

**Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 of 29 June 2000 establishing a
Community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to
conduct the common fisheries policy**

**NATIONAL MULTIANNUAL DATA-COLLECTION
PROGRAMME (2002-2006)**

FRANCE

YEAR 2006

May 2005

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I CONTENT AND METHOD	4
A - CONTENT OF THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES	4
B - PRECISION LEVELS AND SAMPLING RATES (INTENSITIES)	4
CHAPTER II FISHING CAPACITY AND FISHING EFFORT	5
C - COLLECTION OF DATA ON FISHING CAPACITY	5
D - COLLECTION OF DATA ON FISHING EFFORT	6
CHAPTER III EVALUATION MODULE FOR CATCHES AND LANDINGS.....	7
E - COLLECTION OF DATA ON CATCH AND LANDINGS	7
E - 1 . <i>Commercial landings</i>	7
E - 2 . <i>Discards</i>	10
E - 3 . <i>Evaluation of catch and landings from recreational fisheries</i>	13
F - COLLECTION OF DATA ON CATCH BY UNIT OF EFFORT	14
G - ELIGIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC STOCK SURVEYS	16
G - 1 . <i>Surveys</i>	16
G - 2 . <i>Cost of 2006 French surveys in European seas</i>	18
H - BIOLOGICAL CATCH SAMPLING (LENGTH AND AGE)	19
H - 1 . <i>Sampling of catch</i>	19
H - 2 . <i>Sampling of discards</i>	30
I - OTHER BIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS.....	31
I - 1 . <i>European seas and French overseas departments</i>	32
I - 2 . <i>Other biological parameters for highly migratory species</i>	33
CHAPTER IV MODULE EVALUATING THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE SECTOR	35
J - COLLECTION OF ECONOMIC DATA BY GROUP OF VESSELS	35
J - 1 . <i>Sub-samples giving rise to direct surveys among skippers</i>	37
J - 2 . <i>Collection of data by the Réseau d'Informations Comptables et Economiques des Pêches (Fisheries Economic and Accounting Information Network)</i>	38
J - 3 . <i>Budget evaluation of the proposal for 2006</i>	39
K - COLLECTION OF DATA CONCERNING THE PROCESSING INDUSTRY	40
K - 1 . <i>Experience in monitoring the processing industry</i>	41
K - 2 . <i>Methodology for collecting data</i>	44
K - 3 . <i>Budget for the collection of data 2006</i>	46
CHAPTER V MISCELLANEOUS	47
L - ACCESS TO DATA AND COORDINATION	47
L - 1 . <i>Setting up of databases</i>	47
L - 2 . <i>National and international coordination</i>	48
M - SUMMARY OF ANNUAL COSTS ESTIMATED FOR FRANCE FOR 2006	49
ANNEX	52

Under the terms of Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 of 29 June 2000 (see title page), this programme must be updated following the procedure laid down in that Regulation's implementing instrument, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001 of 25 July 2001, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004 of 27 August 2004.

France's multiannual data-collection programme was first presented to the Commission in May 2001. It has since been updated several times to take account of the different opinions given in the annual reports by external experts, reports produced by the ad hoc STECF sub-group and opinions given by the European Commission itself.

The 2006 programme clarifies and amends certain aspects of the multiannual programme for 2006 and is the last phase. It incorporates the improvements made as a result of the experience gained collecting data since 2002.

The layout chosen for this report follows, point by point, that used in the implementing Regulation of July 2001, as amended in August 2004.

The total estimated cost of each measure for 2006 is given in the text, with the cost details provided in the annexed Excel tables (Finforms) provided by the Commission.

CHAPTER I

CONTENT AND METHOD

A - CONTENT OF THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES

The French programme seeks to comply with the principles of the Regulations and apply the parameters and aggregation levels laid down for the minimum programme, although it also includes some aspects of the extended programme deemed of particular relevance to France.

For tropical tuna fisheries, the programme also has to meet the requirements of the regional tuna fishery organisations (ICCAT and IOTC) to which the EU belongs.

B - PRECISION LEVELS AND SAMPLING RATES (INTENSITIES)

The targets for sampling rates and precision levels are set by the Regulations. For more details, see the relevant chapters.

CHAPTER II

FISHING CAPACITY AND FISHING EFFORT

C - COLLECTION OF DATA ON FISHING CAPACITY

Under the minimum programme:

For all the categories of vessel included in the national register that are listed in Appendix III to the implementing Regulation information was gathered on the following points:

- number of vessels,
- average tonnage (GRT and GT),
- average power of main engine in KW,
- average age.

This data is provided **annually** and gathered **exhaustively**

Under the extended programme:

For all categories of vessels listed in Appendix IV to the implementing Regulation that are sufficiently representative of the French fleet, the surveys carried out on a sample of vessels to collect economic data (see chapter IV, paragraph J for more details) included an estimate of the following data (only in option J2 of the national programme):

- maximum size of the main engine prior to speed capping,
- maximum total size of the auxiliary engines used for e.g. cranes or winches on vessels over 12 metres long (overall length),
- average number of sets of fishing gear, according to their different characteristics for each fishing method defined in Annex IV.

The data is provided annually. The sampling method is outlined in chapter IV.

No specific additional cost is allocated to this part of the programme since it was not possible to isolate exactly which costs had been incurred gathering the economic data.

D - COLLECTION OF DATA ON FISHING EFFORT

For the minimum programme only:

Fuel consumption is estimated on the basis of the economic survey studied in chapter IV. Average annual consumption by vessel in volume and value is assessed for each category of vessel as defined in Appendix III.

Fishing effort by type of method (Appendix VIII) is measured on the basis of the weighted total of fishing days associated with a certain area (level 3 of Appendix I) and period:

- each day is expressed as a unit of measurement linked to each vessel's nominal fishing power; these units are defined in Appendix V;
- one day at sea is considered to equal one fishing day if the vessel performed at least one fishing operation or dropped passive gear during that day;
- each day is associated with the area in which the first fishing operation took place that day. However, for passive gear, if no operation was performed by the vessel on a day during which at least one set of (passive) gear remained cast, this day is associated with the area in which the last set of gear was dropped during the trip in question;

Specific fishing effort is associated with stocks of particular interest. It is defined by method, but the only days taken into consideration are those on which the onboard catch of the stocks referred to in Annex VI exceeds the thresholds specified in that Annex.

Data on fishing effort and specific effort will be obtained from the information recorded in vessels' logbooks or any other documents relating to their fishing activities, and will be complemented by data from an exhaustive annual survey of the vessels' activities. Data will be compiled quarterly by vessel category (as per Annex III).

In the particular case of tropical tuna fisheries, data on fishing effort is collected in various ways (fishing and searching time, total number of sets and positive sets on free schools and using floating objects, duration of sets, etc.), in line with the recommendations of the RFOs concerned (ICCAT and IOTC). It is obtained from logbooks, being collected exhaustively. As regards tropical tuna species (bigeye and yellowfin), although there are no particular technical problems in making estimates for these species, the notion of specific fishing effort is not meaningful and not used either by the ICCAT or the IOTC.

The aggregations are made on the basis of data on the exhaustiveness of the fishing vessels registered in the "Community fleet" register.

No specific cost is allocated to this part of the programme since it was not possible to isolate exactly which costs had been incurred gathering the economic data.

CHAPTER III
EVALUATION MODULE FOR CATCHES
AND LANDINGS

E - COLLECTION OF DATA ON CATCH AND LANDINGS

E - 1 . Commercial landings

For the minimum programme only:

The programme can provide all the information required under the regulations relating to commercial landings of all the specified species (including for vessels under 12 metres long) on the basis of the data in the logbooks (or fishing logs for vessels not covered by the regulations) and on sales.

This information will be provided per species, geographical area (level 2 of Appendix I), vessel category (Appendix III) and quarter or year, depending on the species in question. It will distinguish landings made in France from those made abroad and from trans-shipments to marine farms, and will thus provide data on all landings made by French fishing vessels.

As regards tropical tuna fisheries, the essential thing is to estimate the actual composition of the landings by species, since landings are weighed by commercial category based on length rather than species. To obtain an estimate of the actual catch by species, the information in the logbooks is cross-referenced with the PO landing data and the catch landed is sampled for its specific actual composition. The procedures used were described in detail in the initial project (2002 French national programme). This sampling takes place at the same time as the sampling for length (section H); there is therefore no particular cost for this chapter.

Table of conversion factors to be placed on this page and the next

E - 2 .Discards

An estimate must be made, under the minimum programme, as regards the stocks referred to in Appendix XII of the implementing Regulation, as amended by Regulation No 1581/2004, of the volume by weight of discards for every three-year period, using the types of method laid down in Appendix III, save for stocks for which different disaggregation rules are laid down in Appendix XII. The fleets identified in France's pilot study in 2002 as generating significant levels of discards have been monitored since 2003 by observers on board working vessels. The inspectors concentrated mainly, though not exclusively, on the species for which the discard levels are to be assessed every year. The use of onboard observers enabled an exhaustive analysis of the catch to be performed. Information is therefore available on all the species concerned, whether or not listed in annexes XII and XIII, at least in terms of presence/absence, population size/weight.

E - 2 . 1 . North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (European seas)

E - 2 . 1 . 1 . Methodology of study and 2006 sampling plan

The work awarded to Ifremer for 2006 on the coasts of mainland France (Channel/North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean) will be more or less a continuation of 2005 sampling plans. The study protocols were presented previously for the 2003 and 2004 programmes and adjusted for the 2005 one. There is therefore no need to reiterate them here.

A few amendments have been or will be made, nonetheless, in the light of experience, changes in the background and comments by SGRN and the Commission after evaluation of the national programmes in recent years:

- the data collected in 2003 was used to test several methods for estimating discard volumes and work out their precision levels. These vary greatly depending on species, type of fishing practised and the extent to which the vessels in the various segments had multipurpose gear. For some species and fishing types (driftnetting for plaice and sole in Channel/North Sea and Norway lobster and hake caught by Atlantic trawlers between 12 and 24m long), discard estimates met the precision level required by Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001 (level 1, i.e. precision of approximately 25%). In the case of Norway lobster this result was achieved by stepping up the rate of sampling of trips.
- while keeping to the general breakdown of the work by coastline and observing the segment typologies laid down in Appendix III to the Regulation, the observers will be reallocated to cover different fishing types to take account of the 2005 results and improve the precision of the final estimates of discard volumes.
- particular attention will be paid to the types of fishing generating significant levels of discards for the annual species newly included in Appendix XIII of the amending Regulation 1581/2004 (Norway lobster and megrim, for instance) and the species for which discard estimates will be used by the working groups evaluating stocks.
- the STECF/SGRN and the Commission having refused in 2005 the exemption granted from 2002 to 2004 from sampling of the segment of demersal trawlers over 24 metres long operating in the Celtic Sea and for industrial trawlers over 40m in the Atlantic, the 2006 plan included these fleets. This might, however, be reviewed in the light of the actual situation on the ground in 2005 (length of trips, advanced bases, make-up of discards).
- industrial trawling for saithe (vessels over 40m) is a type of fishing that has practically disappeared since the end of 2004 at Boulogne-sur-Mer, as it has become unprofitable as a result of the market slump. It is therefore no longer included in the 2005 and 2006 sampling plans. The over 40m segment also has quite a high drop-out rate at ports in southern Brittany and looks like dropping below the 10-vessel threshold.

- the 8 trips observed in the Mediterranean will concentrate on demersal trawling in the Gulf of Lion. This type of fishing, for which the main target species are hake and red mullet, is certainly the largest in terms of catches, along with tuna seining. It was previously monitored in 2003. The three-yearly estimate of discards stipulated in the implementing Regulation for the Mediterranean is thus complied with, as is the principle of rotation of types of fishing recommended by the STECF/SGRN report of December 2004.

