Call MARE/2020/08

Agreement reference: SI2.839444
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Development of the Regional Database for the Mediterranean & Black Seas

Work-package 5

Deliverable 5.1
Synthesis of the Workshops on testing Med&BS RDBFIS

P. Sartor, Silvia Angelini
Partners involved:
CIBM, COISPA, HCMR, CNR

Table of Contents

Acronyms 1
Executive summary 2
1. Introduction 3
2. Outcomes of the Workshops 4
APPENDIX I - 1st Workshop agenda, participants and minutes 6
Agenda 6
Participants 6
Minutes of the Workshop 7
APPENDIX II – 2nd Workshop agenda, participants and minutes 10
Agenda 10
Participants 10
Minutes of the Workshop 11
APPENDIX III – Feedbacks received from Stakeholders 14
DG MARE: 14
JRC: 14
GFCM Secretariat: 15

Acronyms

CFP	Common Fisheries Policy
DCF	Data Collection Framework
DGMARE	The Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
EU	European Union
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean
GSA	FAO-GFCM Geographical Sub Area
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.
IT expert	Information Technology expert
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MCDA	Multi Criteria Decision Analysis
NC	National Correspondent
RCG	Regional Coordination Group
PET	Protected, Endangered and Threatened species
RDB	RegionalDataBase
RDBES	Regional Database and Estimation System
RoME (package)	R code to perform multiple checks on MEDITS Survey
SSF	Small Scale Fishery
SOLEMON (project)	SOLeaMONitoring in northern Adriatic Sea
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
STREAM (project)	STrengtheningREgional cooperation in the Area of fisheries biological data

Executive summary

The Work Package 5 (WP5) was in charge of testing the population of the RDBFIS with real data, as well as showing the structure of the Database and demonstrating the main functionalities of this application to the main end users, e.g. the Member States.

To achieve these objectives, two specific Workshops were organised (in remote), in November 2022 and in January 2023. They were attended by relevant end users, primarily National Correspondents, but also by representatives of DGMARE, STECF, JRC, and IT/database experts, other than the representatives of the Partner Institutions involved in the MED&BSRDBFIS Project. A total of 33 participants attended to the first workshop, 31 to the second one.

The first workshop was dedicated mainly at providing information on the structure of the Regional Database while the second one at showing the main functionalities. The demonstration was based on real data.

During the two Workshops many aspects of the Database were discussed (e.g. access protocols, data policy, data format issues, acceptable values, quality checks, standardization procedures, etc.).

A positive feedback was received from the participants: they demonstrated interest and willingness to use the platform in the near future. Moreover, several comments and important suggestions were received, in particular concerning the population of the database with different typology of data and the possibility to respond to data calls and other recurrent requests.

All these aspects will be taken with particular attention in the next future and will be further developed in the prosecution of RDBFIS, under the upcoming Specific Contract “Hosting, maintenance and further development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”, developed in the Framework Contract Mediterranean and Black Seas (EASME/2020/OP/0021).

1. Introduction

Thanks to the activities of the previous Work packages (WP2, WP3, WP4), the Regional Database of Fisheries (RDBFIS) was developed, e.g. an integrated information system aimed at enabling reliable scientific advice and facilitating the work of the EU Member States and RCGs, by reducing the burden of multiple data submissions (for data calls) under different formats. The RDBFIS should become the source of EU data to support data requirements under the DCF. It contains detailed survey data and biological data of demersal and small pelagic species and aggregated transversal data (i.e. landings and effort). Moreover, the RDBFIS serves other areas, such as: bycatch and PETS data, stomach contents data, large pelagic and alien species data, recreational fisheries data.

The objective of Work Package 5 (WP5) was to test the population of the RDBFIS with real data, as well to show the structure of the Database and to demonstrate the main functionalities of this application. To this purpose, two specific Workshops were organised, in remote, in November 2022 and in January 2023.

Relevant end users, primarily National Correspondents and representatives of MSs, were invited to the Workshops, but also IT/database experts, representatives of DGMARE, GFCM, STECF, JRC.

