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NATIONAL FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION
2015

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I. General framework

The National Programme (NP) of the Netherlands 2014-2016 for fisheries data collection refers to the Community[1] and National Programme defined in Articles 3 and 4 of Council Regulation 199/2008, to Article 1 of Commission Regulation 665/2008 and the Annex of Commission Decision 2010/93/EU. This NP is a roll over from the 2011-2013 programme.

The Annual Report (AR) 2015 on the NP of the Netherlands refers to Article 7 of Council Regulation 199/2008, to Article 5 of Commission Regulation 665/2008 and to the Annex of Commission Decision 2010/93/EU. This report describes the activities carried out in the Netherlands in 2015. If the reference year differs from the report year, it is accordingly stated in the sections for Modules IV and V.

This AR is based on the "Guidance for the submission of Annual Report on the National Data Collection Programmes (...), Version for Annual Reports2015", which is related to the layout and contents of the NP 2014-2016.

No major methodological changes in approach have been introduced in 2015 compared to the years before.

In the past, the Netherlands has requested a number of derogations for data collection. These are listed in table I.A.1.

The Commission has established provisions to facilitate the cooperation between MS with the regard to the collection of data. These are Regional Coordination Meetings (RCM), bilateral and multilateral agreements with other MS and in the future regional databases. The bilateral and multilateral agreements between the Netherlands and other MS are listed in table I.A.2.

In 2015, the standing multilateral agreement between NLD, DEU, LVA, LTU, and POL on the sampling of EU catches of pelagic fisheries in the CECAF area has been extended to 2016. Through this agreement, The Netherlands also covers the condition in the NLD-UK bilateral agreement to cover sampling of UK vessels fishing in CECAF waters. Also, in 2015, a multilateral agreement between NLD, DEU, LTU, and POL on the sampling of EU catches of pelagic fisheries in the SPFRMO area was established for 2015 and 2016.

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[1] COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 861/2006 of 22 May 2006 establishing Community financial measures for the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and in the area of the Law of the Sea

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 199/2008 of 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 665/2008 of 14 July 2008 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy

2010/93/: COMMISSION DECISION of 18 December 2009 adopting a multiannual Community programme for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013 (notified under document C(2009) 10121)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1078/2008 of 3 November 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 861/2006 as regards to the expenditure incurred by Member States for the Collection and management of the basic fisheries data

II. National data collection organisation

II.A National correspondent and participating institutes

The Dutch National Correspondent C.J.M. Verbogt (Kees) was replaced in September 2015 by I.H. Janssen (Inge). Both Mr. Verbogt and Mrs Janssen are employed by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ), Department for European agriculture and fisheries policy and food security.

Three partners were involved in the 2015 data collection in the Netherlands:

1) The European Agricultural and Fisheries Policy and Food Security Department (EZ-ELVV) and the Animal Supply Chain and Animal Welfare Department (EZ-DAD), both sections in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, perform control and authority exercises at the commercial fisheries and the recreational and game fisheries. EZ-ELVV also acted as coordinator for the execution of the National Programme;

2) LEI (Institute of Agricultural Economics). This institute is a private research institution, part of Wageningen University and Research Centre. LEI is responsible for collection of agricultural and fisheries economics statistics in The Netherlands. Within the programme, LEI is responsible for the evaluation of the fishing sector; transversal variables; the evaluation of the economic situation of the aquaculture and the collection of data concerning the processing industry.

1) IMARES (Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies). This institution is a private research institution, as part of Wageningen University and Research Centre. IMARES is responsible for the biological part of the data collection programme, including stock- and metier related variables; recreational fisheries and research surveys at sea.

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According to Commission Regulation 665/2008 article 8(2) a national DCF website has been established. The site can be found under the following link: http://www.wageningenur.nl/nl/Expertises-Dienstverlening/Wettelijke-Onderzoekstaken/Centrum-voor-Visserijonderzoek-1/Data-Collection-Framework.htm (in Dutch).

Under header “data collection framework”, all information of relevance to participants of the Dutch DCF programme can be found.

National Coordination is carried out by a Steering Group consisting of representatives of the three partners. The meetings of the group are chaired by the NC. The main objective of the Steering Group is the national coordination of the work to be carried out according to the DCF. There were no formal meetings with minutes in 2015. However, informal contacts between the partners have been very frequent. The main discussion points dealt with the consequences of changes in the structure of EU cofinancing to data collection within NLD, the coordination of external auditing of the data collection.

II.B Regional and International coordination

II.B.1 Attendance of International meetings

Table II.B.1 lists the meetings which have been attended by the MS in 2015. The meetings in the table were copied from the list of recommended meetings provided on the DCF website of the Commission. In addition the 2015 STECF EWG meetings were added to the table.

This list includes all the coordination meetings. In 2015, NLD participated in the RCM NS&EA,, RCM NA, RCM LDF and PGECON. NLD also attended the Liaison meeting as The Netherlands will chair the RCM LDF from 2016 onwards.

MS participated in all ICES meetings which were planned. The WGMG was cancelled in 2015 and therefore not attended.

In 2015, NLD has provided chairs for the following ICES expert groups: WGISUR, WGELECTRA, WGALES, DIG, WGMEGS and HAWG, WKARDAB2, WKMSMAC2, WKFATHOM, WKGMSFDD3-II, WKIELD, WGAQUA.

II.B.2 Follow-up of regional and international recommendations

Table II.B.2 lists the 2014 and 2015 recommendations from the Liaison Meeting, STECF and ICES survey planning groups relevant to the Netherlands in 2015. Table II.B.2 includes the response of the Netherlands to these recommendations.

Recommendations from RCMs and PGECON

In principle the Liaison Meeting evaluates all recommendation made by the RCMs and lists there in its report. The LM reports of 2014 and 2015 have therefore been the basis for considering the RCM recommendations.

Recommendations from STECF

No summary of recommendations is given in STECF plenary reports from 2014 and 2015. Therefore, the 2014 and 2015 reports of the STECF have been scanned for recommendations relevant to data collection and MS. No recommendations have been found. In fact all reports state explicitly that no new recommendation arose during the discussions at the plenary meeting.

Recommendations from survey planning groups

The ICES recommendation database 2014 and 2015 reports was scanned for recommendations relevant to ACOM (Netherlands), ICES Delegates, ICES Member Countries (via Delegates), and from the Survey planning groups. Only two recommendations in these reports are relevant to NLD in relation to DCF. These are included in table II.B.2.

III. Module of evaluation of the fishing sector

III.A General Description of the fishing sector

The Dutch fisheries in marine waters have three major components: the demersal fisheries in the North Sea, the pelagic fisheries in European and international waters and coastal fisheries for bivalves. Table III.A.1 gives an overview of the areas where Dutch fisheries are active.

Demersal fisheries

Demersal fisheries by NLD are mainly restricted to the North Sea and some activity in the English Channel. The major demersal fisheries are beam trawl fisheries directed to flatfish and operate all year round. These fisheries are mixed fisheries taking also non target species and discards. Beam trawlers are operating with various mesh sizes pending on the area and target fish. In the past decade, most of the beam trawlers have innovated their gears by introducing pulse stimulation instead of tickler chains and fly wings instead of beams. There are only a few traditional beam trawlers left.

Due to regulations, aiming at reducing effort and bottom impact of the gear but also economic incentives, many beam trawlers have stopped their activities or changed to other fishing methods such as twin trawling, fly shooting, seine and shrimping.

A fishery for brown shrimp (*Crangon crangon*) is carried out within the 6 mile coastal zone extending from Sylt to the Dutch-Belgian border, including the Wadden Sea and other estuaries.

NLD has small quota for some demersal species in Skagerrak (IIIaN), Gulf of Biscay (VIIIc) and the Irish Sea (VIIa). Traditionally these quotas are exchanged with other countries and no demersal fishing of Dutch vessels has taken place in these areas in the last years.

Pelagic fisheries

The Dutch pelagic freezer trawlers operate in North East Atlantic waters targeting pelagic species (herring, mackerel, horse mackerel and blue whiting) with pelagic or semi-pelagic trawls. The fishing operations of the pelagic fisheries are by nature directed to single species which are taken with relative few bycatch and discards.

Occasionally part of the freezer trawlers operate in African waters (CECAF) targeting sardinella and horse mackerels and in the Pacific (SPRFMO) targeting jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*). Catches from African and Pacific waters are mainly landed outside the EU. Because of low quota or unfavourable fishing agreements, the interest of the Dutch fleet for fishing in these waters is presently low.

Aquaculture and coastal fisheries for bivalves

In the Wadden Sea and Easter Scheldt Estuary, blue mussels are cultured. Seed mussels are transported to locations where optimal conditions for growth are present and harvested 1-2 years later. The fishery for mussels is a form of aquaculture and is regulated by extensive national regulations.

The fishery for cockles is carried out by hand in the Wadden Sea and Scheldt Estuary. Only a few companies are involved in the fishery. A major mechanical fishery for cockles in coastal waters has been terminated in 2005.

The native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and the invasive Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) are cultured in the Scheldt Estuary. Only a few companies are involved in the culture.

On a smaller scale, a fishery for molluscs takes place in coastal waters. The fishery is directed to either spisula (*Spisula subtruncata*, *Spisula solida*) or to American jackknife clams (*Ensis directus*). The latter species is an invasive species which has expanded considerable. The fishery is regulated by licenses.

Other marine fisheries

There are a few small scale marine fisheries operating in coastal waters. These are: gill net fisheries for sole or sea bass, fisheries using static gears targeting lobster or eel and smelt fishing with seines.

III.B Economic variables (All Supra regions)

Text refers to all supra regions of relevance to The Netherlands.