In concrete terms, the 2006 sampling plan for European seas provides for the observation of 140 trips (amounting to some 460 days at sea), of which 40 in the eastern Channel and the North Sea (100 days), 92 in the Atlantic (350 days) and 8 in the Mediterranean (8 days). Its application remains based on the involvement of Ifremer staff (84 trips involving some 200 man/days at sea) and the use of additional resources via sub-contracting for the longest onboard missions, involving some 340 man/days at sea (56 trips). The fleets and types of fishing sampled are shown in the table below for each coastline concerned:

Length of vessel		< 12 m	12 to 24 m	24 to 40 m	➤ 40 m
		Coastlines and types of fishing sampled			
Channel North Sea Minimum programme 40 trips	Beam trawling (flatfish)	4 trips		∅*	∅
	Coastal bottom trawling (flatfish)	4 trips	8 trips	∅	∅
	Deep-sea bottom trawling (demersal species)	∅	12 trips		∅
	Pelagic trawl. (mackerel, herring)	NS	4 trips		∅
	Driftnetting (sole, cod)	8 trips		∅	∅
Atlantic Minimum programme 92 trips	Coastal lobster trawling (Norway lobster, hake)	∅	36 trips	∅	∅
	Deep-sea lobster trawling (Celtic Sea, Norway lobster, anglerfish??)	∅	8 trips		∅
	Demersal deep-sea trawling Celtic Sea and VIIe, gadoids)	∅	4 trips		∅
	Benthic deep-sea trawling (Celtic Sea, anglerfish??, megrim)	∅	12 trips		∅
	Coastal bottom trawling (flatfish)	12 trips		∅	∅
	Coastal driftnetting (sole)	12 trips		∅	∅
	Deep-sea driftnetting (sole)	∅	8 trips	∅	∅
Mediterranean PM, 8 trips	Trawling GOV small pelagic species (anchovies, sardine, demersal species)	∅	8 trips		∅

NS = not sampled, ∅ = not applicable.

E - 2.1.2. Costs of discard-monitoring operations in European seas

The estimated cost of the discard monitoring planned for 2006 in the Atlantic North-East and Mediterranean region is EUR 543 640. For the detailed breakdown by chapter in the format proposed by the Commission, see annex E-Disc (N-E Atl. O, MED). Each trip generates expenditure on transport, food and small-scale equipment for the observers (tanks, scales, rulers, bags, disposable cameras, etc., which have to be replaced on a regular basis due to the difficult conditions onboard working fishing vessels). The chapter on durable goods covers the depreciable portion of the IT equipment (laptops) acquired in 2006. Attention is drawn to the sizeable portion of the budget for this module represented by the contracting-out of some of these boarding missions (EUR 148 000) and the personnel costs (including sea-time allowances) and compensatory leave for hardship on board working vessels and also the time taken for processing the data obtained to arrive at the volumes of discards per species and type of fishing and make precise relevant estimates.

E - 2.1.3. Coordinating, saving and processing the data

Since the end of 2002, all the data collected on discards has been stored in a test database running on Access 97. Although this database has been validated on the basis of the 2003 observations, the volumes of data that need to be stored and processed and the obsolescence of the software in use mean that it will have to be redefined as a module for incorporation into the central *Harmonie* database, set up to store all the relevant data collected. This measure is part of the Database Coordination module. Measures are in place to coordinate all the work on discards from a scientific and technical aspect. As well as managing the work at sea in line with the established protocols, these operations are also intended to analyse the data to produce estimates of discard volumes for the species required by the Regulation. To this end, several methods have been tested since 2003 and have given rise to scientific memoranda. Thinking about how discards should best be estimated is an issue that concerns all Member States and France is playing a full part in this.

E - 2.2. Central-Eastern Atlantic and Indian Ocean

The data on discards gathered by two earlier programmes – “Associated fauna” (Stretta et al, 1996) in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and “Bigeye” in the Atlantic (Ariz et al, 1999) – and by observers of the moratoria on fishing on floating objects that was imposed mainly in the Atlantic, is incomplete.

A programme implementing a real quantitative study of discards and by-catch in these areas is essential if we want reliable estimates of their volumes (even more vital in the light of the precautionary principle), with top priority going to the Indian Ocean. Studies carried out for the IATTC (Lennert-Cody, 2000) have shown that sampling work carried out on 10% of tuna vessels can provide information with a precision of between 10% and 40% depending on the species group concerned, with clear inter-annual variability.

Data is needed on all the species caught by tropical surface fishing which are listed in Annex XVI (highly migratory species): frigate tuna, little tuna, skipjack tuna, sailfish and marlin, Atlantic bonito, shark, albacore, yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna.

The French programme will be carried out in close collaboration with the Spanish Oceanographic Institute (IEO), which is proposing a similar programme. Although the results will be assessed jointly for the two fleets, the studies and the costs given are those of the French fleet (see annex).

Expenditure on consumables consists of purchases of items such as slide callipers, measuring boards, scales, calculators, cameras, protective overalls, gloves, boots and helmets, which have to be worn onboard vessels.

In 2006 the French seiner fleet is expected to comprise 16 units in the Indian Ocean and 7 in the Atlantic, making an estimated 23 trips for onboard observers to cover (15 and 8 respectively), each involving an onboard stay of 1.5 months, at a cost of EUR 10 000 per trip, including all expenses. The total cost of this module is estimated at EUR 345 000 (EUR 127 7005 for the Atlantic and EUR 217 700 for the Indian Ocean).

Sex ratio and gonad weight sampling is to be done on board, entailing the purchase of fish (about 50 individuals per trip); this cost comes under section I. Size sampling will also be done on discards and by-catches.

All the data collected on discards will be entered in a special module developed using Access, then filed in a specific data base, identical in the IRD and the IEO, of the type developed for data on catches, effort and size. A

significant improvement in estimates of discards and by-catches is expected with the forthcoming implementation of the European project CEDER(Catch, Effort and Discard Estimates in Real time) which has just been accepted and in which IRD and IEO are participating.

E - 2.3. Cost of discard studies

The estimated cost of discard monitoring is EUR 889 000 (EUR 543 600 for European waters and EUR 345 400 for tropical tuna fisheries). For the detailed breakdown by chapter in the format proposed by the Commission, see the Annexes.

Once onboard, observers have several types of work to do under the various modules of the framework Regulation. Note that the financial estimate provided does not give a breakdown of costs for individual tasks. The overall cost of the observers has therefore been allocated to the module deemed most representative of their work. Section E-discards includes the portion of their work that involves biological sampling of the discards, theoretically part of module H according to the implementing Regulation.

E - 3. Evaluation of catch and landings from recreational fisheries

Regulation 1581/2004 amending the implementing Regulation adds cod from ICES III to VII to the list of stocks in Appendix XI since 2001 (salmon from the Baltic and the North Sea and bluefin tuna from all areas). These are to be the subject of an evaluation of recreational fishing catches and the results of the studies are to be available by 31 May 2007.

There are no French recreational fisheries for salmon in the North or Baltic Seas. As regards the findings on recreational catches of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, these were updated in the 2003 programme. The results of this update, sent to the Commission as part of the report on the pilot studies (October 2003) and the round-up for 2003, confirmed that recreational fishing plays a minimal role compared with commercial fishing in terms of stock reduction. The SGRN's opinion was therefore that France did not need to monitor recreational fishing for bluefin on an annual basis. The 2006 French programme does not therefore provide for any action on bluefin tuna.

On the other hand, in accordance with the 2004 amendment, France is including a pilot study of recreational cod fishing for the areas extending from the south of the North Sea to tip of Brittany (IVC, VIId, VIIe). This activity is, as far as we know, practised more from Boulogne-sur-Mer to Dunkirk. Cod is of course a seasonal species coming from the North Sea and present mainly in the autumn and winter. The rest of the year recreational fishermen can, however, fish around the numerous wrecks in this sector.

The terms of the study will be as follows:

- a survey of recreational cod fishing will be undertaken, primarily along the whole of the Channel-North Sea coastline by remote sensing to obtain updated information about the actual effort in relation to this species in terms of vessels, trips and catches.
- more detailed studies (3 days/week for 3 months) will then be undertaken at the main ports (Dunkirk, Grand-Fort-Philippe, Calais, Boulogne and, to a lesser degree, Dieppe) to confirm the results obtained and try to sample catches. The associations will also be contacted and onboard missions (3 a month) will be carried out as far as possible.
- Some difficulties have already been identified as being liable to limit the scope of the pilot project: the large number of pleasure craft (several thousands, and no way of knowing their potential fishing activity), trips highly dependent on the weather and peaking at weekends and on public holidays, sometimes strong hostility from fishermen when inquiries are made about their catches (which often entail illegal income).

The cost of the pilot study on recreational cod fishing is put at EUR 50 310. For the detailed breakdown by chapter in the format proposed by the Commission, see the Annex "E-Recr-fish". The main items of expenditure are personnel (a young researcher will be recruited to lead the study under the supervision of an experienced researcher), subcontracting (remote sensing to produce background information for the study) and missions (surveys on the ground, sea allowances, transport).

F - COLLECTION OF DATA ON CATCH BY UNIT OF EFFORT

In March 2003, the assessment of the French report by the ad hoc STECF subgroup (SGRN) decided that 17 data series need to be maintained under the minimum programme. Four of these concern the Channel / North Sea coastline and thirteen the Atlantic North-East.

France's 2006 national programme and its minimum programme provide for the maintenance of the 17 series recommended by the STECF. France will also meet, but at its own cost, the STECF request to create CPUE series for hake fisheries in the Mediterranean (based mainly on data on trawlers operating in the Gulf of Lion); and it will also continue its deliberations on how to establish series for albacore in the Atlantic and bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

The work proposed in 2006 for module F involves no costs. The update of the series requires precision processing of primary data acquired via modules C, D and E (drawing up reference lists of vessels by fleet studied, validating their activities and areas of fishing, assessing the stability of fishing power over time, etc.), estimated at one week's work per series, to be part-financed by the European Union from 2005 under the call for proposals FISH 2004/03 for the provision of scientific advice on fisheries.

The table below, extracted from the SGRN report (pp. 21 - 24), sets out the species and fleets concerned:

Fleet	Definition (gear)	Species	Start of series	Main use 1995-2000				last WG used	Recommended Funding by STECF/SGRN			
				Tuning	Production model	Trend	Biological sampling		M.P.	E.P.	N	
							length					ages
FRANCE	ICES	North Sea										
FRATRB	Fresh-fish industrial trawlers	Saithe	1990	yes				2002	☐			
FRATRF	Freezer industrial trawlers	Saithe	1990	yes				2002	☐			
FR OT	All trawlers VIId except Honfleur	Sole	1991	yes				2002	☐			
FRENCH TRAWLERS	All trawlers VIId except Honfleur	Plaice	1989	yes				2002	☐			
FRANCE	ICES	Atlantic shelf										
FR-LORIENT (WGSSDS)	Trawlers (type 30) Lorient VIIIfg	Cod	1972	yes				2002	☐			
FR-LORIENT (WGSSDS)	Trawlers (type 30) Lorient VIIIfg	Whiting	1982	yes				2002	☐			
FR-NEPHROPS (WGSSDS)	Trawlers 040 St Guérolé and Loctudy VII	Cod	1987	yes				2002	☐			
FR-NEPHROPS (WGSSDS)	Trawlers 040 St Guérolé and Loctudy VII	Whiting	1987	yes				2002	☐			
FR-LESCONIL (WGSSDS)	Nephrops trawlers (type 50-931) Lesconil VIII	Northern hake	1987	yes				2002	☐			
FR SABLES (WGSSDS)	Sables trawlers, type 40	Northern hake	1987	yes				2002	☐			
FR-FU04 (WGSSDS)	Benthic trips (931) VII (thresholds)	Anglerfish	1986	yes				2002	☐			
FR-FU04 (WGSSDS)	Benthic trips (931) VII (thresholds)	Megrim	1986	yes				2002	☐			
FR-FU14 (WGSSDS)	Benthic trips (931) VIII (thresholds)	Anglerfish	1986	yes				2002	☐			
FR-NEPH-TRAWL VII	Norway lobster trips VIIgh (thresholds 10%)	Norway lobster	1987	yes				2002	☐			
FR-NEPH-TRAWL VIII	Norway lobster trips VIIIabd (thresholds 10%)	Norway lobster	1987	yes				2002	☐			
The Sables offshore trawlers	Sables trawlers, type 40	Sole	1979	yes				2002	☐			
The Rochelle offshore trawlers	The Rochelle trawlers, type 40	Sole	1979	yes				2002	☐			

In the particular case of tropical tuna fisheries, data on fishing effort is collected in various ways (fishing and searching time, total number of sets and positive sets on free schools and using floating objects, duration of sets, etc.), in line with the recommendations of the RFOs concerned (ICCAT and IOTC). Various CPUE series are produced and used by working groups in the two organisations for the three main species of tropical tuna: yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye. However, two specific characteristics of tuna fishing make these estimated indices unrepresentative from the point of view of abundance: the steady increase in the efficiency of these vessels and the disparity between two types of fishing (using floating objects or on wrecks) practised simultaneously.

Studies are under way on this problem, and a method of standardising the fishing effort of the European fleet has been developed and will be presented to the ICCAT and IOTC working groups in July 2005. Promising developments – thanks to the crossed use of logbook data, onboard observers and VMS – are expected from the participation of the tuna teams of the IRD and IEO in a European project starting at the end of 2005 (CEDER: Catch, Effort and Discard Estimates in Real time) which has just been accepted.

G - ELIGIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC STOCK SURVEYS

Appendix XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004, covers stock surveys whose results, in part, are used to evaluate stocks. A list has been made of the surveys to be carried out in the minimum (priority 1) and extended (priority 2) programmes. Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004 amends the level of priority of certain campaigns and introduces particular conditions of eligibility for measures affecting stocks covered by a recovery plan. The French programme for 2006 reflects these new provisions.

G - 1. Surveys

France is already carrying out some of these surveys provided for in Appendix XIV, either in part or in whole. As the priority objective is to continue the current series (point (1)(ii) of the Annex to the Regulation), the French authorities propose in this connection to continue the following surveys currently under way in 2006:

- IBTS 1st quarter (30 days, 75 to 90 bottom trawls) in the North Sea, minimal programme.
- Channel Ground Fish survey (CGFS, 30 days and 100 bottom trawls) in the eastern Channel, minimal programme. This campaign is among those promoted to priority 1 by STECF/SGRN under a recovery plan (cod IV, VIId).
- IBTS West 4th quarter (EVHOE, 45 days and 145 trawls), minimal programme.
- Sardine-Anchovy-Horse mackerel-Mackerel Acoustic Survey (PELGAS, 30 days, acoustic survey and trawls on detections) in the Atlantic en Atlantique (Gulf of Gascony), minimal programme.
- MEDITS (35 days, 90 to 100 bottom trawls) in the western Mediterranean (Gul of Lion and Corsica), minimal programme.
- and PELMED (24 days, acoustic survey and trawls on detections) in the western Mediterranean (Gul of Lion), extended programme.

The objective of these six surveys (five of them in the minimum programme) is to provide abundance indices for juvenile age categories (and less frequently for adults) per trawl for the main demersal species (IBTS, CGFS, EVHOE, MEDITS), or by acoustic survey for the main small pelagic species (PELGAS and PELMED). The expectations in terms of time and effort under Appendix XIV (number of days and trawls) will be complied with in a similar way to previous years. All the data will be accessible via the module on stock surveys in Ifremer's central *Harmonie* base, developed to store all the data collected in the course of the stock surveys conducted on small and large vessels belonging to the national oceanographic fleet managed by Ifremer.

France also plans to play a full part in the work of the working groups and in coordinating international surveys: IBTS and ICES working groups, CIEM WGFAS (acoustic techniques), MEDITS coordination group. The associated costs are given in the "Coordination-Others" module.

Particular case of the RESSGASC and BIOMAN surveys

In November 2002 France abandoned the RESSGASC series of surveys, originally intended to evaluate discards of commercial species (in particular hake and Norway lobster) in the Gulf of Gascony. The only survey focusing on the study of the non-commercial part of catches in the region, it was classed as priority 1. However, exceptions were requested and obtained in 2003 on the grounds of the launch as part of module E-Rejets of an expanded programme of onboard observations of working vessels allowing coverage of fleets and gears that were more diversified and representative of real commercial fishing. The amendment of Appendix XIV of the implementing Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001 furthermore confirmed in August 2004 the relegation of the RESSGASC survey as priority 2. RESSGASC will not be continued therefore under the extended programme for 2006.

France and Spain have been working closely together for several years on evaluating small pelagics in the Gulf of Gascony (mainly anchovy and sardines, but also mackerel and horse mackerel) through coordinated acoustic surveys (PELACUS surveys for Spain and PELGAS surveys for France). In addition, Spain is carrying out a annual survey of anchovy stock in the Gulf of Gascony based on daily egg production (BIOMAN survey). France has from time to time contributed to these surveys. For 2002, the SGRN of the STECF has recommended that the BIOMAN survey continue. Aussi, la France apporte un soutien à cette campagne menée par l'Espagne en favorisant dans la mesure du possible la collecte d'échantillons d'adultes d'anchois en vue de la détermination de leur fécondité. In 2006, France intends to continue collaborating with Spain on the direct evaluation of small pelagic fish using acoustic methods and will focus its efforts on this method. However, insofar as the practical constraints (in particular the compatibility of the periods) of the PELGAS surveys allow Spanish scientists researching the spawning biomass of anchovy can be placed onboard the oceanographic vessel Thalassa during these surveys in order to sample mature females. This collaboration has been covered by agreements since 2002.

Particular case of the international survey to evaluate blue whiting

At the request of several Member States, the survey for the acoustical evaluation of the blue whiting stock (North-East Atlantic, 40 days at sea) was reclassified as priority 1 on the updating of the implementing Regulation in August 2004. Fishing for blue whiting provides a catch of nearly 2 million tonnes and represents one of the most important stocks in terms of tonnage in community waters. However, the evaluation of the state of the stock is uncertain. ICES has recommended therefore that an international survey be conducted to assess the stock both in terms of stock distribution and during the spawning period (March-April).

to that end, fishing Member States have agreed to carry out joint acoustical searches, in addition to those of other countries such as Norway, Russia, Iceland. Ireland and the Netherlands took part from 2004, and Denmark from 2005. All the Member States recently reached a compromise agreement to share costs covered by the European Union, pro-rata the average catches for 2002-2004 of the fishing countries once they exceeded 5% of Community catches. This applies to France (5% to 6% of catches) which will contribute in 2006 through the participation of a technician in the work carried out at sea on the Irish or Dutch oceanographic vessels made available for the search, or by meeting its share of the costs of these vessels.

Particular case of the marking of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean

The SGRN has pointed out several times in its evaluations of the national programmes the lack of coordination between the different Mediterranean Member States and the scientific legibility of the measures undertaken, and in particular the marking on bluefin tuna. The Commission organised a meeting of all the partners to take stock of the reasons for the marking of this species and produce a coordinated programme for the Eastern-Atlantic stock (Bari, April 2005), explaining the involvement of the various countries and that each one will enrol in its programme for 2006.

Several types of marks will be used in the Mediterranean and the Bay of Biscay. France will contribute to the purchase of sonic or pop-up marks and take part in the marking of fish caught in Italian or Spanish tuna fishing nets.

G - 2 . Cost of 2006 French surveys in European seas

The cost total of the French module G for 2006 is estimated at EUR 3,256 million.

The estimated cost of the 6 surveys, corresponding to the historical and proposed series for European seas under module G is EUR 3 136 338 of which EUR 2.875 million for the minimum programme (*IBTS surveys 1st quarter, IBTS 4th quarter-EVHOE, Sardine-Anchovy acoustic survey-PELGAS, MEDITS, CGFS*) and EUR 0.261 million for the extended programme (Pelmed). The detailed breakdown of the costs by chapter and survey in the formats required by the Commission is given in Annexes Survey-Ibts.1stQ, Survey-Ibts.W.4thQ, Survey-Pelgas, Survey-Medits, Survey-Cgfs and Survey-Pelmed); summaries for each programme are given in annexes G-Surveys (Prg minimal) and G-Surveys (Prg étendu) and for the overall total in annex G-Surveys (Ensemble).

The special operations for blue whiting (EUR 58 470) and the tagging of bluefin tuna (EUR 61 220) are also the subject of statsheets (Survey-blue whiting et Tagging-Bluefin tuna) and are added to the minimum programme under module G which amounts in the end therefore to almost EUR 2.995 million. These operations have the special feature of not mobilising national nautical resources (and consequently no real vessel costs).

The following comments can be made about the tables of costs:

- vessel costs represent almost 54% of the expenditure associated with module G. Note that since 2004 these costs include certain expenditure for which previously separate supporting documents were presented in response to the Commission's comments. To make them identifiable, all items concerning expenditure for repair and renewal of fishing gear (trawls and boards) have been placed under the heading "replacement of fishing equipment" while expenditure on the extra staff needed for the acoustic surveys (electronics engineers, back-up staff for round-the-clock surveys) is given in the "Others" section. Vessel costs thus vary according to whether they are operating in bottom trawl mode or acoustic survey with pelagic trawl mode.

- staff costs are the second largest item of expenditure (around 38%), supplemented by sea-time allowances. Staff must be paid for:

- i) days at sea, time preparing equipment in advance for the surveys and work onshore subsequent to the trip. This includes entering into databases data not entered during the trip, especially on small vessels, reading bony structures, interpreting and validating acoustical recordings, establishing sets of data in standardised format for transfer and storage in the central "sea surveys" base calculating abundance indices.

- ii) entitlements to time off in lieu for periods onboard vessels. Such entitlements, like the grant of sea-time allowances, have been estimated in accordance with the social agreements revised in 2004.

- iii) These comments explain the major discrepancies between the number of sea-time allowances and the total number of man-days allocated to each survey.

- transport costs concern the movements of observers onto and off vessels during port time by vessels at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of the survey (embarkation and rotation of scientific staff). Such costs can be considerable, especially if the vessel is placed on duty or makes stops in remote ports or even abroad (as was the case with PELGAS and IBTS surveys).

- expenditure on consumables covers the purchase of small equipment and scientific supplies (gloves, chemical products, batteries, bags, IT equipment for archiving acoustic data, etc.) and the maintenance and updating of scientific equipment belonging to the teams using the vessels. Part of this expenditure also covers the transport of the equipment at the beginning and end of the survey (van hire or use of courier companies). The substantial cost in 2006 of purchasing 10 high-technology brands for the tagging of bluefin tuna (EUR 30 000) should be noted.

H - BIOLOGICAL CATCH SAMPLING (LENGTH AND AGE)

H - 1 . Sampling of catch

Implementing Regulation No 1639/2001, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004, sets the standards and thresholds for sampling catches and discards of certain species and stocks for length and age (Chapter III point H of the annex and appendix XV). It is up to Member States to determine the measures they need to take to comply with these conditions. In this connection France drew up a list of those stocks which concern French fisheries and for which it is willing to perform sampling work in European seas (North Sea, Channel, North-East Atlantic and Mediterranean) and in the waters around its overseas departments (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, French Guyana and Réunion) and for its tropical tuna fleets (Indian Ocean and Central-East Atlantic). Most of these proposals (see Excel tables) are made under the minimum programme and subject to French catches achieving a good position in relation to the total EU catch and to having proper access to the catches. A proposal for specific monitoring of cephalopod landings has also been submitted under the extended programme.

The sampling of catches and discards for France is carried out by three bodies:

- Ifremer for most of the stocks in question (European seas and overseas departments),
- IRD for tropical tuna fisheries,
- the University of Caen for cephalopods in the Channel (extended programme).

The French catch-sampling programme has for several years utilised skills learned during its participation in numerous cooperation projects with its EU partners on all its coastlines. These projects have been very useful in terms of:

- (i) standardising sampling procedures for each stock;
- (ii) ensuring that all the fisheries in question are covered;
- (iii) allocating resources depending on expertise and ease of access to information;
- (iv) collectively achieving a suitable degree of precision in length and age groups.

As the STECF has pointed out, the stock data-collection programme initiated by DG Fisheries must maintain this dynamic by promoting collaboration among the different European partners working on the same stocks. The introduction in 2004 of regional coordination groups for individual major coastlines is in keeping with this approach. Similarly, the amendment of the original implementing Regulation by Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004 of 27 August 2004 has helped improve the basis for the collection of biological data (precise identification of stocks, reclassification of certain species, results targets, stocks subject to the recovery plan) and remedy certain shortcomings identified at the end of the first three years of action on the ground (sampling intensities, for example).

France is fully involved in these efforts to improve the system for gathering biological information and, as recommended by the STECF in its assessment of the national programmes since 2002, is seeking to maintain the protocols and carry out the sampling work needed to guarantee validated data that is of real use for scientific analysis and in particular for the ongoing evaluation of the state of fish stocks. What is more, France is contributing to the methodological developments that are to accompany biological sampling, such as the standardised procedures for obtaining and validating or evaluating the precision indices of the work carried out. It is participating also in coordination and promotion initiatives put in place under the framework programme for Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 (see "Coordination" module). Under module H, for example, since 2004 it has been responsible for coordinating the annual workshop on the evaluation of the precision indices linked to biological sampling and in 2005 for organising exchanges of otoliths for saithe and grenadier, and in 2006 will be responsible for workshops following on these in the event of a need for in-depth and comparative analyses of reading methods.

FOR THIS AND THE TWO FOLLOWING PAGES, SEE THE INDEX 'H. échant. stocks ' IN THE EXCEL TABLE 'Stocks échant 2006.xls'

FOR THIS PAGE, SEE THE INDEX 'H. échant. Suivis' IN THE EXCEL TABLE 'Stocks échant 2006.xls'

H - 1.1. Sampling landings in domestic ports for length and age (European seas and overseas departments - Minimum programme)

The catch-sampling strategies for length and age were described in detail in the national programmes for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. Since the protocols have been carried over into 2005 and 2006, there is no need for any further description, although it is worth highlighting the changes in methods and in the monitoring of certain species.