The two Workshops were aimed also at receiving comments and suggestions from the participants about various aspects of the Database. This was an essential process to check the feasibility of the outputs in the implementation of the RDB and allowed to the experts in charge of the database development updating the functionalities of this application almost in real time.

2. Outcomes of the Workshops

The **1st Workshop** of WP5 was held on November 15th 2022; it was a virtual meeting (Teams platform). A total of 33 participants attended the workshop: 3 representatives from EU DGMARE, 9 from Member States (national Correspondents), 16 from Institutions partners of the Project, 5 experts in DCF data or representatives of other stakeholders (e.g. FAO GFCM, JRC).

The Workshop was mainly aimed at showing the structure of the Regional Database developed by the Project, as well as at providing first information on the main functionalities of this application. The demonstration was based on real data.

During the presentations, the protocol to access to RDBFIS was shown, as well as aspects on user access and data policy. The available data sets imported by RDBFIS were described, as well as the tool that allows converting the RCG format data in aggregated data of the different Data Call formats. To this purpose, the tools elaborated in the previous project STREAM have been included in the database. Particular attention was devoted to the presentation of the procedures and outputs of the quality checks performed by the application. The spatial module, that allows showing spatial information about species and fishing effort, was also presented. First demonstrations of the functionalities of the RDBFIS application were shown, with practical examples, e.g. how to upload and export data, but also how to visualize them. Moreover, a presentation about the estimation of fishing pressure index for small scale fisheries (SSF), based on a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis, was provided.

The **2nd Workshop** of WP5 was held on January 23th 2023. It was a virtual meeting (Teams platform). This Workshop was attended by 31 persons: 3 representatives from EU DGMARE, 6 from Member States (national Correspondents), 14 from Institutions partners of the Project, 8 experts in DCF data or representatives of other stakeholders (e.g. FAO GFCM, RCG, JRC).

The second workshop was aimed at showing and demonstrating the main functionalities of the Regional Database constructed by the Med&BS RDBFIS. Real data were used.

The tool RoME for RDBFIS was presented, as well as a detailed description of the R tool to perform data quality checks on survey data (MEDITS). A new version of RoME was produced (compatible with the more recent versions of R). A live demonstration of the use of RDBFIS for survey checks was provided showing the process of execution of multiple checks, using MEDITS Greek data as example.

The R package for processing data in RDBFIS was presented (the routines developed during the STREAM project have been transformed in R functions, slightly modified and adapted, and finally included in RDBFIS). Particular attention was devoted to present the conversion tool among different formats of data, to support different data calls.

Moreover, the automatic reporting tools on data call quality checks were presented, providing details about the structure of the R Markdown files, their use and the outputs generated. A live demonstration about reporting tools on data call quality checks was provided as well (data of GSA 18 have been used).

Finally, the MCDA (Multi Criteria Decision Analysis) R package with the estimation of fishing pressure index for small scale fisheries was presented.

More details on the presentations and the discussions done during two Workshops, jointly with the list of participants and the Agendas are provided in the **APPENDIX I and APPENDIX II**.

Other than the presentations, the two Workshops were animated by a wide discussion were the participants asked clarifications about the use and the main aspects of the Database (e.g. access protocols, data policy, data format issues, acceptable values, quality checks, standardization procedures, etc.). Several comments and suggestions were also received for the use of this application in the near future.

As a general comment, in both Workshops a positive feedback was received from the Participants: they demonstrated interest and willingness to use this platform in the near future. Similarly, a positive position, demonstrating also support on the use of the Database was reported by the representatives of STECF, JRC and GFCM, as shown by their declarations reported in **APPENDIX III**. Moreover, they highlighted several important aspects to be considered in the near future, in particular concerning the population of the database with different typology of data and the possibility to respond to data calls and other recurrent requests. All these aspects will be taken with particular attention in the next future and will be furtherly developed in the prosecution RDBFIS, under the upcoming Specific Contract “Hosting, maintenance and further development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea”, developed in the Framework Contract Mediterranean and Black Seas (EASME/2020/OP/0021).