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

In the Dutch fishing fleet two large groups of vessels can be distinguished besides the fleet segmentation of the DCF; commercially active and less active vessels (including those which are non-active). These two groups of vessels differ in cost structure and income and thus are considered separated target populations. Commercially active vessels carry out the fishery on a commercial basis add more than 95% to the commercial catches. The less active vessels participate occasionally or never in the sea fishery. A large part of these vessels merely exist because of administrative reasons (e.g. to store licences, capacity, sea days, ITQ). In order to distinguish between economically less active and active vessels we use a lower threshold for economic active vessels of 50,000 Euro on gross revenue.

The commercially active vessels are concentrated in the following segments:

- Beam trawlers: 18-24 m
- Beam trawlers: 24-40 m
- Beam trawlers : 40- m
- Demersal trawlers and seiners: 18-24 m
- Demersal trawlers and seiners: 24-40 m
- Pelagic trawlers: 40- m

Data from commercially active vessels was gathered directly by copying fishermen's accounts by three full time accountants who have access to the full accounting of the firms (all individual bills and invoices). The data of individual vessels is elaborated by week (trip) and fishery. This data was collected during the reference year. So data from 2015 has been collected during 2015. However, as final validation can only be done after the accounts are complete, validated data only become available 10 months after the reference year. Therefore, data collection of 2014 data is normally completed at the end of 2015 as is noted in the tables.

Data on the capital costs are retrieved from the financial accounts of fishing companies and only become available 18 months after the end of the reference year. Because of this financial data from the commercially active vessels were gathered from 2013 instead of 2014.

Data collection from the pelagic trawlers represents a specific case as these vessels are owned by three large companies who combine fishing and trade activities. Because of the small amount of vessels in this group, accounts of all vessels are taken into account. This also includes the accounts of vessels that have been active in other regions (see also clustering). These accounts become available in the year after the reference year.

In 2015 data collection from the commercially active vessels was delayed (see below for further explanation).

The commercially less-active vessels are mainly concentrated in the following segments

- Passive gear: 0-10 m
- Beam trawlers: 0-10 m
- Demersal trawlers: 0-10 m
- Passive gears - Drift and/or fixed netters 12-18 m and 18-24 m
- Polyvalent gear: 12-18 m

- Dredges 24-40 m

Data from commercially less-active vessels has been collected by means of a telephone and paper questionnaire. These questionnaires are carried out one year after the reference year, so data from 2014 for these fisheries has been collected in 2015 and final validated data for these segments was available end-2015, one year after the reference year.

LEI panel: target population

Detailed economic data have been collected in 2015 from 83 cutters and 11 industrial vessels, as specified in the national programme (Netherlands Directorate of Fisheries, 2002). A special segment is the fleet segment of pelagic trawlers over 40m, covering the Dutch pelagic trawler fleet. As this segment consists of only 3 companies, complete economic and catch information has been gathered.

The current panel consists of 83 vessels (approximately 30% of the total commercially active cutter fleet) and is stratified according to gear type and length. The economic detailed data are gathered by three accountants. In spring 2015 one of them became ill and passed away, leaving a considerable knowledge and capacity gap. From November onwards a new accountant has been hired, but this caused a considerable delay in the collection and processing of the data. Because of this the economic data from 19 vessels could not be completed before the end of the data call in February 2016. Although the number of vessels covered was lower than before, coverage of the segments concerned was still acceptable (18-41%) and extra care was taken to ensure representation. In spring 2016 the economic data of these vessels will completed.

As discussed in SGEGA 09-02, the panel selection meets the requirements of a Probability Sample Survey as the participants of the panel has been selected randomly and replacements of participants dropping out of the panel are also selected randomly. For each of the vessels economic data are collected on effort, catches, revenues, variable and fixed costs and financial position. The revenues and costs are collected for nine types of fishery in which the vessels can be involved. These types of fishery are: (1) pair trawling for herring, (2) otter trawl, (3) beam trawl, (4) pair trawl for demersal round fish, (5) shrimp trawl, (6) fishery for Nephrops, (7) gill net, (8) Danish seine, (9) twin rig and (10) others. As from 2012 onwards, innovative gears like pulse fishing and pulse wing fishing are also taken into account. In 2013’s AR it was shown that the panel stratification is representative for the Dutch fleet.

The segment of beam trawl vessel between 24 and 40 metres is highly heterogeneous, both in technical characteristics as well as in economic and fishing performance. This is mainly because 14 vessels longer than 24 metres are in fact euro cutters and thus hardly comparable to the other vessels in this segment. Therefore variability in this segment is large and the segment is stratified further based on the engine power as specified in the extended program, according to appendix IV of the EC regulation. The number of vessels in each of the two sub segments and the number of vessels included in the panel are given in the table below.

Number of commercially active vessels in the beam trawl segment from 24-40 from which economic information is gathered, together with population numbers

Length (m)	Fishing technique	Hp	Population	Panel
24-40	Beam trawl	<301	14	3
24-40	Beam trawl	>300	14	4

There were no deviations from the planned sample rate for the commercially active fleet.

Paper Questionnaire: target population

Information of the vessels that are not included in the population for the LEI panel (both economically less important fisheries - vessels using passive gears and dredges - and vessels using active gears which earn less than 50.000 euro per year) is gathered by carrying out a telephone and a paper questionnaire.

In order to increase response rates from the questionnaires, all owners of less active fishing vessels have been contacted by telephone to gather information about the activity level and main fishing activity. Besides the fishermen have been asked in what way they would like to participate in the paper questionnaire (by mail/e-mail or through a web-based questionnaire). Because of this, the response rate of the questionnaires has increased considerably over de last years.

The results of the questionnaires showed that within the group of vessels categorised as less active or inactive, 200 vessels were non-active. The other vessels could be categorised in 8 segments, of which the small vessels using passive gears was by far the most important.

Clustering

Table III.B.2 shows that the Dutch fishing fleet consists of a large group of very small segments: 19 segments count less than 10 vessels and 14 segments count even less than 5 vessels. With the exception of 1 demersal trawler and 5 dredgers, these are all segments with very limited income per vessel and, in combination with the low number of vessels, thus segments are of limited economic importance for the Dutch fishing sector (also stated as N in table III.B.2), except for the demersal trawlers > 24 meters (stated as S in table III.B.2). Therefor the segments have been clustered for both data collection and data reporting. Clustering has been done taking into account:

- Consistency of the clustering in the time series
- Similarity in cost structure (as far as possible clustering of passive gears and active gears)
- Based on length classes.

The resulting clustering is as follows (see also table III.B.2):

Two demersal trawlers > 40 m have been clustered with the demersal trawlers 24 – 40m, based on similarities in the cost structure (S in table III.B.2)

Four pelagic trawlers > 40 m fishing predominantly in other regions have been clustered with the pelagic trawlers fishing in EU waters, based on similarities in the cost structure (S in table III.B.2)

All vessels using active gears smaller than 12 meters have been clustered

All vessels using active gears 12 – 18 meters have been clustered

All vessels using passive gears 12 – 18 meters have been clustered

All vessels using passive gears 18 – 24 meters have been clustered

All vessels using passive and active gears above 24 m have been clustered.

This was mainly done because of similar cost structure in the underlying segments.

The resulting segments/clusters have more than 10 vessels except for the dredgers 24-40 meters. The size of this group has been fluctuating around 10 vessels in the past years, but has distinct features and is therefore kept separate (especially the larger dredgers). For most of the resulting segments the achieved data coverage of the economic data collection is > 20%. Only in case of the smaller segments coverage is less.

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

Different variables are collected from different sources and the data quality checks differed per source.

Information on catches and effort were retrieved from the official catch database (VIRIS). In order to obtain detailed data on landings according to market category, contact has been made with the different auctions and they have agreed to deliver detailed data on landings and prices per market category. Detailed data are available per market category from 2004 onwards.

Technical information on vessel size, engine power etc. was retrieved from the official vessel register. This is a complete census of the Dutch fleet and thus no estimations are necessary for the capacity indicators.

For the commercially active vessels, the price per capacity unit (PCU) is calculated based on a fixed amount per gross tonnage of the vessel and kWs of the engine. This amount is every year adjusted by an heavy machinery index. Two PCUs are calculated, one for vessels over 70bt and one for vessels below 70bt. 65% of the calculated capital value is attributed to value of the hull and 25% of the calculated capital value is attributed to the value of the engine. The PCU has been estimated with a linear regression model based on real sales prices. The hull is depreciated in 20 years, the engine in 10 years using a degressive model. In fisheries segments that make less extensive use of their equipment (shrimp fisheries, gillnetters etc.) the economic lifecycle is extended to 25 years for the hull and 15 years for the engine. These depreciation time frames are chosen based on expert knowledge of the fisheries segments. Besides a list of other tangible assets is kept for each vessel an these are depreciated linearly with 4, 8 and 12 years (depending on the type of asset) and the costs are incorporated in the gear costs or landing costs. For non-commercial vessels, the value of capital is based on the insurance value and depreciation is calculated linearly for the complete vessel.

The number of FTE’s are calculated based on the average number of crewmembers on the vessel and the number of sea days. The national threshold for one FTE is 1820 per annum.

Like stated before, economic data is collected either directly from the fishermen’s accounts or by paper questionnaires. The data quality differs between these two collection methods. As the fishing area of the Dutch vessels exceeds the borders of the regions specified in the EU regulation (level 3), even within one trip, data on the economic variables (income from subsidies, production costs, fixed costs, interest and the number of vessels) are not available on this aggregation level. Information on effort and catches is available on this aggregation level. Thus, the values of the required economic variables are estimated, based on the total value in the group and the relative amount of effort in each of the regions for both the commercially active and the commercially less active vessels.

LEI panel: data collected

From the vessels within the LEI panel information of over 200 highly detailed costs and income categories is collected. The table below gives an overview of these costs and incomes categories and shows how they are used to calculate the parameters defined in appendix XVIII of the DCF. Besides these, information on income from fisheries is gathered by species and all purchases of tangible assets are registered, classified in more than 50 different categories. All economic data are available electronically at this highly detailed level, so that changes in the DCF can be easily applied on both current and formerly collected data.