H - 1.1.1. Implementation of the new approaches introduced by the amending implementing Regulation No 1581/2004

The revision of the implementing Regulation has introduced a number of new approaches for module H: setting precision targets to be attained in the sampling work rather than adhering strictly to the intensities in Appendix XV; redefining the exemption thresholds for Mediterranean species; redefining biological units to make them correspond better to the stocks evaluated by the working parties; introducing special objectives for species and stocks covered by recovery plans. The Commission has encouraged the Member States to include these new working procedures in their programme for 2005, by making any additional costs that may be generated eligible. France has followed this recommendation, especially on its Nordic and Atlantic coasts.

For species in Community waters France has acted on the amendments made by Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004:

- the sampling of catch for length and age will be performed with reference to the level 1 precision target ($\pm 25\%$). France, which organises the ad hoc methodological workshop, has a period of several years for calculating precision for the main species sampled at national level and consequently hopes to extend this approach to all the stocks monitored. Where it proves impossible to attain this target, sampling will comply with the intensities defined by appendix XV. The Excel tables for module H give an indication of the minimum work that will be carried out.
- the precision target becomes level 2 ($\pm 10\%$) for stocks included in the recovery programme. To date cod (Celtic Sea and North Sea) and hake (Northern stock) only are in this situation. However, other plans are currently being drawn up, such as those for sole in the Western Channel and the Gulf of Gascony. France is willing to provide in 2006 the extra staff needed to perform the biological sampling on the main stocks sought by its fleets in these regions provided these plans are made official and if the Commission agrees to appropriate specific readjustments to the national programme.
- where possible, the French programme will comply with the new geographical delimitations for the stocks. The increase in the number of stocks does, however, restrict the catch volume for each. Sampling for length will be given priority and samples will be taken to determine age bearing in mind the recommendations and needs of the working groups which are users of the information collected about the stocks in question.
- most fish species must be sampled not only for length but also for age. The French programme will comply with this requirement, especially for red mullet and sea bass on the Channel-Atlantic coastline.
- the revision of the method for calculating exemption thresholds for the Mediterranean - through the introduction of a species-based approach and a reference to each Member State's portion of the total Mediterranean landings by Community vessels - has generated a substantial increase in biological sampling requirements for the Member States in this region. In addition, all fish must be sampled for length and age once the threshold of 10% and landings of over 200 tonnes are exceeded, which frequently occurs in Italy, Spain, France and Greece. The recent entry into the European Union of three new Member States with fishing industries makes little appreciable difference even if no reference national production base by species is available. The work proposed by France in 2006 has been determined on the basis of the obligations defined in the August 2004 review and the conclusions from the Rome (2003) and Madrid (2004) regional

coordination meetings, where the participating countries identified the species of common interest. The species that will be monitored will be selected for length and age as specified in the amended implementing Regulation. The Boulogne-sur-Mer age reading centre will receive extra staff to take account of the increase in the documents for processing from the Mediterranean.

H - 1.1.2. Problems encountered, particular cases and derogations

Certain sampling requirements are still causing problems, however:

- generally speaking these occur with all species whose catches are processed at sea on freezer vessels (cod, haddock, saithe, redfish in zones I and II, which is filleted and deep-frozen as soon as it is caught, and blue whiting made into crabsticks). France considers that it does not have the resources to finance 100% of the cost of sampling these species as required by the Regulation (use of onboard observers, costs generated by the length of the trips involved, etc.). It would like an international study to be carried out on the monitoring of these stocks, in order to fine-tune the arrangements for biological monitoring and the ways in which Member States are to collaborate. In the absence of any such study, and given the actual size of the national catches in relation to the total international catch (less than 1%), France requests that the derogations granted since 2002 in relation to its contractual obligations under the minimum and extended programmes be carried over.
- other catches have become inaccessible as a result of certain changes in the way the fish are kept and marketed. This is the case for landings of herring and horse mackerel abroad where there is a more profitable market for these species. For landings and sales of these species in other Member States, France will request assistance from the country of landing and first sale, as per the Regulation. In return, it is willing, in partnership with the Member States in question, to examine ways of sampling sales made by vessels from these countries on French territory.
- Mediterranean bluefin tuna has in recent years been in a similar situation: sold to Spanish operators and transferred while still alive from the French boats that caught it into fattening cages run by the foreign buyer. Experience in 2003 (see 2003 report) of the monitoring of the catches of seiners and their sampling by onboard observers showed their limitations, however, since the majority of the tuna taken proved to be inaccessible for scientific sampling on their transfer from the seine to the cage and the percentage kept on board gave a biased image of the catches (small tunas failed to survive the handling). The costs incurred were clearly disproportionate in relation to the usefulness of the information collected. That being so, the placing of observers on the cages could be a more effective way of undertaking biological sampling of bluefin tuna in the western Mediterranean. This moreover was recommended by ICCAT. As the circumstances have not changed, France is therefore seeking, as in 2004 and 2005, exemption for the sampling of bluefin tuna in 2006. At the same time it will be trying, in partnership with the other Mediterranean Member States concerned and within the ICCAT, to find satisfactory solutions for obtaining authenticated biological information that can be used to contribute to the scientific evaluation of stocks of bluefin tuna.

Landings by French vessels abroad or by other Member States' vessels in France

The sampling procedures used for landings by French vessels (stratification by type of activity (fishing type), commercial category and quarter) are readily applicable to the catches of foreign vessels sold at auction in France. The information on the operations of these vessels, garnered from their catch declarations and sorted according to EU standards, can be used without much difficulty to compare their activity with known French fishing types or with commercial categories that are sampled regularly under the landings sampling plan.

Conversely, of all catches by French vessels in European seas that are sold abroad, only herring, bluefin tuna and fish taken by 'Franco-Spanish' vessels could cause problems since they are actually sold in other Member States. The other species are landed at forward ports (British Isles) but sold at auction in France after being transported there by road. Herring from large pelagic trawlers is sold to the Netherlands and for several years has been sampled by the authorities there; (sampling identified in the Dutch programme). Bluefin tuna is delivered to Spain for fattening in cages; this new way of selling the fish renders access to them almost impossible and the monitoring programme by the observers aboard the seiners did not produce any satisfactory results (cf. above). The catches of vessels selling to the Spanish Basque country are regularly monitored by AZTI (cf. report RCM Atlantic Galway, September 2004).

The special case of eel

The monitoring of eel catches at the three life stages (elver, yellow and silver eel) was introduced by the amendment to Regulation (EC) No 1581/2004. This species, whose exploitation is one of the main components of small-scale coastal fishing in southern Europe, is considered to be on the decline by the reference bodies such as ICES and EIFAC.

In France sea fishing for eel on the Channel-Atlantic coastline is targeted mainly at elvers, with catches of yellow and silver eel amounting to less than 100 tonnes per year. Fishing for eel by professional fishermen is strictly regulated (licences, fishing season, catch declarations, scientific monitoring). Catches of eel, comprising elvers returning from spawning grounds, are very uniform in terms of length structure and these are known. On this coastline France is not planning to develop special sampling operations in view of the scientific projects on elvers currently under way (cf. INTERREG project Indicang).

In the Mediterranean, fishing by small-scale lagoon fishermen targets the "adult" phase of the eel only. A draft study focusing on this species is being drawn up. Its goals will include determining the characteristics and results of the fishery and the biological features of catches.

France will keep a close watch also on the findings that may emerge from the workshop on eels planned in Sweden in autumn 2005 at the initiative of the Commission, in which it will take part.

H - 1.1.3. Methodological developments and international coordination

In 2006, France will continue playing an active part in international working parties and workshops aimed at improving the quality of data collection and biological monitoring for the species and stocks listed in Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001, as amended in 2004.

- One such group in which France will be participating is the ICES planning group on fisheries data collection (PGCCDBS). This group provides international scientific expertise and formulates recommendations on the most appropriate methods for meeting the objectives laid down in the framework programme governed by Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000.
- France will also assume responsibility, through the direct involvement of Ifremer statisticians, for coordinating the WKSDFD workshop on biological catch sampling methodologies (landings, discards, biological parameters) and for developing tools making it possible for landings to be estimated accurately, which the PGCCDBS recommended at its meetings in 2004 and 2005.
- It will provide its experts' skills in continuing work on defining the bases for new stratifications and sampling procedures required by a "mixed fisheries" type approach prior to the review of the framework programme under Regulation No 1543/2000 for 2007, in line with the workshops on fleet segmentation and the sampling of small-scale fisheries undertaken at Nantes and Kavalla in 2005.
- It will take part in discussions aimed at establishing networks of experts on age determination for the main Community species. A number of workshops are planned in 2006, including one on grenadier to be held in France.

The details of France's role in 2006 in the international scientific coordination system established under the framework programme provided for in Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 are given in the "Coordination" module.

H - 1.1.4. Cost of 2006 operations

The estimated cost of the biological catch sampling planned for 2006 under the minimum programme for module H, covering the coastlines of mainland France and its overseas departments, is approximately EUR 1.013 million.

For ports from Dunkirk to Nice (North Sea, Channel, Gulf of Gascony, Mediterranean), the monitoring directly concerns 43 of the stocks laid down in Annex XV to implementing Regulation No 1581/2004, as amended, (except for Mediterranean bluefin tuna and herring in IV and VIId for the reasons given above), to which will be added specific actions covering eel;

the cost amounts to some EUR 950 000. In the overseas departments, the estimated cost of sampling the 4 major stocks (cod in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, shrimp and red snapper in French Guiana and swordfish in La Réunion) according to the standards of the same appendix is EUR 63 700. For a detailed breakdown of this data by chapter in the format required by the Commission, see Annexes H. L&A land MP (Western Atl. N-E, Med) and H. L&A land MP (DOM).

The following comments can be made about the tables of costs:

- the "Transport" chapter includes transport costs as well as allowances received by field staff. It covers direct operations across the whole coastline, which were generally auctions, and the compilation necessary to calculate the precision indices laid down by the amended Regulation No 1581/2004.
- The costs in "durable equipment" correspond to normal renewal of IT equipment (central units, portable PCs). They do not take account of depreciation of equipment acquired in preceding years which should be depreciated up to the end of the programme (December 2006) when the 2005 financial year is being justified.
- the purchase of fish for establishing length-age scales accounts for over 70% of the expenditure on "consumables" in European seas. The new implementing Regulation requires that ageing be carried out for all landings, which is not without implications for additional purchasing requirements for biological samples compared with preceding years. The purchases concerned current species (plaice, whiting, small pelagic species) as well as those of high commercial value such as sole and hake (Gulf of Gascony, eastern and western Channel, Mediterranean) and others that are costly as they are available in a wide range of sizes (saithe). In addition in 2005 there were certain high-quality species such as red mullet and sea bass along the Channel-Atlantic coastline and the need to distinguish stocks as defined in the amending Regulation No 1581/2004. In the Mediterranean, extensive ageing requirements will mean higher still purchases of biological material in 2006. The other costs represent ongoing sampling expenditure (gloves, rulers, scales, tongs, knives, batteries for onshore equipment, etc.) and products for treating bony structures (envelopes, resin, cutting discs, etc.). These costs are proportional to the number of items taken.
- as regards staff costs, implementing the new species-sampling arrangements introduced by Regulation No 1581/2004 (precision targets, rules on ageing, identification of multiple stocks to monitor for each species, etc.) will mean more time spent by staff in the field, which is difficult to estimate in the absence of previous experience. The extra work will as much as possible be performed by Ifremer staff (mainly by providing additional staff for the Boulogne-sur-Mer age reading centre and using staff on fixed-term contracts, for the equivalent of at least two full-time staff) As in previous years, work will therefore be contracted out in special cases such as the monitoring of fish sales in Concarneau (National Natural History Museum, EUR 13 000 for 95 trips), of albacore landings in the Basque Country (IMA, EUR 5 000) and reinforced in the Mediterranean (Eclipse, EUR 15 000).

H - 1.2. Sampling of highly migratory species (Minimum programme)

Monitoring of the activities of French pole-and-line vessels and seiners seeking tuna in the EEZs of non-EU countries and international waters (central-eastern Atlantic and Indian Ocean), and more particularly the associated biological data-collection work, is carried out on behalf of the French

authorities by the IRD. The species concerned are those listed in Appendix XII at different levels, with the exception of bluefin tuna and swordfish which are not caught in these fisheries.

This monitoring will be carried out in close collaboration:

- with our partners in the IEO under a similar proposal focusing on the Spanish fleets,
- with our southern partners (Ivory Coast and Senegal in the Atlantic, Madagascar and the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean) in the ports through which these fleets transship most of their catch and with whose countries the EU has concluded fisheries agreements.

