	Aberdeen	26-10-2014	01-11-2014	Deelname aan de WKRDB 2014-01	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	09-11-2014	16-11-2014	Bijwonen WGCATCH	2
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	24-11-2014	26-11-2014	Bijwonen SC RDB)	3
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	16-11-2014	21-11-2014	Bijwonen verg van de WKMSYREF3	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	02-12-2014	05-12-2014	Deelname aan ACOM ICES meeting	1
Denemarken	Kopenhagen	23-11-2014	28-11-2014	ICES-WKMEDS	1

1. BEL – UK Bilateral Agreement

Bilateral Agreement between the UK (Cefas) and Belgium (ILVO-Fisheries) for the collection of length and age samples in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EU.

Agreement:

The UK and Belgium have agreed that samples of fish landed by Belgian vessels into the UK and transported for first sale into Belgium will be sampled upon arrival in the Belgian auctions by ILVO - Fisheries as part of the Belgian National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008). The eventual additional sampling costs will be covered within the Belgian National Sampling Programme from 2011- 2013. This agreement builds on the practice which has been already adopted and carried out since 2004.

In addition Belgium has agreed to provide age determination for all turbot (*Psetta maxima*) and brill (*Scophthalmus rhombus*) otoliths collected by the UK as part of the UK National Programme. In return the UK (Cefas) will undertake the age determination of VIIa cod (*Gadus morhua*) otoliths collected as part of the Belgian National Programme.

Description of sampling:

Landings: - Sampling will be for length and age of landings, sampling will be carried out in accordance with the Belgian National Sampling Programme.

Age determination: - Sampling will be carried out at the levels required within the National Sampling Programmes of UK and Belgium.

Sampling Intensity:

Levels and coverage at the metier level will be as agreed at the annual co-ordination meetings of RCMs NS&EA and NA.

Data responsibility:

Both countries will be responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. The aged samples are to be made available for the deadlines required by the relevant ICES Expert groups, and the EC.

Contact persons:

In the UK (Cefas) S Warnes: - steve.warnes@cefas.co.uk

In Belgium (ILVO-Fisheries) : els.torreele@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

Signatures:

For UK (Cefas)

For Belgium (ILVO-Fisheries)

Carl O'Brien

Fisheries Division Director National Correspondent

Date: Date:

2. BEL – SWE bilateral agreement

Sept 2014

Bilateral Agreement between ILVO, Belgium and SwAM, Sweden, for the collection of length and age samples collected in the IBTS survey in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EC.

Agreement:

This agreement has been established to optimize and exchange the age reading expertise for species collected in the IBTS survey. A list of species are collected during the survey according to the Manual for the International Bottom Trawl Surveys ICES CM 2000/D:07, but for some species only a small amount are caught and there is a need for collaboration and task sharing. No additional sampling costs are involved and costs for analysis will be covered in the National Sampling Programme for 2014-2016.

Description of sampling:

Age samples will be collected during the IBTS survey according to the manual (ICES CM 2000/D:07). Sweden will sample otoliths of Sole which will be stored in paperbags (with relevant data as agreed between the responsible readers and needed for the reading) and sent to Belgium for age reading.

Sampling Intensity:

Sole (*Solea solea*) - Sweden sends the otoliths collected during the IBTS q1 and q3 survey to Belgium for age reading. App 50 -100 individuals per year. Belgium sends the results of the age readings together with the otoliths at the latest in December each year.

Data responsibility:

Sweden is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework.

Contact persons:

For Sweden: Barbara Bland (barbara.bland@slu.se) +46 10 478 4013

For Belgium: Annemie Zenner (annemie.zenner@ilvo.vlaanderen.be) Tel +32 59 56 98 23

Signatures:

For

For SwaM

Els Torreele
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Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research

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3. BEL – DK bilateral agreement

Agreement between the Danish Institute for Marine Research and the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO-Fisheries), Belgium concerning collection of fisheries data in 2009 and 2010

In accordance with the Data Collection Regulation (DCR) (Commission Regulation 199/2008, Commission Regulation 665/2008 and Commission Decision (2008/949/EC)) Denmark and Belgium have agreed entering co-operation on collection of fisheries data. This agreement has been established due to common interests in the fisheries in the Skagerrak (Division IIIa North), the North Sea (Division II) and the Baltic for brill and turbot.

Agreement:

It has been agreed that Belgium will conduct the age reading of all brill and turbot sampled by Denmark in the Skagerrak and North Sea from the IBTS survey and the commercial harbour and at sea sampling. In return Denmark will sample genetic samples from 50-70 individuals of brill and turbot from the IBTS survey and commercial sampling.

ANNEX 1

Species: Turbot

In area: **North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and Baltic**

In accordance with (Commission Regulation 199/2008, Commission Regulation 665/2008 and Commission Decision (2008/949/EC)) countries that receive foreign landings are responsible to sample those.

In year: **2009 and 2010**

Flag country: **Denmark**

Landings (2009):760 (tons)

Sampling country: Denmark

The sampling intensity should be in accordance with the stated programme level and sampling will be carried out in accordance with sampling alternative **3** as stated below.

Based on last year's landings the sampling effort for this species/stock would be:

No of age readings in total: **100**

No of length measurements: **300**

No of individual weight per sample: **0**

If landings decrease or increase the amount of samples will be adjusted accordingly.

Sampling alternatives:

Receiving country will perform sampling in one of the two following alternatives:

1. Receiving country will perform sampling in accordance with the sampling scheme (attached to this agreement) defined by flag country. Receiving country will then deliver raw-data (length, weight and information about the landing) and material for ageing, to the flag country.
2. Receiving country will perform sampling in accordance with their national sampling procedure. Receiving country will then deliver data as raised No/age within each strata.
3. The sampling method is described as follows:

Denmark obtains the samples by market sampling from landings. Belgium is responsible for submitting the data to relevant ICES WG and to the EC.

Measurement: cm class

Data will be delivered to Belgium regularly and at latest 1 February 2010

Name of contact person in:

Receiving country:

Annemie Zenner
Research scientist
Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research
Unit Animal Sciences - Fisheries
Ankerstraat 1, B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
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annemie.zenner@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
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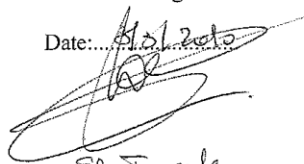
Flag country:

Stina Bjørk Stenersen Hansen
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Signatures:


For the:
Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research

Date: 31.12.2010


Elv Tønne
i/o. National Correspondent
ILVO - Fisheries

For DTU Aqua

Date: 31-10


Jørgen Dalskov
National Correspondent
National Institute of Aquatic
Resources