Investments are valuated, based on the actual purchase price whenever possible. In case the purchase price is not known insurance value is used as a proxy of the replacement value. If the insurance value is also unavailable, the value of the investment is estimated based on standards or expert knowledge. This last possibility, however, is only seldom used.

The engine and the hull of the vessel are written down exponentially, whereas all other assets are written down linearly. Based on this, depreciation is calculated.

For the calculation of the employment, full time employees are defined as employees who are normally joining the fishing operation (>70% of the fishing trips). In some instances the number of crew members is larger than the number of people working on board the vessel at any given trip, so that crewmembers get some days of. All of these crew members are defined as full-time employees.

Representativeness LEI panel

In 2011 the representativeness and the reliability of the sample was extensively tested using 2009 data. The research showed that the current fleet sample is reliable and representative when stratification is made in both fishing gear and vessel length. More information can be found in Turenhout et al (2011).

The representativeness and reliability of the panel will be tested every 5 years.

There was no deviation of the national program for the data gathered by the panel in 2013, either in sampling or in the variables collected. The precision levels of the variables were good to acceptable in all cases.

Data from pelagic trawlers

Data from pelagic trawlers are obtained from the company accounts. Specific attention should be given to the following:

Prices: Because the fishing companies combine fishing and trading activities, internal prices are used to calculated the wages of the crews and these prices are also used to estimate income to the fishing vessel operation.

Financial position: Because of the complicated company structure with numerous firms combining different activities it is impossible to assess the financial position of these companies. Because of this, the financial position has been assumed to be 50%.

Paper Questionnaire: data collected

For the vessels not included in the population for the LEI panel information was gathered by means of paper questionnaires. As the information could only be gathered after the end of the year, data were gathered from 2014. These data were available for the data requests by the commission in spring 2016.

Data gathered with the paper questionnaires is less extensive than data gathered through the LEI panel. Variables gathered included various costs (energy cost, repair cost, fixed cost, employment cost, other variable cost and fishing right cost) and income, investment and effort.

Because previous years resulted in a high level of non-response, questionnaires were sent out to the owners of all commercially less active vessels (in total approx. 360).

In general the overall response to the questionnaire was good (around 30%) and for all segments defined economic parameters could be estimated. However the targeted precision levels could not be attained. This had mainly two reasons:

- response was low for some of the specific requested parameters.
- due to the high variability in the answers, (mainly caused by high variability within the segments), the targeted precision levels could not be attained even in cases where coverage was more than 50%.

Because the variability within the segments for this part of the fleet is very high, higher precision levels were tried to be obtained by increasing the stratification level of the largest segment: passive gear 0-10m, This segment passive gear was further stratified in vessels fishing with gillnets and vessels fishing with other passive gear. The assumption was that the vessels fishing with gillnets would be active for a larger part of the year and thus provide a more homogenous group. These vessel owners were specifically targeted and send a specific questionnaire, furthermore the producers group of gillnet fishermen was involved to motivate members to return the questionnaire. The response rate in this specific group was about 35%, the same as the year before. The variability in this segment however was still quite high. Effort varied between 3 days at sea per vessel to over 100 days at sea per vessel, making it impossible to attain the target precision levels even with this increased stratification.

III.B.3 Actions to avoid deviations

In order to improve the response rates for the less active fishing vessels, communication with the fishermen has been intensified by means of telephone interviews in addition to the paper questionnaires. Around 60% of the owners of vessels have been contacted and asked about their fishing activities and their willingness to get involved in the survey. In addition, the possibility was given to submit the data via e-mail or via a web based questionnaire. This resulted in a higher response in different groups and in higher quality data. In 2016, also data for the inactive vessels will be gathered through the telephone questionnaire. This will hopefully increase the response rate for in active vessels and also allow for more resources (time and energy) for the collection of the economic data for the active vessels.

III.B. Economic variables (Other regions)

In 2014 four large pelagic vessel spent the majority of their time at sea outside the supra region of ICES and NAFO areas (in African and south American waters), and three other vessels spend part of their time fishing in these waters. Due to the small number of vessels fishing in the supra region 'Other Regions' it is not possible to report on any economic results for this region specifically due to confidentiality agreements. However data was collected and presented combined with the data on fishing activities from EU waters.

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

Data from all pelagic vessels was collected including the vessels fishing in other regions. Results are however attributed to the North Sea supra-region due to confidentiality agreements. This is in accordance with the NP.

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

See description of the data quality for the supra region of ICES and NAFO areas.

III.B.3 Actions to avoid deviations

There are no actions planned

III.C Métier-related variables (North Sea)

North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIId) and eastern Arctic (ICES areas I and II)

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

At present NLD sampling strategies in the North Sea are a mixture of metier based sampling and statistical sound sampling approach. Sampling of demersal and pelagic landings is based on a statistical sound approach in terms of random auction or direct representative sampling, while discard sampling is based on a metier approach.

The sampling objectives, targets and strategies are described in the NP 2014-2016 of NLD. Note that on request of the Commission this NP is rolled over from the period 2011-2013 without any changes. As a consequence, the objective for the sampling programmes in NLD carried out in 2015 remained unchanged. There are some deviations in the work carried out in 2015 from the sampling strategies as outlined by NLD in its NP.

Table III.C.1 lists all metiers for which fishing activities have been recorded during the reference period (2007-2008). The reference period corresponds to the NP 2014-2016 and is not updated in this AR because it was the basis for the NP carried out in 2015. The landings and effort information provided in this table are sensus data originating from logbooks records. The data on the value are based on sale slips records.

Table III.C.4 provides the sampling strategy applied by NLD in 2015. The achieved sampling is provided in table III.C.3. The achieved length sampling of catches, landings and discards by metier and species is given in table III.C.6.

Fishing activity as defined in Table III.C.4 does not necessarily match with metiers in Table III.C.3. For fishing activity ‘demersal fisheries’ no predefined targets are given at metier level. These metiers are reflected in Table III.C.3. Regarding sampling frames NL1 and NL2, 171 self-sampling trips and 10 observer trips are reported by metier. This adds up to a total of 181 trips which is within the range of a total of 170 trips as described in the sampling strategy for these sampling frames in Table III.C.4. Regarding the sampling frame NL9 (Table III.C.4), this refers to auction sampling of demersal fisheries. As the selection of fishboxes to sample is quasi-random (see section III.C.2 in the report). The PSU is site*time, metier is not of relevance in this situation. Table III.C.3 has been updated for sampling frame 9 as requested, however, this information suggests targeting metiers for sampling and this is not the case and the information is not of any relevance for evaluation as metiers were not the target unit. Regarding the sampling levels, see below.

Since 2009 a discard self-sampling programme is in place for the Dutch demersal fisheries in the North Sea. Within this programme a so-called reference fleet with protocol-instructed fishers collect discard samples according to a predefined schedule during their regular commercial operations throughout the year. The vessels participating in the reference fleet receive a financial compensation for the discard samples they bring on land. In 2015 the reference fleet consisted of 22 vessels covering 11 metiers, including the subdivision of TBB_DEF_70_99_0_0 into TBB_DEF_70_99_0_0 (≤300hp) and TBB_DEF_70_99_0_0 (>300hp). This subdivision is made as the spatial distribution differs between the two; only vessels with an engine power of <300 hp are allowed to fish in a marine protected area (“plaice box”) and the Dutch 12-mile Exclusive Economic Zone. As the metier composition of the reference fleet is representative of the metier composition of the Dutch demersal fleet, the sampled trips provide insight of the discard composition of the fleet. In order to discriminate between OTB_DEF_70_99_0_0 and

OTB_MCD_70_99_0_0, the OTB trips are classified based on landings of *Nephrops* per trip (i.e. when landings consist of ≥ 30% *Nephrops* then trip is classified as OTB_MCD_70_99_0_0, otherwise trip is classified as OTB_DEF_70_99_0_0). In addition to the self-sampling programme, 10 observer trips have been carried out in 2015, on board of self-sampling trips. These observer trips are used to fine-tune the sampling protocol and to validate the self-sampling data. An evaluation of the self-sampling programme through comparison of observations from self-sampling with the observer observations collected in 2009, 2010 and 2011 concluded that the self-sampling observations provide a representative estimate of discarding.

As in previous years the GNS metiers (GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0, GNS_DEF_90-99_0_0 and GNS_DEF_120-219_0_0) have been merged for (discard) sampling. The main reason for merging these metiers is that the vessels operating in these metiers are the same and it is often not in advance possible to target one of these metiers specifically for sampling. Cooperation with the Dutch gillnet fishery is difficult. In this metier 5 of the 10 planned trips were eventually monitored in 2015.

The pelagic fishery is carried out with large freezer vessel operating in several areas during one trip. The description of the sampling of the pelagic metier is included in the section North Atlantic.

As in earlier years, the planned number of trips to be sampled in the fish auction in 2015 was overshot (382 vs 110 planned). The planned number of 60 mentioned in the NP was not correct. This number should have read 110. However , sampling more trips doesn’t imply more visits to the auction. During the same visit, several vessels are sampled, thus overshooting the number of trips doesn’t result in higher costs, but does result in a wider spread over the sampling frame reflecting the supply at the auction.

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

The Dutch sampling design of the demersal landings was evaluated by WGCATCH in 2015. In short: The Dutch sampling design is stratified with sites * time being the PSU and fish box being the SSU when targeting fish. The PSUs are stratified by quarter and their selection is quasi-random. The SSUs are stratified by species and landing size category and their selection is quasi-random. Fish measurements by species are the TSU and their selection is random. The sampling design is the same for species which target is to obtain a length distribution or and age composition of the landed catch. Rare species, such are rays and skates are sampled opportunistic. WGCATCH considered that the design has a sound statistical approach. There is a small probability of bias because some minor fish actions are excluded from sampling.