The total budget for the proposed programme is given in detail in the attached tables. The proposals for operations by the IRD are given below for each of the relevant chapters and articles in the EU proposal. Since the method will not be changed, it is not detailed in the 2006 programme.

H - 1.2.1. Methodology

The sampling method used is the one laid down under the EU's ET project (DG Fisheries No 95/37, 1995-1997). By way of recapitulation, this consists of a simultaneous multi-species sampling of the actual composition (in species) of landings (Cf. E1) and the length composition of the main species caught according to strata pre-defined in space and time, according to the type of association and weight category of the individuals. These procedures have been fully operational since 2000 in all landing ports. They were described in detail in the first national programme (2002) and will not be described again here since they have not changed.

The target that was set – to obtain simultaneously the actual composition by species and length – requires a minimum number of samples by stratum (type of fishing, areas and quarters) and a predetermined cohort of individuals for each sample which differs according to the type of fishing. Complying with these procedures gives considerably more sampled and measured individuals than the standard set in the programme (in general C2 for tropical tuna, i.e. one sample per 100 tonnes landed and 100 individuals measured per sample). This is linked to the fact that to achieve a reasonably accurate estimate of the composition by species (between 5% and 10%) the number of individuals that needs to be examined in each sample (500 for schools on objects and 300 for free schools) is very much higher than the standard.

To implement the sampling programme, the IRD has researchers and technicians on the ground in Victoria in the Indian Ocean and Abidjan in the Atlantic, as well as a back-up team based in France (Sète) coordinating the activities and consolidating and processing the data. The centres of secondary activity, Dakar and Diégo, are monitored from the main centres in Victoria and Abidjan.

To perform the sampling programme the French technician coordinates and monitors the work of local sampling teams in the main landing ports: Abidjan (4 observers) and Dakar (2 observers) for the Atlantic Ocean, Victoria (5 observers) and Diégo (2 observers) for the Indian Ocean. Overseeing this set-up necessitates regular travel between the main centres (Abidjan and Victoria) and secondary centres (Dakar and Diégo) to check the quality of the work, coordinate the sampling (ensuring even coverage of the strata) and to collate the information for verification and subsequent processing. These technical-support missions are vital for the smooth operation of the whole system.

However, events in Côte d'Ivoire in October 2004 have meant that the IRD suspended all its assignments there and re-arranged its system basing its 'Atlantic' technician in Dakar from mid 2005. The monitoring and sampling of landings in Abidjan is still being performed on the spot by our Côte d'Ivoire partner (CRO Abidjan) and the team of observers under contract with RMO, with remote monitoring from Dakar.

The studies are performed in cooperation with France's partners in the countries where the catches are landed and sampled; depending on the case, the programme covers the salaries of the staff and certain associated costs, i.e. the supply of data-collection services by the partner according to the standards laid down in the specifications. The partners that will be involved in 2005 are:

In the Indian Ocean:

- The SFA (Seychelles Fisheries Authority) in the Seychelles, which comes under the Seychelles Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries,
- The USTA (Unité Statistique Thonière d'Antsiranana) in Madagascar, which comes under the Madagascar Ministry of Fisheries Resources;

In the Central-Eastern Atlantic Ocean:

- The CRO (Centre de Recherche Océanographique d'Abidjan) in Côte D'Ivoire, which comes under the Ministry of Research;

- The CRODT (Centre de Recherche Océanographique de Dakar Thiaroye), which comes under the Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research.

The species concerned are those in Annex XII included in the landings:

Thunnus albacares (albacore, yellowfin)

Thunnus obesus (patudo, bigeye)

Thunnus alalunga (germon, albacore)

Katsuwonus pelamis (listao, skipjack)

Auxis thazard (Auxide, frigate tuna)

Euthynnus alleteratus, Atlantique *et affinis*, Indien (thonine, little tuna, kawakawa)

The other species are not landed and consequently cannot be sampled.

These sampling operations are coordinated and financed jointly with the Spanish national programme under a research agreement between the two bodies.

The standard evaluations (length composition of the catch by species) are then carried out in line with ICCAT and IOTC guidelines (Q5: quarter*CWP5) using a processing chain specifically adapted to the sampling procedures.

H - 1.2.2. Costs incurred

The total estimated cost for sampling highly migratory species is EUR 261 300 (EUR 131 300 for the Atlantic Ocean and EUR 130 000 for the Indian Ocean). This does not include the cost of sampling discards which is accounted for in Section E with the discard costs. This Section includes only that part of the costs that applies to France.

Several technical-support visits need to be made every year by the local IRD technicians based in the Victoria and Dakar centres (since the transfer of the latter previously based in Abidjan) to the secondary centres of Diégo (Antsiranana) and Abidjan to check the standards of the work, coordinate the sampling (ensure equal coverage of the strata) and collate the information for verification and subsequent processing. This is especially necessary (one per quarter) in the port of Abidjan where the majority of catches in the Atlantic Ocean are still being landed, with the possibility of some of these inspections being moved to Tema (Ghana) if European landings there continue to rise.

An annual coordination visit to each main sampling centre (Seychelles and Abidjan) also seems to be a minimum requirement for maintaining the standard of operations and supervising observance of the procedures.

For the Seychelles, it has been decided for reasons of efficiency to dissociate the French and Spanish observer teams, while maintaining close coordination between the teams.

The expenditure incurred on durable goods was for the renewal of 2 PCs (Abidjan and Seychelles), the amount under this heading corresponding to depreciation using the proposed new calculation method. This equipment is also used for other operations under the programme.

Expenditure on consumables was the same type as described in part E of the programme: slide callipers, measuring boards, scales, work clothing, etc.

Expenditure on sub-contracting represents the cost of staff provided by the local partners referred to above and direct contracts for staff involved in sampling.

H - 1.3. Sampling proposed under the extended programme

The estimated cost of the biological sampling proposed for 2006 under the extended programme is EUR 91 500. This monitoring covers cephalopods in the Channel. Two cephalopod stocks are studied: Loliginidae squid (more precisely two species, *Loligo forbesi* and *Loligo vulgaris*) and cuttlefish *sepia officinalis*. The spatial distribution of these species indicates that the Channel is the area where stocks are most abundant. The sampling plan implemented is stratified monthly sampling with a fixed allocation. The strata used are the commercial categories. The data obtained in markets consist of the measurements for some 750 squids and 250 cuttlefish per month. They constitute the basis for estimating stocks.

The detailed costs are given in the Annex in the format required by the Commission.

H - 2 .Sampling of discards

The chapter on the French programme concerning module E gives the details of the operations to be performed in 2006 to estimate discard volumes. The implementing Regulation also provides for length and age sampling, in particular for species for which discards are to be evaluated annually or once they reach a significant level.

For European seas, since the estimate of discard volumes is based for the most part on data gathered onboard working vessels, the onboard observers are asked to sample for length the discards of the species that have to be monitored annually (cf. appendix XII) or for which, for purposes of evaluating stocks, it is important to know which portion of the catch is not kept (Norway lobster, for example), including in the Mediterranean (hake and red mullet) or whose abundance is representative of the method being studied.

The sampling intensities are where possible those shown in Appendix XV to the Regulation. The sampling protocols, although predefined before the trip, can only be adjusted in real time on the basis of the results, volumes and species that can be observed directly at sea. Otoliths will be taken for age reading from the fish sampled onboard the working vessels whose length classes are not represented in the catches. Although priority is given to the species required to be monitored annually, information on the other species caught and discarded will be available in the database.

For tuna, the new list of species has been taken into account as regards the relevant ones.

The operations planned for 2006, which follow the exemption criteria laid down in the annex to the implementing Regulation, are summarised in the table below. This table does not exclude data obtained from measuring species that are more secondary.

For the reasons given above and in module E - Discards, mainly the use of onboard observers for certain tasks, we cannot accurately distinguish the costs incurred for biological sampling of discards (cf. file, sheet H-Age/L-disc) from those for the quantitative evaluation of discards. These costs, which are modest compared with the personnel costs created by using onboard observers, are in fact included in the module that best represents the activities of observers, and hence the module E-discards.

Species whose discards will be sampled for length structures in 2006.

Species	Area	Statistical scales for catches		ActionDiscards 2006	
		PM	PE		
ICES AREA II					
Haddock	<i>Melanogram. aeglefinus</i>	SA I,II	Q2	M2	Exception
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	SA I,II	Q2	M2	Exception
NORTH SEA & EASTERN CHANNEL - ICES AREAS IV, VIID					
Herring	<i>Clupea herringus</i>	IV,VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer, partial
Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	IV, VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer, partial
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	IV, VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	IV, VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer
Mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	IV,VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer, partial
Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	VIId	Q2	M1	Ifremer
North-East Atlantic & VIIE - ICES AREAS II, V, VII, VII (exc. VIId), VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV					
Haddock	<i>Melanogram. aeglefinus</i>	Vb,VI,XII,XIV	Y2	Q2	No (see mod. E)
Haddock	<i>Melanogram. aeglefinus</i>	Viab,VII,VII,VIII,XII,XIV	Q2	M2	Ifremer, partial
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Vb,VI,VIIab-k,VIII,XII,XIV	Q2	M2	Ifremer, partial
Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	IIIa,IV,VI,VII,VIIIab,VIIIc,IXa	Q2	M2	Ifremer
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIIa, VIIe-g	Q2	M2	Ifremer
Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	VII (functional units)	Q0	M0	Ifremer
Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	VIII, IX (functional units)	Q0	M0	Ifremer
Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	VIIIab	Y2	M2	Ifremer
Deep-sea species	<i>Hoplostethus, etc..</i>	All areas	Y2	Q2	via Reg. 2347/2002
Highly migratory species - Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans					
Frigate tuna	<i>Auxis spp.</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	E4		IRD
Little tunny	<i>Euthynnus alletteratus/affinis</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	E4		IRD
Sailfish	<i>Istiophoridae</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	D2		IRD
Shortfin mako shark	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	A4		IRD
Skipjack tuna	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	C2		IRD
Mako shark	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Not applicable (not fished)			
Great Blue shark	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	A4		IRD
Atlantic bonito	<i>Sarda sarda</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	E4		IRD
Shark	<i>Squalidae</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	D2		IRD
Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Not applicable (not discarded)			
Yellowfin tuna	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	C2		IRD
Bigeye	<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Atlantic and Indian Oceans	C2		IRD
Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Mediterranean	M5	M4	Exception

I - OTHER BIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS

The amending Regulation No 1581/2004 confirms the intervals of the three-yearly updates of biological parameters for the species listed in Appendix XVI as revised. The work is identical therefore to that determined in Regulation No 1639/2001; that on growth curves and sex ratios will be performed in accordance with subparagraphs (a) and (c) of paragraph I-1. The species referred to in subparagraph 1(b) do not concern France since catches are non-existent or are too small to attain the relevant thresholds. Generally speaking, fish taken during surveys (module G) or purchased with a view to establishing length-age scales (module H) will be used in preference for estimating biological parameters.

I - 1. European seas and French overseas departments

Since the criteria for exemption are virtually identical to those for the sampling of catches by age, only species that have been selected in that case in module H will be taken into consideration for the purposes of module I. The table below summarises all of those species and gives the timetable over the last three years for studying the biological parameters. All the work comes within the minimum programme.