APPENDIX I - 1st Workshop agenda, participants and minutes

Date: November 15th 2022
Time: 09:00-13:00 CET
Venue: Online – Teams platform

Agenda

0. **Welcome, Agenda adoption**. Paolo Sartor (CIBM)
1. **Database structure demonstration**. Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR)
2. **Imported data sets to RDBFIS**, completeness and encountered problems. Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR)
3. **Availability of surveys data** (e.g. MEDITS, MEDIAS, etc.). Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR)
4. **Estimation of fishing effort for small scale fisheries based on a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis**. Irida Maina (HCMR)
5. **Security system & application permissions strategy**. Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR) and Martina Zilioli (CNR-IREA)
6. **Regional DataBase quality checks**. Isabella Bitetto and Walter Zupa (COISPA)
7. **Application demonstration** (functionalities, etc.). IoannisChamodrakas (HCMR)
8. **Expected feedback from NCs and other End Users**(proposals for further improvements, missing information, complexity)
9. **Discussion and Conclusions**

Participants

Silvia Angelini	CNR, Italy (co-chair of WP5)
Enrico Arneri	CNR, Italy
Tim Berginc	Min. Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia (NC)
Norbert Billet	IFREMER, France
Isabella Bitetto	COISPA, Italy
Bogdan Boranda	EU DGMARE
Kelly Camilleri	MAFA DFA, Malta
Paola Carrara	CNR, Italy
Ioannis Chamodrakas	University of Athens, Greece
Charis Charilaou	DFMR, Cyprus
Michael Chatziefstathiou	Greece (on behalf of NC)
Ilaria Costantini	CNR, Italy
Dimitris Damalas	HCMR, Greece
Federico De Rossi	FAO GFCM
Vita Gancitano	CNR, Italy
Stefanos Kavadas	HCMR, Greece (coordinator of the MED&BS RDBFIS)
Venetia Kostopoulou	EU DGMARE
Sven Kupschus	EU JRC
Irida Maina	HCMR, Greece
Livia Menziani	Min. Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Italy (on behalf of NC)
Jurgen Mifsud	Dept. Fisheries and Aquaculture, Malta (NC and RCG)
Eric Muscat	MAFA DFA, Malta

Claudia Musumeci	CIBM, Italy
Simona Nicheva	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Bulgaria (NC)
Paolo Sartor	CIBM, Italy (chair of WP5)
Vasiliki Sgardeli	HCMR, Greece
Maria Teresa Spedicato	COISPA, Italy
Monika Stercewszka	EU DGMARE
Louise Veron	Min. Agriculture and Food, France (NC)
IvanaVukov	Min. Agriculture, Croatia (NC)
Kolyo Zhelev	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Bulgaria
Martina Zilioli	CNR, Italy
Walter Zupa	COISPA, Italy

Minutes of the Workshop

The meeting started at 9:15 CET

SARTOR. Introduction of the WP and adoption of the agenda. He anticipated that a second workshop will be organized in the second half of December; it will be aimed at providing further demonstrations of the functionalities of the database.

KAVADAS. Brief presentation of the project: objectives, methodology, data included, final users.
Then he provided a detailed presentation of the structure of the Database, as well as the available data sets imported to RDBFIS, the completeness of data and the encountered problems. The access to the RDBFIS platform is ensured by the use of the following credentials: admin, MS (=each MS can access only their data), STECF (=access to data for the specific EWG), public (=free access to several RDBFIS components). He also presented the spatial module, which allows to show spatial information about species and fishing effort.

This presentation stimulated several questions.

KUPSCHUS. He asked about the possibility of including raw data into the database, and to extract them in the different formats of the data call without replications?

KAVADAS. She recalled that the main objective of RDBFIS is to accommodate, check and prepare data for future uses, mainly data calls. Biological detailed data are provided by the RCG datacall.

VERON. Is RDBFIS structure different from that of RDBES? Is it possible to transfer data from the two databases?

KAVADAS. For the moment the structure is different. The statistical sampling system is very different in the Mediterranean compared to the northern countries. The RDBES db structure, the hierarchies (13) as well as the coding system are incorporated in RDBFIS and can support in the future the needs of MS for storing their data in that format (RDBES). At the moment there is no information with this format.

STERCZEWSKA. Will this be the ultimate place where we put raw data, or this will be a place where as usual we put data for data calls, facing again the same problems (data not coherent among different datacalls, etc)?