Developments in the TBB_DEF_70-99_0_0 are the introduction of electric stimulation and hydro-dynamic beams (sum wings) replacing the traditional beam. These innovations may have changed catch composition compared to the traditional beam trawl. Also the level of discarding may be different. In order to avoid bias in discard estimates, discard sampling design of this metier (self-sampling) has tried to take account for the distribution of ‘different gears’ in this metier. However, this distribution is based on circumstantial information because the required gear information is not provided by log-books. This contributes to the uncertainty of the discard estimates provided for this metier.

Currently the budget for the discard sampling of the Dutch brown shrimp fishery (TBB_CRU_16_31_0_0) based on the assumption that trips are relatively short (i.e. 1-2 days). However, in practice we are observing a shift towards longer trips. As the budget is not sufficient to cover these extra observer days, short trips (i.e. 1-2 days) are selected. Consequently, there is a risk that the collected data are not representative for the entire Dutch brown shrimp fleet.

III.C.3 Actions to avoid deviations

Sampling of landings

- WGCATCH considers the potential small bias in sampling of landings acceptable. The present sampling design covers 85% of the total landings in the Netherlands. Covering all landings (all auctions) would lead to excessive extra costs. There is no need for action.

At sea sampling for discards

- For a number of years there are problems getting access to vessel operating GNS gears. The problem was related to claims of bycatches and mortality of harbour porpoises by this metier. In 2015, 50% of the planned trips were monitored. Even though the target of 10 trips was not reached in 2015, cooperation with this metier seems to have improved. This following publications that greys seals are the main cause of mortality source of harbour porpoises. There is no need for action.

III.C Métier-related variables (North Atlantic)

North Atlantic (ICES areas V-XIV and NAFO areas)

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

In the North Atlantic, NLD only operates pelagic metiers fishing for herring, mackerel, horse mackerel and blue whiting. In addition, occasionally Greater argentine catches are recorded and sampled. The fishing trips of this fleet are not restricted to a specific region or fishing ground but are following the distribution of the stocks spanning several regions and fishing grounds including those in the North Sea and the Eastern English Channel.

In previous years, the pelagic metiers OTM_SPF_32-69_0_0 and PTM_SPF_32-69_0_0, have been merged for discard sampling as these metiers share similar characteristics.

The sampling programme in the North Atlantic exists of an observer programme at sea on board of pelagic freezer trawlers (metier OTM_SPF_32-69_0_0) fishing in European waters and a self-sampling programme carried out by this fleet.

From 1 January 2015 the Dutch pelagic freezer trawlers (metier OTM_SPF_32-69_0_0) falls under the landing obligation. Consequently, from 2015 onwards concurrent samples of catches are taken on a haul-by-haul basis during the trips covered by observers, rather than concurrent samples of catches and discards on a haul basis prior to the introduction of the landing obligation. Furthermore, by-catches of cetaceans are recorded routinely during the trips in order to comply with EU legislation[2].

In addition, a self-sampling programme is providing frozen samples of the unsorted catch from different fishing grounds. The samples are collected and processed by IMARES. The self-sampling programme includes (Dutch owned) vessels with the German and UK flag.

The sampling objectives, targets and strategies and quantities in 2015 were unchanged compared to 2011-2013 and are described in the NP 2014-2016 of NLD.

Table III.C.4 provides the sampling strategy applied by NLD in 2015. The achieved sampling is provided in Table III.C.3. The achieved length sampling of catches and landings by metier and species is given in table III.C.6.

The programme proposed in the NP of 2015 was fully realised. The 12 observer trips planned in 2015 for the North Atlantic (ICES areas I-XII) were carried out, of which 3 trips only took place in area IV. The 12 trips included two trips onboard a French flagged vessel,two trips onboard a British flagged vessel and 1 trip onboard a German flagged vessel.

In addition, 55 trips were sampled by self-sampling. Each self-sampling trip contains samples of several species and often spans different fishing grounds. The planned number of self-sampling trips was 36. The higher achievement results from sampling pair trawlers, which typically serve shorter trips. Hence, to cover the expected fishing season, more trips are sampled to achieve similar coverage.

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

The data quality is considered to be good, as no end-users objections are received and full seasonal coverage is achieved. .

[2] COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 812/2004 of 26 April 2004 laying down measures concerning incidental catches of cetaceans in fisheries and amending Regulation (EC) No 88/98.

III.C.3 Actions to avoid deviations

No actions are required based on the 2015 achievements. Actions in 2016 will relate to further adjusting the sampling procedures taking into account the landing obligation.

III.C Métier-related variables (Other regions)

Outside North Atlantic and North Sea waters, the Dutch National programme includes sampling in CECAF and SPRFMO waters under “Other regions”.

The type of data collection is concurrent sampling for length composition of all species in the catch. In CECAF waters, the sampling is been carried out by observers from the Mauritanian institute (IMROP) on board of European pelagic trawlers all fishing in the metier OTM_SPF_>=40_0_0 on behalf of The Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Latvia, and Lithuania. The sampling was coordinated by subcontractor Corten Marine research (CMR). A description of the sampling programme is given in Annex 7 of the National Programme.

Subcontractor CMR also coordinates the sampling in SPFRMO waters on behalf of The Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Lithuania. As sampling in SPRFMO waters was not foreseen in the National Programme, a description of the sampling programme was provided by CMR and approved by the 2015 RCM LDF.

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

The sampling objectives, targets and strategies and quantities in 2015 were unchanged compared to 2013 and are described in the NP 2014-2016 of NLD.

Table III.C.4 provides the sampling strategy applied in 2015. The achieved sampling is provided in table III.C.3. The achieved length sampling of catches, landings and discards by metier and species is given in table III.C.6. The information on in these tables is also relevant to Poland (CECAF & SPRFMO waters), Germany (CECAF & SPRFMO waters), Latvia(CECAF waters) and Lithuania(CECAF & SPRFMO waters). These countries may refer in their Annual Reports to the Annual Report of the Netherlands for their achievements.

For CECAF: The programme proposed in the NP of 2015 was not realised. The total number of observer trips planned in 2015 was 12. The planned number was not reached due to delays in the regulations stemming from the Fisheries Partnership agreement. Once fishing opportunities were opened in December, access to the vessels is limited in some cases as vessels can’t cater for observer facilities as they don’t have space available, this hampers sampling opportunities. The spring season was short and no option was available to deploy observers.

For SPFRMO: 2 (long) trips were sampled, covering roughly 75% of the fishing season. No formal number of trips was presented in the NP as sampling was not foreseen at that time.

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

Basic data validation has been carried out. The data will be delivered to relevant end-users through the subcontractor.

III.C.3 Actions to avoid deviations

The multilateral agreement between NLD and the other countries in place for 2015 was an extension of the 2014 contract for CECAF waters. For 2015 and 2016 new agreements have been made for CECAF respectively SPRFMO area between the countries involved in this fishery

It should be kept in mind that the samples are taken from a non-randomly selected units from the population which may cause bias. The main reason for applying non random sampling is that in the recent past observers have been refused to board frequently. MS involved in the agreement have, again, been asked to take provisions to allow observers on all trips.

The issue regarding limited access to vessels in the CECAF area has been brought to the attention of the Commission and will be followed up in 2016 during the negotiations on the fisheries agreements in CECAF waters. The issue will also be discussed at the 2016 RCM LDF.

III.D Recreational fisheries (North Sea)

North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIId) and eastern Arctic ICES areas I and II)

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

NLD carries out a multiannual sampling programme covering all recreational angler fisheries in fresh and marine waters. The surveys are directed to cod and eel but also provide information on other species such as sharks (table III.D.1). As there is no licence system in NLD from which recreational fishermen can be identified, the programme consists of screening survey covering about 50.000 randomly selected households. The screening surveys were held in December 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015. These households were questioned on their participation in recreational fishery as part of a screening survey. This survey was subcontracted to TNS NIPO. Based on the results of this screening survey about 2000-2500 recreational fishermen have been selected to provide information on their recreational catches in a diary survey. These diary surveys ran between March 2010-2011, March 2012-2013 and March 2014-2015 and make use of logbooks.

The sampling programme is based on questionnaires supplemented with field measurements. As it has been set up now, the programme provides biannual estimates of the recreational catch by anglers of cod, eel and sharks but also of all other species in marine waters and fresh water. The sampling programme provides estimates of biomass and numbers of retained catches. Also the released and retained fraction of the catch is estimated in numbers. The results are published[3] and provided to relevant data users.

There were no deviations from the NP proposal. Also no derogation applies to the Netherlands.

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

The methodology used to obtain the estimates is quite unique and tailored to the Dutch situation where no public information on the activity of recreational fishery is available. The estimates show for some species large confidence intervals but fulfil the level 1 precision requirement for most species. Improving the precision may lead to disproportional increase of sampling costs and is therefore not considered at this stage.

To calculate retained biomass from numbers ideally the length frequencies from the onsite survey were used. For most common marine species this was no problem, however, for more rare species the length recorded by the logbook holders were used.

To obtain onsite length data for retained eel remains difficult as in almost all waters retaining eel is forbidden. In other words most of the eel has been illegally retained. Furthermore, eel fishermen are widely scattered over the Dutch inland and coastal waters and are difficult to intercept during an onsite program. These factors make it

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[3] Hammen, T. van der, and Martin de Graaf. 2012. Recreational fishery: catch estimate of cod (*Gadus morhua*) and eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). Report number C014/12

Hammen, T. van der, and M. de Graaf 2013. Recreational fishery in the Netherlands: demographics and catch estimates in marine and fresh water. Report number C147/13

Hammen, T. van der, and M. de Graaf. 2015. Recreational fisheries in the Netherlands: analyses of the 2012-2013 online logbook survey, 2013 online screening survey and 2013 random digit dialling screening survey. Report number C042/15

Hammen T. van der, de Graaf M., Lyle J.M. 2015. Estimating catches of marine and freshwater recreational fisheries in the Netherlands using an online panel survey. ICES Journal of Marine Science; doi:10.1093/icesjms/fsv190 difficult to collect onsite length frequency data for eel. To calculate eel biomass from numbers we used the length frequency from the logbooks. The fact the recreational anglers in inland waters are widely scattered makes it difficult to obtain onsite length data for any of the freshwater fish species. Until recently the recreational data collection was restricted to the angling population because legislation was in force which forbids recreation fishing with set nets. However, a recreational fishery with passive gears (gill nets) has been allowed again along certain parts of the Dutch coast. The catches of this type of recreational fishery have been included as a pilot in the 2014 and 2016 diary survey.