TIMETABLE FOR ACQUIRING OTHER BIOLOGICAL DATA											
Action In	Species		Area	Growth		Maturity		Fecundity		Sex ratio	
				Data		Data		Data		Data	
				Lengt h	Wt	Lengt h	Age	Lengt h	Age	Lengt h	Age
North Sea & Eastern Channel - ICES AREAS IV, VIII											
2004	Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	IV, VIId	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Red mullet	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	IV, VIId	T	T	T				T	
2006	Scallops	<i>Pecten spp.</i>	VIId	T	T	T				T	
2003	Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	VIId	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	IV, VIId	T	T	T	T			T	T
2005	Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	VIId	T	T	T	T			T	T
North-East Atlantic & Western Channel - ICES AREAS II, V, VI, VII (exc. D), VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV											
2006	Bass	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>	All areas (exc. IX)	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	VIII	T	T	T	T	Y	Y	Y	Y
2005	Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	VIa, VIb, VIIab-k, VIII, XII, XIV	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Four-spot megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus boscii</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIVVII, VIIla-e, IX, X	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIVVII, VIIla-e, IX, X	T	T	T	T			T	T
2004	Monkfish	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV, VII, VIIlabde	T	T	T	T			T	T
2004	Black-bellied angler	<i>Lophius budegassa</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV, VII, VIIlabde	T	T	T	T			T	T
2005	Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	VIa, VIb, VIIa, VII, VIII, XII, XIV	T	T	T	T			T	T
2005	Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV, VIIa, VIIb-k, VIII	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	IIIa, IV, VI, VII, VIII ab, VIIlc, IXa	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Ling	<i>Molva molva</i>	All areas	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Red mullet	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>	All areas	T	T	T				T	
2005	Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	functional unit	S	S	S				T	
2006	Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Vb, VI, XII, XIV	T	T	T	T			T	T
2004	Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	VIII, IX	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
2006	Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	VIIe	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Sole	<i>Solea solea</i>	VIIIab	T	T	T	T			T	T
2005	Albacore	<i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	All areas	T	T	T	T			T	T

TIMETABLE FOR ACQUIRING OTHER BIOLOGICAL DATA											
Action In	Species	Area	Growth Data Length	Maturity Data		Fecundity Data		Sex ratio Data			
	Length			Age	Wt	Length	Age	Length	Wt		
Mediterranean											
2004	Anchovy	<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Mullet	<i>Mullus barbatus surmuletus</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	T	T	T				T	
2004	Sardine	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	T	T	T	T			T	T
	Bluefin tuna	<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	All areas	T	T	T	T			T	T
WECAFC											
2004	Red snapper	<i>Lutjanus purpureus</i>	French Guiana	T	T	T	T			T	T
2006	Brown tiger prawn	<i>Penaeus subtilis</i>	French Guiana	T	T	T				T	

The biological parameters will be updated in respect of sixteen species or stocks apart from tunas in 2006. The majority were already studied in 2003 and will, therefore, be covered again by the three-yearly update. Others such as red mullet will be monitored for the first time. As in 2005 the fecundity of Atlantic anchovy will not be studied because of lack of scientific skills at national level (closure of the specialist laboratory at the University of Brest). France therefore reiterates its request for an exception for this parameter for 2006. It favours the search for a solution at international level, for example, by hosting an AZTI scientist during the PELGAS survey (see section G1-Bioman).

The cost of the work for module I for European seas in 2006 is put at around EUR 33 000. A detailed breakdown by Chapter using the formats proposed by the Commission is given in Annex I-Oth biol (O.Atl.N-E,MED). The costs are in practice personnel expenses, the biological material having been obtained via the surveys (module G) or the fish purchases carried out under module H. The other consumables have also been made available under those modules. The work is carried out in the laboratory and does not in principle generate expenditure on travel or the purchase of special equipment.

I - 2. Other biological parameters for highly migratory species

Studies of tuna stocks are customarily based on catches by age deduced from catch by length and the use of the growth curve for the relevant species. Traditionally a single curve is used, although examination of sex ratios may suggest a growth difference between males and females. The growth curves currently available for yellowfin and bigeye tuna in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans were revised under the preceding national programmes (2002 and 2003) and the first results have been or are about to be published. (now completed)

It is known that for yellowfin, bigeye and albacore, the male is significantly predominant in the large sizes. The sex ratio of catches of yellowfin, bigeye and where possible albacore will continue to be monitored along with the study of the sexual maturity of the three species with a view to continuing to revise the currently used estimates which are old and also to monitoring spatio-temporal variations in sexual maturity and spawning zones. Unlike earlier ageing operations, monitoring of the sex ratio and sexual maturity will have to continue for several years in order to monitor variability.

The cost of the proposed work in 2006 for module I is estimated at EUR 67 050 (EUR 30 900 for the Atlantic Ocean and EUR 36 150 for the Indian Ocean), including for tropical tuna. A detailed breakdown by Chapter is given in the Annex using the formats proposed by the Commission. The cost of consumables consists mainly in purchasing tuna from canneries and on vessels by onboard observers under module E (discards). Given the high value of the tuna concerned (from EUR 15 to EUR 50 each depending on length for individuals over 1 metre long, 20 kg) in most cases we will have to buy them.

CHAPTER IV MODULE EVALUATING

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE SECTOR

J - COLLECTION OF ECONOMIC DATA BY GROUP OF VESSELS

Economic data collection measures in 2006 will continue to be carried out under the programme set in place in 2004. Careful account will be taken of the lessons learned from this recent experience in order to improve the efficiency of the procedures implemented at all levels and to guarantee a sound balance between enhancing the precision level of the results and maintaining expenditure on this operation at an acceptable level.

The experience gained in 2002 and 2003 demonstrated the advantages and limits of each of the methods tested: collection via direct consultations and collection of accounting data. Above all, it provided evidence that it is difficult to collect data through sampling for a very limited population sector. The substantial task of clarifying the concepts used and the content of the aggregates mentioned in the Regulations was begun in 2003 and is to be pursued in 2004 and 2006. Such an analysis should also be embarked upon in the near future at European level. Without such genuine standardisation of concepts, the collection programme will not allow comparable data to be supplied between different Member States or at different periods in respect of the same Member State.

France would like DG Fisheries to arrange for Eurostat to undertake this standardisation, using as a model the procedure for collecting agricultural economic data, with the support of the Member States responsible for the practical implementation of the programmes. In this connection, Eurostat has long experience, as well as a pool of economists and statisticians who can make it easier to achieve the essential progress.

As in 2004 and 2005, France plans to keep its vessels sample at around 1600, which appears to be the minimum for achieving acceptable levels of precision by segment in the light of the objectives set. An adjustment will be made once it is possible to calculate precision levels on the basis of the data collected in 2005.

The entire French fleet will be covered, including vessels of less than 10 metres in length, and the results will be drawn up on the basis of the segmentation laid down by the Regulations.

The dispersion of the results recorded in 2004 and the precision level targeted make it possible to define the number of vessels to be selected in each stratum. The criteria selected are the size, the type of fishing carried on and the region to which the vessels belongs.

The metropolitan fishing fleet has been structured on the basis of available variables relating to the population: vessel size, membership of a fleet in terms of the type of fishing carried on, geographical location of the vessel (Daurès F. et al., 2003)¹.

This information is partly contained in the register of operational fishing vessels. In addition, all vessels belonging to the French metropolitan fishing fleet are covered by an annual survey of the activities carried on throughout the year (type of gear, target species and fishing areas listed each month in a work timetable) and the intensity of their activity (number of days at sea, engine hours, etc.).

It is possible, on the basis of this individual and exhaustive information, to set in place a stratified sampling plan for the collection of economic information making it possible to calculate the

¹ Methodology for the assessment of aggregated indicators in the fishery sector – The French case. Paper presented to the EAFE conference in Brest, 2003.

indicators, as required by the Regulation. The stratification of the fishing fleet is therefore based on criteria relating to:

- activity: gear used and combination of types of fishing carried on throughout the year
- vessel length
- geographical location (maritime region to which they belong).

A national sampling rate of 30% of the total population is defined. The optimum number of vessels to be surveyed for each stratum, depending on the constraints of the total number of vessels to be surveyed, the size of the stratum and the fluctuations observed in Turnover as a variable in the previous year. The following formula is thus applied:

$$n_h = \text{ENTIER} \left(\frac{n * N_h * CV_{yh}}{\sum_{h=1}^H N_h * CV_{yh}} \right) + 1, h = 1, \dots, H$$

where n_h is the size of the sample for stratum h .

N_h is the size of stratum h .

CV_h is the coefficient of variation in Turnover for stratum h .

Finally, n is calculated in such a way that the total number of vessels to be surveyed is arrived at (i.e. 1600).

Moreover, since a stratum is generally represented over several areas, the number of vessels to be surveyed in area q_i for stratum h will be the result of a systematic draw for each area and size.

Two further sub-samples of around 800 vessels each have been established.

An initial selection of 800 vessels was made in the first year using the quotas method. It consists in selecting for a given stratum all the vessels meeting the criteria for that stratum which have accessible accounts certified by a management centre or firm of accountants with which agreements have been signed. Where the number of vessels arrived at using this method was inadequate in a given stratum (this was the case in particular with smaller vessels or certain coastal areas), an additional random sample of another 800 vessels per stratum was taken from the remaining population.

For vessels in the first sub-sample, the data emerging from the accounts will be collected and will constitute the bulk of the information required by the Regulation. However, a complementary questionnaire is used to fulfil the remaining requirements laid down by the Regulations.

For vessels in the second sub-sample, all information is collected through direct consultations with the skippers.

Part of the overall sample is surveyed again in the following year. The objective here is, first, to measure year-on-year variations in economic indicators which are not affected by structural variations in population and, second, to improve the procedures for validating the data collected.

The panel represents a maximum of 75% of the number of vessels to be surveyed in a stratum, the remainder of the vessels being selected at random. In other words, random samples must account for at least 25% of the number of surveys per stratum in order to ensure that the panel is partially renewed each year.

The precision calculations are validated by the Fisheries Directorate and checked throughout the procedure.

The expected advantages of this approach are:

- a fairly sound precision level for the results while the size of the overall sample is kept at a substantial level;
- excellent coverage of the fishing fleet in accordance with the stratification criteria selected;
- self-checks on the quality of the collection and processing of data by means of a comparison, per large stratum, of any discrepancies noted between the two sub-samples and the possibility of a posteriori correction.

The following chapters describe the main technical arrangements adopted for each of the two sub-samples.

J - 1 . Sub-samples giving rise to direct surveys among skippers

France collects data using a system of direct surveys by means of direct consultations based on a questionnaire.

The collection of economic data meets a precise scientific goal, namely improving knowledge of the diverse nature of the French fishing fleet. This will entail:

- acquiring fuller knowledge in economic terms of the activities of vessels and the means of production employed (work, capital invested);
- measuring the income and costs generated annually by those activities in general and by technique applied.

The direct survey covers a sub-sample of around 800 vessels distributed along the maritime coasts: North Sea, Channel, Atlantic and Mediterranean.

J - 1 . 1 . Questionnaire

Vessels are surveyed over reference year n-1 using a questionnaire which is coordinated at national level. The questionnaire has been drawn up by a working group composed of scientists and academics following more local trial economic surveys carried out in the past. It is improved from year to year, mainly on the basis of the conclusions of the "Concepts" Working Group, which is made up of the administration and its partners in the entire collection process, and by taking account of the experience gained in the field of agricultural statistics, mainly in connection with the Farm Accountancy Data network.

The questionnaire consists of 9 groups of questions:

- Group 1: Particulars of the person surveyed
- Group 2: Activity of the vessel in terms of techniques, gear used, fishing effort by technique and working timetable
- Group 3: Maintenance and renewal costs of gear and tackle (fishing gears, rigging and deck equipment)
- Group 4: Interim income and expenditure in general and by technique
- Group 5: Running costs of vessel (taxes, social security and other contributions, maintenance and repair costs, etc.)
- Group 6: Physical and economic evaluation of initial investment in fishing
- Group 7: Physical and economic assessment of the investment in equipment other than gear (engine, bridge equipment, equipment for storage and packaging of catches, on-shore equipment)
- Group 8: Crew and method of remuneration
- Group 9: Other business activities of shipowner

In all, the questionnaire comprises nearly sixty questions structured around information concerning the techniques used over the year. It should be noted that the network of technicians/investigators who carry out most of the economic surveys on the Atlantic coast are familiar with the world of fishing since they also conduct the annual exhaustive survey on the activities of vessels.

A handbook was prepared at the same time setting out the working methods of investigators and reducing possible bias. It is the subject of regular updates which incorporate the requisite methodological developments and any issues to be raised.

In addition, a simplified questionnaire targeted at vessels already questioned in the previous year (panel) is used.

J - 1.2. Input and processing of the information

Input software has been developed for transferring the economic data collected to a central site and organising it into databases.

J - 1.3. Description and validation of the data collected

Procedures for the validation, description, post-stratification and correction of the data are set in motion for the basic processing and routine calculation of the indicators and estimators required under the European Regulation. Those procedures are based partly on checking the data collected for internal consistency and partly on comparing that data with external data: additional information available through agreements with public institutions (fish-auction network, logbooks, crew rolls, etc.), complementary economic data collected from fishing industry suppliers and chandlers (price of diesel oil, gear, etc.).

Moreover, in order to validate the structure of operating costs, the semi-approved economic survey data is compared as far as possible with the accounting data collected elsewhere.

J - 2. Collection of data by the Réseau d'Informations Comptables et Economiques des Pêches (Fisheries Economic and Accounting Information Network)

Collection in this context consists in obtaining accounting data on each vessel from the management bodies and commercial data from the producer organisations and other structures operating on the basis of landings.

"Annual data by fleet segment" comprises three fields:

- data concerning turnover and business activities (prices, species)
- accounting and financial data (production costs, fixed costs, financial situation, investments)
 1. data concerning employment.

Depending on the segments analysed, collection requires the participation to varying degrees of industry structures.