KAVADAS- This is a centralized database including detailed and aggregated data (as submitted in several datacalls) as well as other fisheries statistics data and spatial information.

STERCZEWSKA. Will it be possible at some later step to have a check between the datacalls in order to have the same data reported in the same way for the different data calls?

KAVADAS. Yes.

BITETTO. In the database it will also be integrated a tool that allows converting the RCG format data in aggregated data of the different data call formats. (STREAM tools transformed in functions and have been included in the database).

MAINA. She provided a presentation showing estimation of fishing pressure index for small scale fisheries (SSF) based on a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis. A combination of SSF estimated fishing effort and fishing pressure index can support the FDI request for spatial fishing effort by GFCM statistical rectangle (Table I. Effort by rectangle).

ZILIOLI. She provided a presentation about The WP3 proposal on the user access permissions to the data base (end users categories, role-based privileges). This proposal is included in the data policy document of WP3. The different candidate types of users with different type of access have been showed. She underlined the role of the RDB Steering Committee in ruling access to data: this was recalled in the RDBFIS governance guidelines.

KAVADAS informed that within the RDBFIS platform 4 levels of accessibility have been already created: admin, member states, open level, access for STECF.

BITETTO. She provided a presentation on the quality checks implemented by the RDBFIS.
They are included in the R package 'RDBqc', based on the work carried out in the STREAM project. For the survey data a new RoME version is under development. She underlined that these control routines have been developed through continuous communication through the final users (e.g. JRC). The data quality checks are available for the following data call formats: MED&BS, FDI, GFCM DCRF, RCG.
For each datacall, syntactic checks and data consistency quality checks are supported. R markdown files allow having an automatic report with the outcomes of the quality checks.

BITETTO presented some output of the quality checks, including visual checks.

KUPSCHUS. Is this tool performing checks on aggregated data from data call rather than raw data?. Wouldn't it be better to adapt it to the row data?

BITETTO. Some checks are performed on raw data (RGC format). These are very important because they reduce possible errors in the aggregated data.

DE ROSSI. Complimented the work done by the project and the utility of the database. He informed that GFCM will organise in mid-February 2023 a meeting on quality checks. It would be good if this tool would be presented there. Interest was expressed by the RDBFIS team to participate in this meeting.

CHAMODRAKAS. He provided a first presentation of the functionalities of the RDBFIS application, with practical examples. He explained how to upload and export data, but also how to visualize them.
Everything will be hosted on GITHUB.

Common discussion.
STERCZEWSKA. Congratulation for the work done. The RDBFIS is a very useful tool.

CHARILAOU. It is possible to include also information on PETS?

KAVADAS. For the moment only the main structure and tables keeping data have been included. The structure is based on the ICES data call.

CHARILAOU. Other question, about the inclusion of data for alien species.

SPEDICATO. This is a case-by-case matter and managed by GFCM.

KUPSCHUS. About the spatial aspect of the database, a very interesting issue. How you have implemented it?

KAVADAS. We have used Geoserver (in the backend, serve the spatial data) and open layers (in the front end).
KAVADAS. He presented some uncertainties and problems occurred in importing MEDITS data (e.g. about hauling depth, vertical opening…), and also GFCM/DCRF data (e.g. on A3 codes). .

SPEDICATO. She informed that in the last coordination meeting of MEDITS, an update of the handbook has been planned. This is an open channel with the RDBFIS

ZUPA. He confirmed that ROME routine performs checks.

KAVADAS. He proposed to have a workshop among experts, JRC and GFCM to create a common codification system.

KOSTOPOULOU. He expressed the satisfaction of DGMARE about the outcomes of this project. It is crucial and something that we need. She invited the MSs to actively participate to next workshop. It is important to share the views on the data you want to share.

13:10 - end of the meeting

APPENDIX II – 2nd Workshop agenda, participants and minutes

Date: January 23th 2023
Time: 09:30-13:00 CET
Venue: Online – Teams platform

Agenda

9:30 - Welcome, Agenda adoption and introduction to the meeting. Paolo Sartor (CIBM).
9:35 - Summary on the progress of the activities of Med&BS RDBFIS. Stefanos Kavadas (HCMR, coordinator of the project).