III.D.3 Actions to avoid deviations

NLD has increased the number of onsite samplings in 2012 , 2014 and 2016 in order to obtain better estimates of the length composition of the catch.

NLD included the sampling of recreational fisheries with set nets as a pilot in 2014-2015 and 2016-2017 Diary survey.

III.E Stock-related variables (North Sea)

North Sea (ICES areas IIIa, IV and VIId) and eastern Arctic ICES areas I and II)

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

Table III.E.1 provides and overview of the stocks listed in Appendix VII of Commission Decision 2010/93/EU. The table indicates for which stocks biological parameters are being collected in the Dutch NP.

Table III.E.2 provides an overview of which variables are being collected for each stock and the frequency of sampling.

The sampling targets and achievements of the biological stock related variables are presented in table III.E.3.

As the NP 2015 was a roll over from previous years, the sampling targets have remained unchanged compared to 2014 (as based on NP 2011-2013). Targets were set in line with the sampled average of the last years.

In general, the sampling targets set in the NP proposal of the Netherlands were met. However, in some cases, under or oversampling occurred. As sampling for length, weight, sex & maturity at age usually is performed on the same individual, the mentioned deviations are applicable to all these parameters, except if stated otherwise.

Comparing the achievements to the original plans is hampered by limiting the choice in datasources for the report. For the 2015 report, data sources (like discard sampling and auction sampling) are combined. Hence the achievement rate is often not realistic as the plan was based on e.g. auction sampling only.

Eel samples were collected between May and August 2015. Roughly 1 sample per 10 t was sampled. Samples were spatially distributed based on their contribution to the total eel landings in 2015. A sample consisted of measuring the length of 150-200 specimens and collecting 2-4 eels per 10 cm size class for further analysis in the laboratory (length, weight, sex, parasites, growth). As in earlier years, the target of 1500 fish (otoliths) set in the NP for age sampling is not realistic since no age-based assessment is possible. About fifty otoliths from several locations were selected for aging to study spatial differences in growth.

The targets set for *Clupea harengus* in the individual areas were not met. However, the overall achieved sampling for *Clupea harengus* for all areas combined, reached 99% coverage. This is due to the aim to follow the fishery and not to stick to the predefined areas as this would lead to insufficient coverage of the actual fisheries (if at all possible to sample in a region with limited fisheries).

The target set for *Nephrops norvegicus* was not met as sampling reached 51% completion. As for the last years, due to changes in processing of *Nephrops* on board fishing vessels, one market category was not landed during a large part of the year. Despite this change, the number of individuals sampled per category remained unchanged, resulting in a lower number of individuals per sample, ultimately resulting in the virtual shortfall in numbers of individuals sampled.

As in other years, the targets set for *Platichthus flesus* and *Limanda limanda* were overshot by 100%, while *Microstomus kitt* was overshot by 160%. Due to changes in sorting behaviour in the fish auctions (compared to the time of writing the original 2011-2013 plan), the sampling procedure has been adapted. These species are now landed in 2 size categories and the sampling intensity follows these categories to ensure complete coverage of the length range landed at the auction. Consequently the targets are overshot. The coverages as described in table III.E.3, is even higher as the achieved sampling of the discard programme has been included, while no sampling target was initially set.

The targets set for *Scomber scombrus* in the various areas were not met. However, the achieved sampling for all areas combined, met the planned numbers exactly. The shift in areas is a result of following the fishing activities, which reflects in shifting the origin of the samples.

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

In previous years, CVs of the sampling by stock were estimated and presented in table III.E.3. As an indication of the quality of the sampling, the reporting of these CVs is no longer required in the new format of the table. Pending the development of international quality indicators, no further development has taken place to define new quality indicators. Also, as sampling methodologies are stable over time, given the good quality performance over the last years and the continuation of sampling and data check quality procedures, drastic deviations in data quality are very unlikely. However, within the relevant frameworks, the Netherlands cooperated with other MS to continuously improve quality assurance.

It is noted that, in order to be able to calculate biological parameters at the stock level, often external information is needed which is not included in the sampling of one MS. For instance abundance ratios in different areas to weigh the observations. This information is often not available or available from other sources. The calculation of the precision of the parameter at the stock level will then have to take account of the quality of the external information.

III.E.3 Actions to avoid deviations

The sampling of biological parameters on pelagic species follows the spatial distribution of the fisheries. As these fisheries may shift from area to area without adhering to the proposed sampling area, the obtained number of samples deviates by definition from any spatial planning. The most import issue is here to cover the catches in the actual fishing areas by samples, which is achieved through the applied sampling strategy. As in previous years, additional effort will be made to collect samples of stocks from fishing grounds which are poorly covered by Dutch fishing effort. This will be done by requesting vessels to take additional samples from these areas. Further action is not necessary.

For *Nephrops*, no changes will be made to the sampling strategy, as current procedures cover the remaining categories sufficiently.

III.E Stock-related variables (North Atlantic)

North Atlantic (ICES areas V-XIV and NAFO areas)

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

Table III.E.1 provides and overview of the stocks listed in Appendix VII of Commission Decision 2010/93/EU. The table indicates for which stocks biological parameters are being collected in the Dutch NP.

Table III.E.2 provides an overview of which variables are being collected for each stock and the frequency of sampling.

The sampling targets and achievements of the biological stock related variables are presented in table III.E.3.

As the NP 2015 was a roll over from previous years, the sampling targets have remained unchanged compared to 2013. No targets were given for biological observations obtained during surveys and commercial at sea (discard trips). The number of observations from these sources is difficult to plan. However, these observations are sometimes more relevant and supplementary to those obtained in the fish market.

In general, the sampling targets set in the NP proposal of the Netherlands were met, except for *Trachurus trachurus*.In some cases, under or oversampling occurred. As sampling for length, weight, sex & maturity at age usually is performed on the same individual, the mentioned deviations are applicable to all these parameters, except if stated otherwise.

Due to changes in fishery behaviour, the fishery for *Trachurus trachurus,* was smaller than usual. This resulted in an 83% achievement rate compared to the plan. Despite this low achievement, no impact on the assessmet of the stock is expected as the seasonal and temporal coverage of the fishery was maintained.

As listed in the North Sea section, the spatial distribution of the samples of *Clupea harengus* and *Scombrus scomber* doesn't match the intended distribution. However, the sampling intensity remains at a sufficient level overall and follows the spatial distribution of the fisheries.

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

The comments given in section III.E.2 for the region North Sea and Eastern Arctic apply also to the North Atlantic region. These comments are

III.E.4 Actions to avoid deviations

Some of the deviations are unavoidable. The sampling of biological parameters on pelagic species follows the spatial distribution of the fisheries. As these fisheries may shift from area to area without adhering to the proposed sampling area, the obtained number of samples deviates by definition from any spatial planning. The most important issue is to cover the catches in the actual fishing areas by samples, which is achieved through the applied sampling strategy. As in previous years, additional effort will be made to collect samples of stocks from fishing grounds which are poorly covered by Dutch fishing effort. This will be done by requesting vessels to take additional samples from these areas. On top of that, new sampling methodologies (direct access through the storagehouses) will be tested in 2016.

III.E Stock-related variables (Other Regions)

Outside North Atlantic and North Sea waters, the Dutch National programme includes sampling in CECAF and SPRFMO waters under “Other regions”.

Following a multilateral agreement between the Netherlands and Poland, Germany, Latvia, and Lithuania (Annex 1), a common sampling programme was implemented in the CECAF waters for the on board of European pelagic trawlers. The sampling programme is part of the Dutch NP and was coordinated by subcontractor Corten Marine research (CMR). A description of the sampling programme is given in Annex 7 of the NP. The sampling is carried out by the Mauritanian institute IMROP and coordinated by subcontractor Corten Marine research (CMR).

Subcontractor CMR also coordinates the sampling in SPFRMO waters on behalf of The Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Lithuania. As sampling in SPRFMO waters was not foreseen in the National Programme, a description of the sampling programme is included in this report as Annex 3.

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

Table III.E.1 provides and overview of the stocks listed in Appendix VII of Commission Decision 2010/93/EU. The table indicates for which stocks biological parameters are being collected in the Dutch NP.

Table III.E.2 provides an overview of which variables are being collected for each stock and the frequency of sampling.

The sampling targets and achievements of the biological stock related variables are presented in table III.E.3.

The sampling targets were based on the assumption of monitoring the fishery during the entire year. However, no fishery took place in 2015 due to the late arrangement of the Fishery Agreements between the EU and Mauritania.

For SPFRMO: 2 (long) trips were sampled, covering roughly 75% of the fishing season. No formal number of trips was presented in the NP as sampling was not foreseen at that time.

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

No evaluation of the data quality has been carried out so far. The evaluation is not part of the multilateral agreement.

Also, no common data quality indicators are established are the moment. However, basic quality control procedures on data entry and data validation are in place to ensure the provision of validated data where relevant.

III.E.3 Actions to avoid deviations

No actions are required for 2016. Sampling will only be carried out when vessels from countries under the multilateral agreement deploy a fishery in this area. Which they did, as a result sampling in both CECAF and SPRFMO water alreay commenced at the time of wrting this report.