In the context of the network set in place, the involvement of industry structures is governed by an agreement and subject to strict confidentiality rules.

Under this programme, the population selected comprises all French fishing vessels, the majority of which belong to a producer organisation and a management body.

J - 2.1. Selection of the sample

Ideally, the fisheries enterprises are chosen at random from the field. However, various factors directly related to the specific features of the industry conflict with genuine random sampling. The seasonal nature of the activities, enterprises which develop their activities on a co-ownership basis, those whose activity undergoes lengthy stoppages during the period covered by the survey, or the atypical values highlighted for certain vessels are all explanatory factors.

The sample is chosen at random from a homogeneous subset of enterprises in the field which fulfil the conditions set out above (quotas method). The sub-sample selected in this way also comprises around 800 vessels.

J - 2.2. Data source

As regards accounting and non-accounting indicators, the micro-economic data on each enterprise is collected from the management bodies established along the entire French coast.

Commercial data on production per species is also collected for each enterprise from the producer organisation² to which it belongs.

A total of over a hundred industry structures supply the Réseau d'Informations Comptables et Economiques des Pêches (Fisheries Economic and Accounting Information Network) with data. Thus, for each vessel used in the sample, the cross-checking of the information collected at each port structure (management bodies and producer organisations) provide information about the overall activity of each vessel, from its landed production by species to the total operating and investment costs generated by its activity.

The data collected from the management bodies is of two kinds:

- first, accounting information which has been checked and validated,
- second, a complementary survey of non-accounting and activity information allowing a number of additional indicators (fleet segment of vessel, fuel consumption, crew, etc.), which are aggregated or not included in the accounting documents, to be defined.

At the same time, the commercial data held by the producer organisations provides information concerning all the production landed by species, in France or elsewhere. The production data is validated twice as a result of the presence in the complementary survey of information on the eight main species landed by the vessel.

J - 2.3. Checks guaranteeing the quality of the data

Prior validation of the compliance of the basic data

The prime task entrusted to the management bodies is the drawing up of annual accounts in accordance with precise standards guaranteeing the quality of the data supplied. By standardising professional practices and improving the working methods of accountancy firms, they are providing themselves with a set of statutory professional rules guaranteeing public recognition of their competence.

The management bodies are monitored either annually by the Budget Ministry's Directorate-General for Taxes (the data transmitted is subjected to a series of conformity checks) or on the basis of the statutory quality check applied by the Ordre des Experts Comptables (Order of Chartered Accountants) (guaranteed conformity of the accounts which they certify).

- Consistency test

Working in close collaboration with accounting bodies or chartered accountancy firms makes it possible to use the same back-up, tax forms, which guarantees the consistency of the basic information and thus avoid aggregation of disparate information or interpretations of imprecise individual replies which can create an appreciable bias in the use of the data.

Moreover, since production data is collected from the producer organisations, the exhaustive nature of the landings carried out within or outside the context of fish auctions, in France or abroad is taken into account in the breakdown of the turnover by species.

J - 3. Budget evaluation of the proposal for 2006

Compared with the programme carried out in 2004, the number of economic surveys conducted at national level remains relatively steady. It is estimated at 1600 vessels. This data collection, certain stages of which are subcontracted, involves two main partners (Ifremer and Len-Corrail).

² Producer organisations belonging to the FEDOPA and ANOP.

The 2006 programme also provides for the measure aimed at the exhaustive collection of timetables of activity on the Mediterranean coastline to be repeated. In order to structure the population in a homogeneous manner at national level, it is necessary to update the information collected in the Mediterranean. The collection of timetables of activity will cover 1500 vessels. It will be subcontracted entirely in the case of this coastline.

Organising the collection of data means activating the networks set up, monitoring their performance and arranging contacts with professional experts. Those tasks are to be performed in addition to the validation of data and the drawing up of the relevant indicators. They require contributions from economists, a statistician and computer experts.

Overall subcontracting requirements for the collection of economic data and data on activities are estimated at EUR 269 000. Overall personnel costs are estimated at EUR 441 200.

In addition, travel costs incurred in collecting information on the spot, monitoring survey-taking and meeting industry representatives amount to EUR 33 100.

The project includes the acquisition and renewal of data processing software and computer hardware (acquisition of a laptop) and the renewal of the statistical software licence for calculating the indicators and assessing their precision level.

The cost of this part of the French programme for 2006 is estimated at EUR 758 400.

K - COLLECTION OF DATA CONCERNING THE PROCESSING INDUSTRY

Under Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001, Member States were to conduct pilot surveys to assess the annual value by sector of a series of parameters concerning their sea products processing industry; these surveys were to compare the cost/effectiveness of various data collection strategies, including the sampling programmes; the findings were to be sent to the Commission by 31 October 2003 at the latest.

Although France has not conducted a pilot study as such, data concerning matters downstream of the sea products sector are or have been produced by two national bodies, the Office National Interprofessionnel des Produits de la Mer et de l'Aquaculture (Ofimer) and the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation durable de la Mer (Ifremer) through its Département d'Economie Maritime (DEM). This data production work has been carried out regularly for Ofimer in the fish wholesale sector and intermittently for Ifremer in the processing sector. In view of their experiences, Ofimer and Ifremer have been asked by the Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture (DPMA) in the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs to contribute from 2006 to module K for the collection of data.

K - 1 . Experience in monitoring the processing industry

The sea products processing industry can be defined as the sector grouping together enterprises whose main or secondary activity is the handling of sea products in order to submit them to processing and/or stabilisation. The purpose of this is to prepare products made from sea and freshwater fish, crustaceans, shellfish and cephalopods for human consumption. These enterprises may carry on various processing activities such as cleaning, fileting, modified atmosphere packaging, cooking, deep-freezing, smoking/curing, canning or the preparation of catering products.

In terms of nomenclature, the terminology used in France is as follows:

- “fish wholesaling” means *primary processing* and brings together mainly cleaning, fileting, packaging and wrapping in a protective atmosphere;
- the ‘processing’ sector means *secondary processing* and covers the manufacture of canned and semi-preserved products and products in jars, salting, drying and smoking, deep-freezing and the preparation of catering products.

K - 1 . 1 . The monitoring of wholesale enterprises

A list of wholesale fish enterprises is available based on three sources. The register of health approvals for the “handling of sea products”³ contains four specific codes for fish wholesaling activities: for “fish wholesaler” GM, “fish wholesale trader” MR, “fileter ” FT and “fish tank establishments” EV. There is also a list of enterprises purchasing fish in markets. The register of fish wholesale enterprise established in this way is both exhaustive and highly reliable. It is subject however to a validation procedure in the case of certain special enterprises, in particular those issued with a health approval but which in reality only undertake business transactions. This therefore involves leaving aside enterprise which practise buy-sell back only following re-allocation of the products without any real processing.

The enterprises selected by the monitoring system include some which also practise processing (joint ventures)⁴. Determining characteristics of the wholesale sector are then three indicators: turnover, added value and employment. The first two are estimated for the whole of the sector based on the sample represented by enterprises which lodge their accounts, i.e. around 75% of enterprises in general. Employment is estimated on the basis of supplementary data obtained by direct surveys of a sample of around 30% of the enterprises. These direct surveys also cover:

deliveries to the enterprises, broken down into the following major categories: freshwater fish, salmonidae, whitefish (for fileting) and quality fish (sea bass, sea bream), pelagic fish, including tuna, cephalopods, crustaceans, molluscs.

the breakdown of the turnover of enterprises according to their various outlets (GMS, wholesale, fishmongers, export, restaurants, etc.)

³ The health approval for shellfish farmers who do not process sea products for “ the consignment of sea products ”. There is no confusion here therefore.

⁴ For example, for 2003, Ofimer recorded 380 enterprises practising fishwholesaling only and around 50 joint ventures.

Existing monitoring of the wholesale sector offers the advantage therefore of being based on an exhaustive approach as regards identifying the enterprises concerned and in addition of being carried out on an ongoing basis. However, the data concerning the major economic indicators of the activity (turnover, added value) are obtained with partial cover without any sample having been defined a priori. Above all, the supplementary data collected by surveys concern only part of the data required by Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001: among the information lacking is that concerning the cost of deliveries, other production costs, investments and the prices of products.

K - 1.2. Work on the processing industry

The processing industry has been studied selectively through the problems of “delivery and innovation strategies of enterprises processing sea products”, which required the establishment of a new database, separate from that obtained from the annual enterprise surveys conducted by the Ministry with responsibility for agriculture. The data obtained from these annual surveys are prepared according to an approach that excludes from the outset a significant proportion of enterprises in the sea products processing sector, as a result of the use of two excessively discriminating criteria:

the size of the enterprises must be both greater than the threshold of 20 wageearners in terms of employment or that of EUR 5 million in terms of turnover;

the enterprises selected a priori are those whose main activity is the processing of sea products (classified by INSEE under code APE 152Z).

In order to obtain an initial general description which is as faithful as possible to the real situation in the sector, it was necessary not to exclude a priori enterprises with fewer than 20 wage earners or those for whom the processing of sea products is not their main activity.

An initial register of enterprise processing sea products was established therefore by combining two existing registers: the list of enterprises approved for handling sea products (register of health approvals AS) with their code NAF and the register of INSEE enterprises, including enterprises with the code 152Z. Based on this preliminary definition of the population potentially concerned, a questionnaire was sent to the listed enterprises in 2000 in order to validate the official sources and refine the list of enterprises genuinely engaged in the processing of sea products. On completion of this work, it became apparent that the verification stage in the enterprises was essential for obtaining up-to-date and reliable information and led to the substantial reorganisation of the initial register (obtained from the regrouping of AS and INSEE registers) to produce a final genuine basic register for the collection of data on the processing industry.

This initial exercise providing an exhaustive, in-depth and validated list of the population of enterprises making up the French sea products processing sector in the end brought to light significant discrepancies between the enterprises selected and the lists that could be established directly on the basis of existing sources.

In carrying out this work and with a view to ensuring the future survival of a unique tool for carrying out research projects in economics in the processing industry, the database was updated in 2002. The aim of this updating was to validate the method adopted, list all the information sources supplementing the survey and record the time required to update the base on a routine basis. In view of all these factors and of the available resources, it was a matter also of determining the applicable procedures and the intervals at which the exercise should be repeated in order to achieve satisfactory monitoring of enterprises involved in the processing of sea products.

The updating made it possible nevertheless to determine (1) the different stages of the systematic updating of the existing databases, and (2) the contracting-out needs for updating the database.

Different stages of the updating

Preparation of the datafile used as a basis for the questionnaire from information contained in the initial base (1999 record of enterprises), the latest version of the INSEE file (code 152Z) and the updated list of enterprises with health approval for handling sea products (some 500 enterprises)

Dispatch of a questionnaire to the enterprises mentioned above for confirming whether they belong to the industry processing sea products as a main or secondary activity. The questionnaire also seeks to obtain additional information in order to better target enterprises: total turnover, number of jobs, number of establishments, % of turnover earmarked for processing sea products, and breakdown of turnover for the processing of aquatic products according to the nature of the activity (canned, semi-preserved, deep-frozen, smoked/salted, catering products and fresh prepared products).

Following processing and validation of the replies to the first letter, assessment of returns to relaunch the questionnaire in enterprises that have not replied. On completion of the two series of postal surveys, the rate of validated returns amounted to around a third of the 500 enterprises contacted, including enterprises recorded already for 1999 and movements that took place between 1999 and 2001/2002 (entries and exits).

Systematic telephone survey phase with enterprises that have not replied (around 300), still to be conducted simultaneously with the search for additional sources (yellow pages in the directory, consultation at société.com, press information, etc.). Because of this stage we have ranked telephone calls according to the breakdown of non-replies (152Z +AS, 152Z only, AS only, etc.). At the end the enterprise base for 2001 contains 277 enterprises.

Recommendation: the choice of survey period (from dispatch of the questionnaire to the last telephone calls) is very important; preferably it should not extend over the months of July and August, if it is not to be posted again, and should therefore be completed at the end of the first six months.

Specification for contracting-out

Participation in certain stages of verification and validation of registers of enterprises

Dispatch of questionnaire and monitoring/validation of replies

Telephone follow-up.

Search for additional sources of information (press monitoring, consultation of internet, société.com, professional directories, etc.)

Management of the database under Access, updating of main tables (activity of enterprises, identification of enterprises and establishments, monitoring of movements (buyback, liquidation, mergers, setting up, etc.).

Recommendation: the specifications for contracting-out must make it possible to cover a large part of the work entailed in surveys, telephone follow-up and validation of data. These operations do not come under methodology or analysis as such but represent significant extra activity during a particular period.