Presentations: ca 20 minutes each followed by 5 minutes discussion.

9:50 - RoME for RDBFIS:R Codes to Perform Multiple Checks on MEDITS Survey Data. Walter Zupa (COISPA).
10:15 -RoME for RDBFIS: live demonstration. Ioannis Chamodrakas (HCMR).
10:40 - RDBFIS processing: a tool to improve consistency of aggregated data. Isabella Bitetto (COISPA).
11:05 - Coffee break.

11:20 - Automatic reporting tools on data call quality checks. Walter Zupa (COISPA).
11:50 - Automatic reporting tools on data call quality checks: live demonstration. Ioannis Chamodrakas (HCMR).

12:05 - Introduction to MCDA (Multi Criteria Decision Analysis) R package - estimation of fishing pressure index for small Scale fisheries. Dimitris Politikos(HCMR).
12:30 - Discussion and Conclusions.
13:00 - End of the workshop.

Participants

Enrico Arneri	CNR, Italy
Tim Berginc	Min. Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia (NC)
Norbert Billet	IFREMER, France
Isabella Bitetto	COISPA, Italy
Bogdan Boranda	EU DGMARE
Kelly Camilleri	MAFA DFA, Malta
Ioannis Chamodrakas	University of Athens, Greece
Charis Charilaou	DFMR, Cyprus
Michael Chatziefstathiou	Greece (on behalf of NC)
Dimitrios Damalas	HCMR, Greece
Federico De Rossi	FAO GFCM
Miriam Gambin	MAFA DFA, Malta
Beatriz Guijarro	IEO-CSIC Spain (RCG)
Kostas Katsafaros	Min. of Rural Development & Food, Greece (NC)
Stefanos Kavadas	HCMR, Greece (coordinator of the MED&BS RDBFIS)
Venetia Kostopoulou	EU DGMARE

Sven Kupschus	EU JRC
Dalibor Jelavic	IOF, Croatia
Irida Maina	HCMR, Greece
Alessandro Mannini	CNR, Italy
Livia Menziani	Min. Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Italy (on behalf of NC)
Claudia Musumeci	CIBM, Italy
Simona Nicheva	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Bulgaria (NC)
Dimitris Politikos	HCMR, Greece
Paolo Sartor	CIBM, Italy (chair of WP5)
Maria Teresa Spedicato	COISPA, Italy
Monika Stercewszka	EU DGMARE
IvanaVukov	Min. Agriculture, Croatia (NC)
Kolyo Zhelev	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Bulgaria
Martina Zilioli	CNR, Italy
Walter Zupa	COISPA, Italy

Minutes of the Workshop

The meeting started at 9:45 CET

SARTOR - Introduction of the WP and adoption of the agenda.

KAVADAS - He provided information about the status of the Project. The Project will finish at the end of February 2023. Acknowledgments to EC (DGMARE, STECF and JRC), RCG, GFCM, BS Commission, for their support to the development of the system. He recalled the importance of the Regional Database, that has been structured to contain various typologies of data and to manage different data calls. He also informed that bilateral online trainings with users of the MSs will be done in the following month to increase the familiarity of the use of the database and be able to use it in the 2023 datacalls. During the training, a script will be presented and shared to analyse VMS data (this will be run on local machines and the outcomes can be uploaded to RDBFIS); an extension of RDBFIS has been granted for the next two years; this new project will start on April 1st 2023.

ZUPA – Presentation of the tool RoME for RDBFIS. He presented a detailed description of the R tool to perform data quality checks on survey data (MEDITS). It works on the tables in the MEDITS format and uses some tables included in the MEDITS manual. This tool foresees a lot of checks and cross checks mainly based on the TA, TB, TC, TE and TL tables. A detailed description was provided about functions working on TA, TB and TC. A new version of RoME was produced (compatible with the more recent versions of R); the outputs are text files with the outcome of each check and plots for qualitative controls: multiplatform, with 67 standalone check functions, each one with documentation included; the quality of plots and map has been improved. New functions were developed specifically to work on RDBFIS, such as the main function ROMEcc allowing to check all the tables without any interruption and reporting all the errors detected at the end of the analyses.