The existing multilateral agreements expire after 2016. The RCM LDF needs to decide in 2016 on a follow up of the multilateral agreement.

III.F. Transversal variables

III.F.1. Capacity

III.F.1.1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

Data on capacity was available from the fleet register and has been solely obtained from this data source. Data was available for the entire Dutch fleet so no estimation was required. Data collection was according to the national program and there were no deviations from the national programme. See also table III.F.1.

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

Full information on capacity indicators was available through the fleet register. Therefore only this information source has been used. The fleet registry covered the entire fleet. There were no deviations from the national program. See also table III.F.1.

III.F.1.3 Actions to avoid deviations

There are no deviations.

III.F.2 Effort

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

Effort data are available through the VIRIS logbook database. In addition to the EC regulation on logbooks, all vessels below 10m have to register all fishing trips and landings (also <50 kg) in their logbooks. Therefore the VIRIS logbook database covers the complete Dutch fleet and effort does not need to be estimated.

The following effort variables were however not available as these are not mentioned on the logbook:

- Number of rigs
- Number of nets and length
- Number of hooks and number of lines
- Number of traps
- Soaking time

For the commercial fleet these variables were not collected. For the non-commercial fleet some questions where added to the paper questionnaire about these variables. The results however were not representative for the entire sector and therefore not reported on. This however was not a deviation from the NP as derogation was requested and granted for these variables. See also table III.F.1.

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

Effort data is based on exhaustive information and quality checks on the data were done by the General Inspection Service. There were no deviations from the NP.

III.F.2.3 Actions to avoid deviations

There were no deviations.

III.F.3 Landings

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

Landings data are available at the trip level through the VIRIS logbook database. In addition to the EC regulation on logbooks, all vessels below 10m have to register all fishing trips and landings (also <50 kg) in their logbooks. Therefore the VIRIS logbook database covers the complete Dutch fleet.

The data on landings are checked in the VIRIS data system. Data on prices are obtained directly from fish auctions and are checked with company accounts.

For the pelagic trawlers first sale prices are not available because the companies combine fishing and trading activities. Therefore, internal prices which are used to calculated the wages of the crews are also used to calculate the value of landings.

III.F.3.2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Price and value data are available at a trip level from sales notes for almost all fishing trips. In case complete data on landings are available from logbooks, the total value of the landings is simply calculated by adding up the landings for all trips in one metier and for one fleet segment. In case price and value data of a specific metier/segment combination is not available for all trips, total value of landings will be estimated based on the total landings and the average price per species and month in this metier/segment combination. Thus it will be assumed that the average price of the fish is the same for trips with and without price information.

Average annual prices will be based on weighted averages of all landings.

Conversion factors are given in table III.F.2 and will be updated in case of modifications.

III.F.3.3 Actions to avoid deviations

There were no deviations.

III.G Research surveys at sea

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

The technical achievements of the research surveys at sea are given in table III.G.1. The number of samples taken for biological parameters is given in table III.E.3. The planned number in the NP is a combined figure for commercial and survey samples. For the surveys the current number of biological samples in Table III.E.3 is based on long term information on biological sampling. The sampling for biological parameters in the surveys is stratified by area (survey specific) and length class (cm or 0.5 cm). Sampling for maturity only takes place in the spawning season, following the recommendations of WKMSSPDF2, WKMSTB[4]: 'Macroscopic maturity staging is a reliable method when used two months before the spawning season to assess maturity. Outside this period the macroscopic method can easily lead to misidentification and histological sections should be used to correctly identify the maturity stage. It is therefore recommended that maturity staging of fish only takes place in this period, unless it can be supported with histological sections.'

Most surveys listed in the NP were carried out without or minor issues. There are two modifications worth mentioning here:

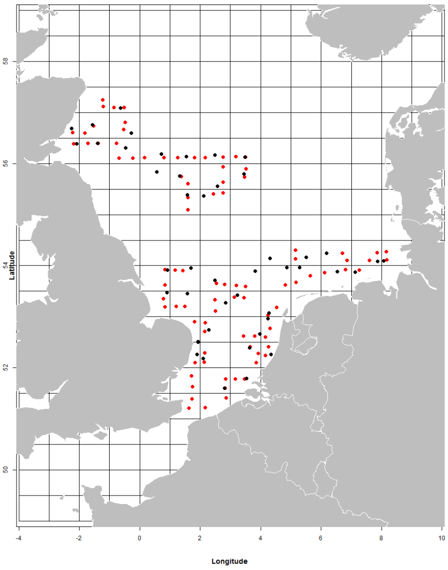
- The triannual egg survey in the North Sea that was scheduled for 2014 has been carried out in 2015 by NLD. The numbers of plankton hauls is larger than originally planned as the survey was up to 2011 carried out by NLD and Norway in May, but Norway canceled its participation in 2014 (also in the future). In consultation with the Dutch Ministry and the EC it was decided that NLD would carry out the entire survey in 2014 with the Tridens with extra ship time and an adjusted station grid. However, after one survey week, the Tridens broke down. No suitable vessel was available at short notice. Given the critical timing of the survey, it was decided, after consultation of ICES and the EC, to postpone the survey to 2015.
- The origin of the planned number of fish hauls in the NLD NS mackerel egg survey is unclear. Fish hauls are however only carried out to collect fish for fecundity samples. When sufficient fish is collected, no additional fish hauls are needed.
- Due to the refit of Tridens in January/February and October-December 2015, the following changes applied to the NLD surveys at sea:
    - NLD herring larvae surveys on fishing grounds IV and VIId in January and December have been carried out using a different vessel (RV Zirfaea). This vessel has a lower speed than Tridens so more ship days would be needed to complete the full programme. However, due to a mechanical breakdown in December the trip had to be shortened by 1.5 days, resulting in a lower sampling achievement rate, although all ship days have been used.

[4] ICES. 2012. Report of the Workshop2 on Sexual Maturity Staging of sole, plaice, dab and flounder, 9-13 January 2012, Oostende, Belgium. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:50. 64 pp.

ICES. 2012. Report of the Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Turbot and Brill (WKMSTB 2012), 5–9 March 2012, Ijmuiden, Netherlands. ICES 2012/ACOM:56. 48 pp.

- NLD IBTS has been carried out by Cefas Endeavour, and the number of stations was fit to the number of shipdays available. The remainder of the stations (8) was re-divided over other countries by IBTSWG.

Maps



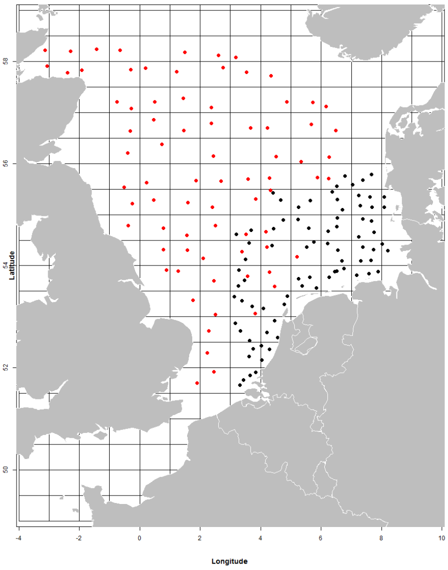
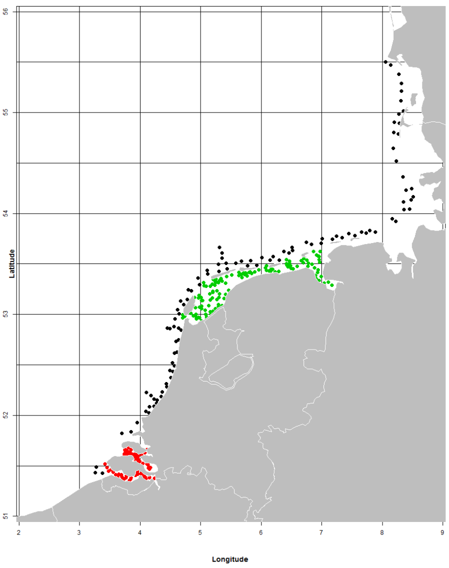


Fig 1(left). Sampling grid Dutch International Bottom Trawl Survey 2015. Red: MIK (plankton) hauls; Black: GOV (fish) hauls

Fig 2 (right). Sampling grid Dutch Beam Trawl Survey 2015. Red: RV Tridens; Black: RV Isis



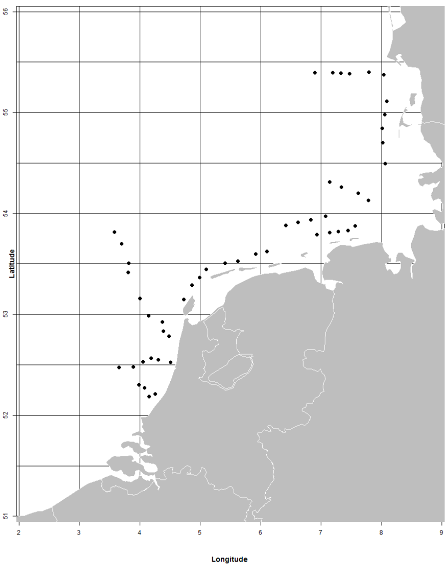


Fig 3 (left). Sampling grid Demersal Young Fish Survey 2015. Red: RV Schollevaar; Black: RV Isis; Green: RV Stern