K - 1.3. The achievements of this experience

The main achievement of the work carried out by Ofimer and Ifremer to date resides in the establishment of the earlier databases which make possible the availability of a reference population and of a number of indicators covering previous periods to allow comparisons over time and an analysis of the vigour of the sector⁵.

⁵ In particular, a comparison of the updated datafiles of enterprises with earlier individual data sources, including one-off ones, will make it possible to assess precisely entrants to and exits from the sector, and not only the general development of its size.

K - 2 .Methodology for collecting data

K - 2 . 1 . Establishing and updating the datafile of enterprises

In view of the size of the sector as shown by previous work carried out by Ofimer and Ifremer, it is proposed adopting, at least in the initial stages, an exhaustive approach aimed at recording all French enterprises involved in processing sea products as their main or secondary activity.

K - 2 . 2 . 2.2. Data collected by direct surveys

The direct surveys cover a priori all the enterprises included in the work file. The direct surveys have a two-fold goal:

to identify and quantify the activities of each enterprise strictly concerned with the primary or secondary processing of sea products in order that the work register may become a final one;
to supplement for each enterprise the specific information relating to the sea products sector which is not collected by other surveys and is covered by Annex XIX to Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001.

First, a questionnaire is posted to the enterprises. The approach in the questionnaire is to enable the sea products processing activities of the enterprise to be qualified and quantified in relation to all its activities, and in association with its methods of delivery and its outlets.

The questionnaire seeks to obtain the following data:

- the name of the enterprise
- a description of its main activities
- the number of establishments, including those processing sea products
- the number of jobs, including jobs in the processing of sea products
- turnover:
 - total turnover
 - turnover excluding trading and wholesale (including trading in sea products)
 - turnover for sea products handled and/or processed
- establishment of the turnover for sea products: volume
 - including wholesale trade, whole fish/fillets and pre-packed fish (tick 4 boxes)
 - including processing: canned, semi-preserved, deep-frozen, smoked/salted, catering products
- supplies of raw sea products (processed raw materials purchased or contracted out): volume and total value with volume details
- by categories of species (freshwater fish, salmonidae, whitefish (for filleting) and high-value fish (sea bass, sea bream), pelagic, including tuna, cephalopods, crustaceans, molluscs) + basic surimi
- according to form: whole, filleted or shelled (without conversion rate; rate applied later during processing)
- according to origin (national and imports) as %
 - possibly distinguish the species, and the countries or sectors of origin
- rate of uptake of capacity, including sea products capacity
- production costs (value of operating costs) of the enterprise (not distinguishing sea products, to avoid confusion, extrapolations will be made in the processing)
 - energy (electricity, fuel, other)
 - total foodstuffs raw material (including sea products)
 - packaging
- total investments (possibly in equipment and immoveable property)
 - purchase costs
 - replacement costs
 - insurance costs

After receipt of replies from the enterprises by post, the data collected will be entered. Their internal consistency will be verified.

During the second stage, telephone follow-up take place:

- with enterprises that have not replied, first to obtain certain minimum information according to an order of priority to be specified (turnover, jobs, deliveries etc.), and possibly to supplement the questionnaire;
- with enterprises that replied in an unsatisfactory or inconsistent manner in order to improve the quality of the data sent.

K - 2.3. Data obtained from accounting information networks

To supplement the information obtained by direct survey to cover the list of data shown in Annex XIX to Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001, economic and accounting data will be acquired for the largest possible number of enterprises from specialist bodies (Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Dan & Bradstreet) and from Insee, whose surveys cover enterprises with more than 20 wageearners only. Such data will make it possible to determine the major accounting items for enterprises whose production structures are known, and as a result extrapolate these items for enterprises surveyed for which accounting data are not available.

The data potentially obtainable from accounting sources are:

- fixed costs: investments measured by fixed assets
- production costs: labour, purchases of raw materials, other inputs, depreciations, financial charges,
- financial situation of enterprise: share of own capital, of borrowed capital

Difficulty will arise in using the accounting data because many multi-tasking enterprises will not present separate accounts for the processing sea products. A number of accounting items will not be representative therefore as they stand of sea products processing and will need to be further refined. That being so, it will be necessary to estimate the accounting items sought by deducting the share associated with the different activities on the basis of the data available for the specialist enterprises, in particular those in the sea products sector.

K - 2.4. Status and processing of data

As far as possible, the data will be collected in cooperation with the professional bodies⁶, which will have to be kept informed and perhaps requested by Ofimer and Ifremer to collaborate with the operation.

In addition to the production of economic data on the primary and secondary processing sector, the methodology applied will make it possible to obtain an overview of the sector in question, to establish typologies of enterprises on the basis of their size and/or activities, and to perform brief analyses of delivery strategies and outlets for the sector.

⁶ In particular, the bodies responsible for collecting the data will endeavour to establish contact and if possible collaborate with ADEPAL, the SNCE, A3C and the UMF.

K - 3 .Budget for the collection of data 2006

The budget covers:

- the contribution of the staff of Ofimer and Ifremer to establishing and applying the methodology, drawing up work registers, monitoring the preparation of the final register, and dataprocessing and analysis;
- the contracting-out of direct surveys, of data input, of part of the preparation of the final datafile and of some preliminary data processing;
- the acquisition of supplementary data;
- mission expenses for meetings with the professional organisations and bodies involved in monitoring the sector.

The detailed budget is set out in the attached EXCEL file.

The total budget for carrying out module K of the French programme is expected to be EUR 170 250.

CHAPTER V MISCELLANEOUS

L - ACCESS TO DATA AND COORDINATION

L - 1 .Setting up of databases

France has a heavy coordination workload on account of the need to comply with the fourteen modules set out in implementing Regulation (EC) No 1639/2001 and the fact that the national establishments involved in the national programme are widely scattered. The data to be collected is very diverse in nature and most of the modules can be broken down into operations on a number of the country's European maritime coastlines (Mediterranean, North-East Atlantic and Channel/North Sea) and in certain overseas regions. It has therefore become necessary to develop databases which centralise the basic information collected in the context of the different modules and make it possible to build up aggregated sets of data accessible to the Commission and the other Member States. Some are already operational (national fisheries statistics, ARPEGE-biological sampling, stock surveys) and are recorded in the central tool *Harmonie*, managed by Ifremer.

Development of a database for archiving observations on catches at sea.

After the *Scientific stock surveys* module developed with DCR co-financing in 2003 and 2004, France proposes developing a modern database making it possible on the one hand to store and make available to users the large volume of data represented by the observations on catches made on board professional fishing vessels, and to produce extrapolations of demographic volumes and structures of discards required by the DCR. A model database, *Obsmer*, has been used but has quickly shown its limitations owing to the obsolescence of the software used (*Access 97*), the impossibility of managing the volume of data reliably and of involving processing channels enabling observations on trips made on board their vessels to be returned to fishermen and to extrapolate the data to all trips and methods. The development of the model for storing data from observations on catches at sea and the preparation of the specification for the new database will be undertaken during the second half of 2005 using national financing. They will benefit for a large part from the experience gained for the *Stock surveys* database. The forecast cost of the operation entered in the minimum national programme for 2006 (cf. Annex Database Atl. N-E, MEDIT) concerns IT contracting-out needed for the practical introduction of the new IT tool (Cap Gémini, EUR 30 000), accompanied for a month by an Ifremer IT supervisor responsible for monitoring the project.

Development of modules for extracting aggregated data and transmitting data

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000, the Commission conducted an initial test with the Member States in autumn 2004 on the exchange of data obtained under the national programmes for 2002 and 2003. The transfer rules were laid down at Community level and the test brought to light a number of difficulties in extracting and presenting the aggregated data in the required formats which will be demanded in the longer term.

To maximise efficiency, it will therefore be a matter of setting up computerised modules which make it possible to extract the basic data stored at national level and of being able to draw up within the requisite period the sets of aggregated data for a potential group of generic requests from the Commission or other Member States. To this end, the French programme for 2006 (cf. Annex Database Atl. N-E, MEDIT) includes EUR 32 591 for managing and formatting the data (staff time) and contracting out the preparation of generic extraction modules (EUT 10 000).

In the end, the measures concerning the databases for European seas amount therefore to EUR 71 970, a detailed breakdown of which by type of costs is given using the formats proposed by the Commission in the Annex (N-E Atl., MED. Database).

Similar work on computerising data extracted from the database of the fisheries directorate is to be contracted out for an amount estimated at EUR 20 000.

Development of a central database on tropical tuna

The central database on tuna fishing set up in Brest will be transferred to Sète in 2005; it will comprise national data on pole-and-line vessels and seiners operating in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and, in a second stage, international data obtained through the regional fisheries organisations concerned (ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC and SPC). An observers' database is also being developed. While the Spanish and French databases are *de facto* separate, they are identical and develop in tandem, with each one benefiting from the progress of its partner.

The costs for 2006 amount to EUR 45 830 (C-E Atl., Indian) database). They relate mainly to the replacement of the coordinator's PC, software and technical documents and to computer experts' fees for finalising the international data module and the development of the observers' database.

L - 2 .National and international coordination

Scientific and technical leadership is essential at national level and France will take advantage of the eligibility granted by the Commission at a national coordination meeting to convene the steering committee for the national programme. This meeting, in which all the participating institutions will take part, will be extended to deal with scientific and technical questions, but also the administrative problems encountered. France is earmarking EUR 4 820 for this purpose, mainly to cover the travel costs of the fifteen participants.

France must organise adequate consultations on all the modules with the other Member States participating in the framework programme defined by Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000. To this end, a specific budget is requested under the "Coordination" module in order to encourage the national coordinator and scientists to participate in the meetings and working groups which are organised on the initiative of the European Commission, other bodies such as the ICES and possibly the Member States, provided that these meetings will be in keeping with the objectives of the Regulation and accepted by DG Fisheries. The following examples may be mentioned: methodological workshops on discards and the calculation of precision indicators, groups coordinating oceanographic surveys (IBTS, MEDITS, evaluation of small pelagic species), promotion of quality guarantees in sclerochronology through the exchange or simultaneous reading of pieces of bone by different specialists from the countries concerned, setting up of Community databases for the storage and exchange of aggregated data, participation in the ICES Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling (PGCCDBS), followed by bluefin tuna and recreational fishing in the Mediterranean. Regional coordination meetings also enable the Member States and the Commission to exchange information on common problems affecting the major fisheries (North Sea, North-East Atlantic, tropical tuna areas, etc.) In addition, French experts regularly have an input into the bodies evaluating and supporting the framework programme under Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000, in particular the STECF and its sub-groups such as the SGRN.

The Commission has sent a list of the eligible meetings and groups for 2006 under the minimal programme. The Annex entitled "Coordination" specifies, in the requisite formats, the national contributions to these different meetings, the cost of which is estimated at EUR 66 500. The cost covers only mission and travel expenses and the organisation of meetings. France will organise and coordinate the meeting of the MEDITS coordination group (Nantes, March 2006) and the workshop on fleet segmentation (Nantes, May 2006). It will also provide scientific coordination for the methodological workshop on sampling strategies and precision calculations (WKSDFD, Zukarieta, February 2006).

A central database on tuna fishing has been set up; it comprises national data on pole-and-line vessels and seiners operating in the Central-Eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean and, in a second stage, international data obtained through the relevant regional fisheries organisations (ICCAT, IOTC, IATTC and SPC). As in the case of the collection of biological data, this database is partly shared with Spain (non-confidential information and data processing), which entails a number of coordination tasks between France, the collection centres and Spain. It is important that technicians based overseas should participate in some of these meetings which are to be held in the Canary Islands in 2006.

The missions requested under the French national programme for Franco-Spanish coordination (IEO/IRD) for the tuna module amount to EUR 5.272, i.e. 3 missions: France (coordinator), Seychelles and Dakar (technicians).

M - SUMMARY OF ANNUAL COSTS ESTIMATED FOR FRANCE FOR 2006

For 2006 alone, the total cost of the various measures mentioned point to a 13.8% increase on 2005 owing partly to the rise in surveys at sea and the addition of new modules such as that for the collection of data in the processing sector. The forecast budget goes up from nearly EUR 6 000 000 to almost **EUR 6 800 000 Euros exclusive of tax**, including slightly over EUR 6 400 000 for the minimum programme and around EUR 350 000 for the extended programme. By major heading, these can be broken down as follows:

Surveys at sea	:	3 256 028
Other biological data	:	2 405 766
Economic data	:	928 646
Coordination	:	200 499
Overall total	:	EUR 6 790 939

The tables which follow give details of the costs for 2006:

- by major expenditure category (personnel, travel, etc.) for each major collection heading (sampling, discards, etc.), distinguishing between the minimum programme and the extended programme;
- in the annex, detailed costs by type of action.

ANNEX

Detailed costs by type of action