MANNINI – Is it possible to include also SOLEMON in the checks performed by RoME?

ZUPA – For the moment SOLEMON format is not included in the checks, but this can be done in the future.

SPEDICATO – The survey specifications of SOLEMON are different from those of MEDITS, and it would need time to adapt RoME. This could be done during the new project, to adapt RDBFIS also to SOLEMON specifications.

CHARILAOU – Is it possible to modify the TM list in order not to lose species?

SPEDICATO – This point was discussed during the last MEDITS coordination meeting.

CHAMODRAKAS - RoME for RDBFIS: live demonstration of the use of RDBFIS for survey checks. He provided a demonstration of the process of execution of multiple checks, using MEDITS Greek data as example.

BITETTO – Presentation of RDB processing, the R package for processing data in RDBFIS.
The routines developed during the STREAM project have been transformed in R functions, slightly modified and adapted, and finally included in RDBFIS. She presented the conversion tool among different formats of data, to support different data calls (e.g. MED&BS datacall, FDI data call, GFCM DCRF data call). The data processing tool starts from the RCG format and skips the COST format and provides the tables for the different data calls.

MANNINI – Has the GP (growth parameters) file been created?

BITETTO – No, because in GP file the information comes from different sources.

MANNINI – Did you check the consistency between the métier column in FDI and the 3 columns of gear type, target assemblage and mesh size range, which should be consistent with the ones in the MED&BS data call? How the tool creates the domain?

BITETTO – This aspect was already explored by the STREAM project, and we did not identify any mismatch, but we use both the single field and the three fields. The creation of the domain is automatic, it is a concatenation.

MUSUMECI – Is it possible to skip the CL-CS processing phase and just starting from the tables of MED&BS data call?

BITETTO – Yes, it is possible.

ZUPA – He presented the automatic reporting tools on data call quality checks, providing details about the structure of the R Markdown files, their use and the output generated for each, their use and the output generated for each table of the four data calls.

KOSTOPOULOU – She asked information about the link with the GFCM quality checks.

ZUPA/BITETTO – An ad hoc function has been developed, about the possible checks.

BITETTO – With Federico De Rossi we had an exchange of information respect to the quality checks to be implemented (e.g. syntax of different fields). RDB quality checks are specifically focused on consistency of data.

DE ROSSI – Congratulations to the project for the work done. GFCM confirm the availability and support.

MANNINI – Has a check been planned about the effort (e.g. the average fishing activity by quarter). About this check, at which level is implemented?

ZUPA – Currently not. The checks already implemented allow estimating the total amount of effort by year but not by quarter. Some specific check can be implemented in the future (the second project).

BITETTO – For the moment the cross checks on the tables of landings are not implemented.

BITETTO (answering to KUPSCHUS) – The tables in the GFCM format can be stored in the RDBFIS.

CHAMODRAKAS – Live demonstration about reporting tools on data call quality checks. Data of GSA 18 (for DPS, HKE, MUT) have been used.

MANNINI – Is it possible to upload also Excel files or only .csv files are supported?

CHAMODRAKAS – For the moment only .csv, but in the near future the application can be extended to Excel.

KAVADAS – He remembered that Irida Maina of HCMR presented during the 1st workshop a MCDA on small scale fisheries. This methodology could be also applied to other fisheries when vessel tracking data (VMS/AIS) are not available.

POLITIKOS – Presentation on MCDA (Multi Criteria Decision Analysis) R package. Estimation of fishing pressure index for small scale fisheries.

KAVADAS – The MCDA package can be found in the Teams folder. MDCA and VMS analyses will be presented during the bilateral trainings. He resumed the main outcomes of the project. The main objective of MED&BS REDBFIS is to support the needs of National Correspondents and end users. The application of RDBFIS will be open after the end of February and throughout the implementation period of the new project "hosting and further development of the RDBFIS". By mid-February bilateral trainings will be performed.

MANNINI – As regards the use of RDB for the 2023 data calls, he suggested to contact DGMARE in order to check if some change in the tables format is requested.

SARTOR – closed the meeting at 13:10.