Fig 4 (right). Sampling grid Sole Net Survey 2015. Black: RV Isis

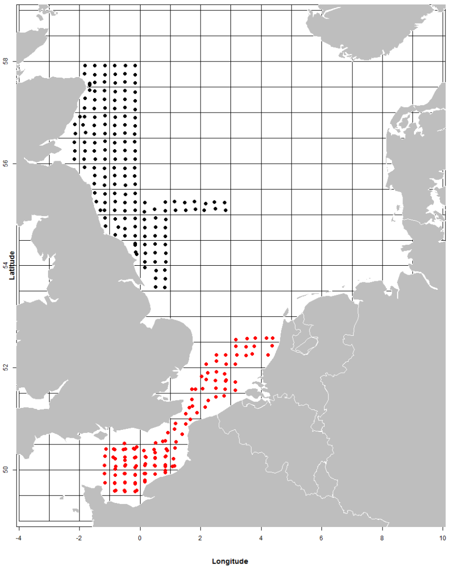
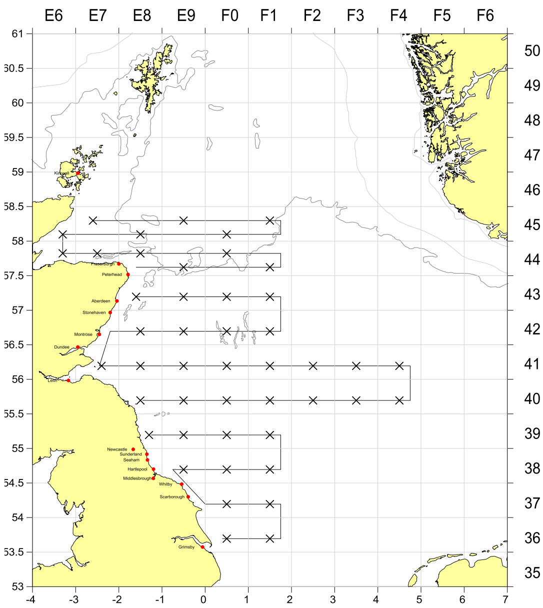


Fig 5. Sampling grid Herring Larvae Survey 2015. Red: RV Zirfaea; Black: RV Tridens.



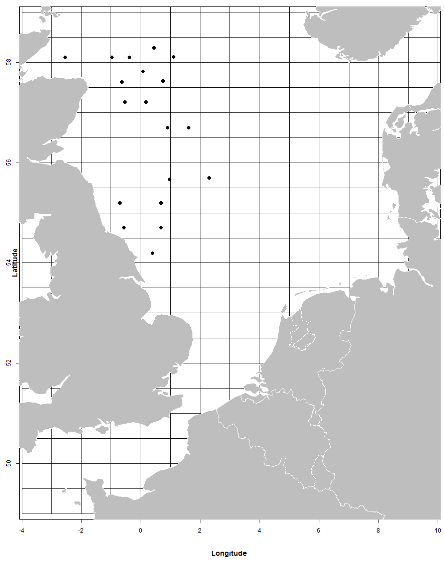
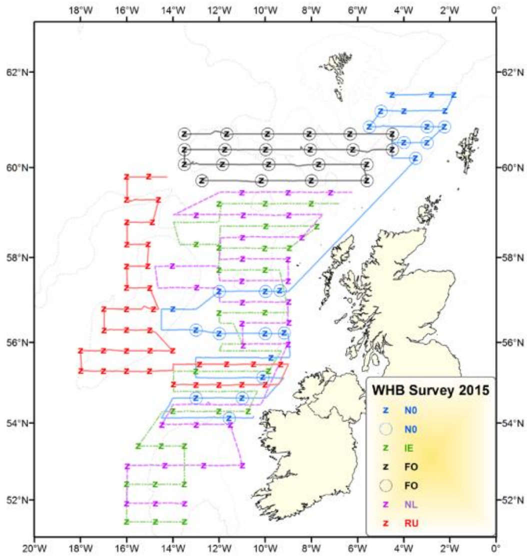


Fig 6a. (left) Sampling grid NS Herring Acoustic Survey 2015. Acoustic transects (black line) and hydrography stations (black X).

Fig 6b (right) Sampling grid NS Herring Acoustic Survey 2015. Fish hauls.



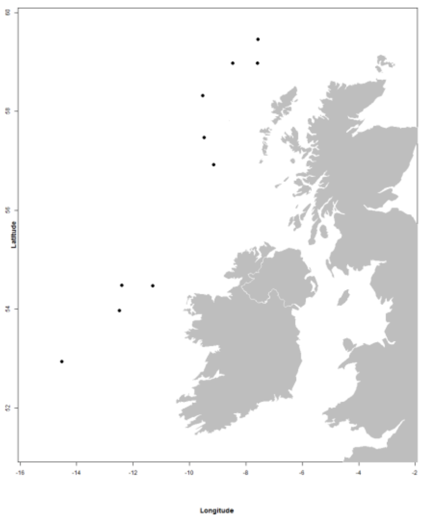


Fig 7a. Sampling grid International Blue Whiting Survey 2015. Purple line: acoustic transect covered by Netherlands; purple ‘Z’: hydrography stations.

Fig 7b. Fish hauls International Blue Whiting Survey 2015.

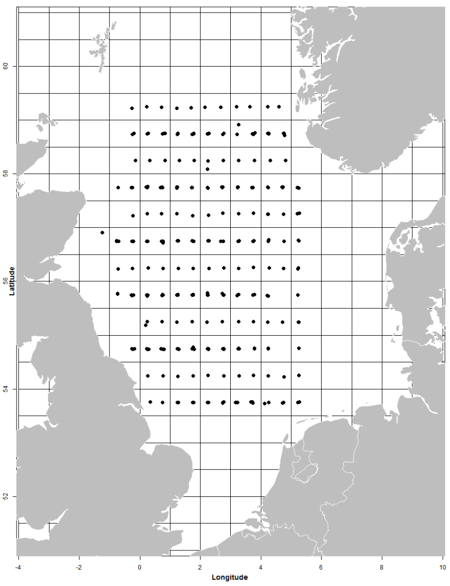


Fig 8. Mackerel egg survey: plankton hauls

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

The deviations of the planned programme are expected to have minor to no influence on the quality of the survey indices of 2015. See also III.G.1-Achievements.

III.G.3 Actions to avoid deviations

Weather conditions

Dealing with weather conditions is part of research at sea. The planning of the sampling is always based on an ‘average’ year. During ‘good’ years it is important to communicate (inter)nationally if other ships need extra sampling to cover their programme. In ‘bad’ years it is highly recommended to communicate as soon as possible on the potential deviations that will occur. Since on all Dutch vessels involved in internationally arranged surveys internet is available (although on board RV Isis limited), communication is fairly easy.

Further actions are not necessary.

Technical issues

One cannot fully prevent technical problems during surveys at sea. Spare parts and sampling devices (e.g. CTD) are taken on board by MS whenever possible and this should prevent a stand-still in case of minor technical problems. Despite those measures, it is always possible that a survey has to be stopped in case of more severe technical problems.

Further actions are not necessary.

Withdrawal of non-EU survey partners (Norway)

Norway announced in 2014 that it had decided not to participate in the 2014 mackerel survey in the North Sea. A similar incident occurred in 2013 when Norway redrew its participation shortly before the start of the international blue whiting survey. This happened despite the fact that Norway had committed to carry out its traditional part earlier in the ICES planning groups (WGMEGS and WGIPS). Reasons for the Norwegian decision were changes in national priorities.

The unilateral decisions by Norwegian have serious consequences for the remaining countries in terms of international coordination, extra costs for vessel time and processing and analyses of data. There may be consequences to the quality of the survey as well, if the survey cannot be completed.

In order to reduce the risk that the survey cannot be completed, it is important that all participants do their utmost best to cover their designated part. Flexibility and coordination is required to cope with vessel failure and weather conditions to reduce the risk that the important areas may not be covered by the survey. It is likely that withdrawal of one country in a very late stage results in insufficient coverage and invalid survey indices making the effort of the other countries useless.

International measures reducing the risk that this will happen –especially if this concerns non-EU countries- would be welcome.

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

IV.A Collection of economic data for the aquaculture

IV.A.1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

The aquaculture sector in the Netherlands consists of three main components:

- The mussel sector
- The oyster sector
- The land based aquaculture sector.

For each of these sectors economic data is collected.

For the mussel and oyster sector data is collected through a panel. For the mussel sector the panel covers about 20% of the population. There were no deviations from the NP proposal for the mussel sector. For the oyster sector around 25% of all firms are covered. The collection of data the land-based aquaculture was more problematic. In contrary to the fisheries sector, the aquaculture sector is relatively data poor. Only for the mussel culture, reliable data exists on the total production from the mussel auction in Yerseke. Data on the total production of land based aquaculture is available from Eurostat, based on figures provided by Statistics Netherlands and the Ministry of Agriculture Nature conservation and Food safety. However these data show quite some inconsistencies. From this comparison it seems that the Eurostat definition under NACE Code 05.02: “Fish Farming” does not include all aquaculture firms. Thus the data collection of these sectors solely depends on data collection from firms. LEI started to collect data about the aquaculture sector in the year 2005. Through contacts within this relatively small sector and its product organisations (PO mussel culture, Dutch Oyster Association, Dutch Fish Farmers Association NEVEVI, Dutch Fish Product Board), since that time LEI knows fairly accurately how many firms are operating in the sector. The closedown of activities from the Dutch Fish Product Board for the aquaculture sector has made this task more challenging. From 2014 onwards the collection of data from the oyster sector and the land based aquaculture sector proved to be increasingly difficult. Therefore a lot of effort was put in the data collection to get a better overview of these two sectors in 2015.

In the oyster sector enquiries, interviews and an intensive cooperation between LEI, Dutch Oyster Association and oyster fishermen led to a good overview of the oyster production in the Netherlands. Where in 2014 only from 2 companies financial accounts could be obtained and it was hard to find replacements, in 2015 three new companies (in total 5 companies) were found to provide financial accounts to collect economic data of this sector.

For both the oyster sector and the mussel the time lag in the collection of economic data is two years as indicated in the National Programme. This is because the economic data is based on financial accounts that only become available 18 months after the reference year. Therefore the 2015 program covered 2013 data. For most of the companies the financial year covers the period from July–June. As the majority of the production (> 80%) takes place from July-December, the economic results of the whole season are presented as the data of the first year.