APPENDIX III – Feedbacks received from Stakeholders

DG MARE:

"The regional grant MARE/2020/08 RDBFIS was launched by DG MARE on 1 January 2021, with a planned duration of 24 months, which was further extended to 26 months. The action aimed at addressing the legal requirement of the DCF Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 on setting up regional databases - in the Mediterranean and Black Seas in this case - and materialises discussions of over 10 years at regional level. A regional database is conceived as a common platform with data at low aggregation levels, where different combinations of data can be requested, based on specific needs of end users. Regional databases aim to facilitate regionalisation by sea basins in the area of data collection, and all involved parties (Member States, end users, EU Commission) are expected to benefit from it. The overarching goal is to facilitate Member States' response to data calls and reduce the burden of multiple data submissions (for data calls) under different formats.

The current project worked closely with all involved parties, namely the Regional Coordination Group Mediterranean & Black Sea, Member States of the marine region, survey coordination groups, JRC, DG MARE, other MARE/2020/08 regional grants, end users, RDBES. The outcome - RDBFIS – satisfies all identified needs expressed so far to the extent possible, while, proposing options and functionalities that could bring added value to the core tasks of the regional database Mediterranean and Black Seas. DG MARE considers that the product of the regional grant RDBFIS forms a solid basis for setting up a regional database.

The turning point of this end product will be the population of the database with data coming from the Member States of the marine region and the use of RDBFIS by Member States to respond to standard DG MARE data calls and other recurrent requests and reporting obligations. RDBFIS will be further developed under the Framework Contract Mediterranean and Black Seas (EASME/2020/OP/0021). More concretely, specific Contract N°04 - CINEA/EMFAF/2021/3.1.2/03/SC04/SI2.881222 – 'Hosting, maintenance and further development of the regional database for the Mediterranean and the Black Sea', implementing the framework contract, is expected to ensure the necessary follow up for the next two years".

JRC:

"I attended the 1st and 2nd workshop of the RDB-FIS project as an end user and 'data keeper'. The project is relevant to my work at the JRC where I am responsible for the MED-BS data call coordination and database management as well as my work in the stock assessment and effort management STECF EWGs.

From a data end user perspective: The project has endeavored to maintain the current data structures required by the DCF while making the data delivery process more accurate and efficient. Many of the existing routine data checking and evaluation processes have been incorporated into a single centralized system accessible by all MS which should greatly enhance the data quality and codification consistency across member states. It also potentially enhances the value and generally complements other projects such as the MED DATA QUALITY. Additional functionality has been added including automated development of spatial layers which aid the understanding of the database content and could facilitate automatic output delivery options for a variety of studies and policy objectives. All this appears to have been done with careful thought given to the underlying server architecture and end-user needs. All-in-all an impressive work

program that should, given a permanent home, provide for the routine data needs for the MED with sufficient flexibility to develop new functions or services in future.
From a scientific end-user perspective there is relatively little benefit of the project beyond the improvement in data quality and consistency as the project is specifically designed to deliver the same data in the same format. However, policy and scientific questions are becoming ever more detailed and with the resolution of data aggregation in the JRC database some of these questions are difficult to address. Also the question of what data should be collected is difficult to answer without access to more disaggregated data. The underlying data provided by MS to populate the core of the database offers a high potential to evaluate 'raw' data to make such decisions and inform on the appropriate level of aggregation for future data calls. The data uploaded to the database potentially has the power to address these questions and further scientific understanding of the processes in MED-fisheries and fish. I urge subsequent projects to prioritise answering the question of the level of detail provided by MS and who has access in future development and or projects in order to clearly define the potential benefits of RDBFIS to scientific end-users".

GFCM Secretariat:

"The GFCM Secretariat welcomes the advancement made on the release of the Med&BS RDBFIS, including the progressive implementation of quality checks also based on some of the GFCM quality indicators currently in place within the GFCM-DCRF. In reiterating the availability to interact with the Med&BS RDBFIS team for any additional feedback would be needed from GFCM side, the Secretariat notes the usefulness of the tool in consolidating national fisheries datasets of EU MS into a standardized way, from which data submissions to the GFCM in line with existing GFCM recommendations may benefit in the future".