In previous years, it was already experienced that land based aquaculture in the Netherlands is a relatively small (37 farms in 2014), reluctant, fragmented, highly competitive and dynamic sector. In order to obtain information on the economic variables the following activities were carried out:

- Two meetings were held with representatives of the Dutch association of aquaculturists (NeVeVi).

- All aquculturists were approached individually both by mail and by phone to ask permission to use economic accounts.
- Four key companies were visited to discuss the delivery of economic data.

All these efforts were in vain. Only information on production volume and value level could be obtained. This information was gathered from a desk study and information from the Dutch aquaculture association NEVEVI. Around 2/3rd of the companies farm European eel or catfish. Important reasons for the reluctant attitude in the sector can be found in bad experiences with governmental/knowledge institutes, which distorted competition by granting subsidies and a ban for eel product in the Dutch Retail) and the idea that sharing financial information in a small sector will create problems with confidentiality. Moreover, both the eel and catfish aquaculture sector are dominated by one large company, that produces a major part of the sector total (for eel more than 50%). Because of this imbalance, economic data on costs and earnings are easily attributed to a single company which strengthens the reluctance of the large companies to deliver data. As a result data about the economic performance of the land-based aquaculture sector is missing for 2013. Data on turbot and trout ongrowing was not collected because of the low number of companies (total four companies).

IV.A.2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

The total value of the economic variables is estimated through different aggregation procedures for each of these sectors:

- Mussel segment: as the total production is available here gross value of production and variable production costs are aggregated according to the production. Fixed costs are aggregated based on the number of vessels.
- Oyster segment: as opposed to the mussel segment there does not exist a statutory duty of sale by auction for oysters. Total production volumes are assessed by LEI. LEI makes use of a panel of oyster companies from which the annual financial accounts are analysed
- Land based fish farming segment: In 2015 the response rate for the economic data for land based aquaculture was zero. Only information about the population size, production volumes and values became available. ..

IV.A.3 Follow-up of Regional and international recommendations

No recommendations were done at the North Sea RCM and PGECON with regard to the economic data collection of the fishing fleet. No initiatives have been taken to coordinate the national programme with other MS.

IV.A.4 Actions to avoid deviations

In 2016 the Netherlands will restrict effort for data collection for landbased aquaculture to the aquaculture of eel and will seek possibilities to oblige companies to provide economic data.

IV.B Collection of data concerning the processing industry

Data on fish processing was compiled by LEI from a number of sources. The European Commission requested data from only fish processing and no data collection on fish wholesaling.

IV.B.1 Achievements: results and deviation from NP proposal

LEI Collects data from several resources: SN business statistics, Business statistics collected by Chamber of Commerce, landings statistics, statistics of international trade. The financial account provided by the Chamber of Commerce and the SN database have been directly used to estimate the variables. Other data sources have been used to cross check the results.

Due to reasons of confidentiality at the national statistical office Statistic Netherlands (SN) it was not possible to present meta data for the four different segments of enterprises. Only data for two segments (enterprises < 50 employees and enterprises of 50 or more employees) have been collected.

LEI collects data on employment and economic performance of the processing sector and fish wholesaling by means of a 5-annual survey (questionnaire). This survey was conducted in 2010. Results from the survey 2014-2015 have become available (Beukers, 2015). There were no deviations from the national programme.

SN Business statistics

Economic data on fish processing and wholesaling businesses is available in a structural business statistics database kept by the national statistical office Statistic Netherlands (SN). The database is updated annually, with a 1.5 year delay before official figures are released. Definitions of variables comply broadly with Commission Regulation (EC) No 2700/98. LEI has access to a set of anonymous micro-data. The SN database contains, among others, data on the following variables:

Income (Turnover):

Turnover comprises the totals invoiced by units in the sector during the reference period, and this corresponds to market sales of goods or services supplied to third parties. Turnover includes all duties and taxes on the goods or services invoiced with the exception of the VAT invoiced by the unit vis-à-vis its customer and other similar deductible taxes directly linked to turnover.

Production costs include:

- Wages and salaries of staff: defined as the total remuneration, in cash or in kind, payable by an employer to an employee (regular and temporary employees as well as home workers) in return for work done by the latter during the reference period. Personnel costs also include taxes and employees' social security contributions retained by processing units as well as the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions.
- Purchases of goods and services include the value of all goods and services purchased during the accounting period for resale or consumption in the production process. This includes:
    - Raw materials (including purchases for resale, changes of stocks)
    - Energy costs
- Other operational costs include:
    - Packaging

  - Payments for agency workers
  - Costs of selling
  - Other operating costs: e.g.: postal and telecom, consultancy payments.
- Fixed costs include costs linked to the depreciation of buildings and equipment (payments for maintenance and repair, leasing payments), and financial costs.
- Employment (number of persons employed and FTEs)

Business statistics collected by Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce provides a Register of individual business. The register includes data on financial position (share of own capital) and investment (asset), for all businesses. The financial data are obtained from this source.

IV.B.2 Data quality: results and deviation from NP proposal

Data checks were done internally by the Central Bureau of Statistics Netherlands.

IV.B.3 Actions to avoid deviations

No deviations.

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

V.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

The data required are collected in other modules or are available from other sources. The indicators 1-4 listed in Commission Decision 2010/93/EC Appendix XIII of the Commission Decision require data on species abundance and length distribution by species from fishery independent research surveys. These data has been collected through the annual surveys carried out by the Netherlands. Table V.1 lists the information collected during the sampling year.

VMS positions (indicators 5-8) are available for all vessels which are subject to the obligation of having VMS equipment on board. With regard to the confidentiality of the VMS data there still is a conflict between national legislation and DCF legislation. VMS data has been made available by IMARES for research purpose under certain conditions.

Catch composition (indicator 8) of the landings is available for all metiers. Discard data are available for all metiers which are subject to discard sampling. These include all major metiers operating under the flag of the Netherlands.

The data collection through the LEI panel allows for the direct calculation fuel costs (Indicator 9) per quarter and metier. Estimation of the total costs for fuel in each metier are based on total effort (from logbooks) and fuel costs per sea day (from panel data).

Numerous activities, regarding the analyses of data collected under the DCF, have been carried out in 2015. One of the major activities is the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the development of indicators of Good Environmental Status (GES). In particular, NLD contributed to the analyses and further development to GES for Descriptor 3: *'Populations of all commercially exploited fish and shellfish are within safe biological limits, exhibiting a population age and size distribution that is indicative of a healthy stock'*. Also NLD participated in relevant workshops on this descriptor and provided a chair to WKGMSFDD3-II.

V.2 Actions to avoid deviations

There are no deviations.

VI. Module for management and use of the data

VI.1 Achievements: Results and deviation from NP proposal

Transfer and use of data

NLD has provided sets of data to support scientific analysis needed to advise fisheries management. This includes information on catches and effort by fleet segment, parameters for assessment purposes or other scientific analysis such as number-at-age, weight-at-age and maturity-at-age. Data have been submitted to relevant ICES governed assessment groups, to relevant STECF expert groups and RCM's. Furthermore, NLD has provided data to other end user if requested. An overview of the data transferred by NLD is given in table VI.1.

Transmission from secondary sources such as ICES InterCatch and DATRAS to other users is not included in this table. Most of the data has been aggregated and exchanged in the format defined by the user. Survey data are also kept in RDBs together with the survey data from other countries hosted at ICES or various national institutes. In some cases these RDBs hold primary data. In other cases they contain aggregated data. Data for all surveys, for which an international database exist, have been transmitted to these RDBs.

Management of the data

NLD has developed standard protocols to collect and process data for most routine data collections. Manuals have been developed for all surveys, market sampling, discard sampling and age determination describing in detail the instructions how to carry out the data collection. The manuals are frequently updated when routines change. A manual for data collection in recreational fisheries is under development.

Biological data are stored in databases using two data entry applications. The standard data entry application (named Billie Turf) runs on a PC environment and is used in the laboratory and on board of research and commercial vessels. A "light" version of the standard data entry program Billie (named Libbie) runs on a tablet and is used at auctions. The data entry applications include some checking of parameter name and values of parameters within acceptable ranges. Further checking of the quality of the data is done in the submission process to the destiny database.

National databases

Three relational databases are maintained for storing fishery related data, VISSTAT, FRISBE and ARTIS. VISSTAT and FRISBE are based at IMARES. ARTIS is operated at LEI. The databases contain only primary data. Only raw (so no aggregated) data are kept in these databases.

The standard procedures for operating these databases have been maintained in 2015. These procedures are described in the NP 2009-2010. There were no technical problems with the databases.

VISSTAT contains information on the fishery, mainly obtained from external sources (log-books, sale slips, VMS etc.). Data in this database has been regularly supplemented with actual information for the year 2015. There is often a few months delay between the collection of the data and the submission to VISSTAT. Action has been continued to build up a historical time series by including data from earlier years. VISSTAT presently holds information for the years 1990 to 2015 (partly 2016).

FRISBE contains biological information from the metier sampling, biological parameters, and survey and discard data. Data from 2015 sampling activities have been collected and entered offline using standardised input software, checked using standard procedures, and imported in the database soon after the sampling (surveys and onboard discard sampling), or at regular intervals (metier and discard self-sampling).

All economic data are held in databases at LEI. The data of the active vessels are stored in a central object orientated database (ARTIS). ARTIS was developed at LEI for the collection and analysis of all its economic data. Data for the less active and inactive vessels are stored in SPSS data files. Data from the following years will be added routinely to ARTIS. All aggregated data for the DRC are stored in an ACCESS database which is accessible for the commission by means of a system of web services. In august 2015 a number of inconsistencies in the data delivered for the economic data call and the resulting AER draft text were detected by LEI personnel. These inconsistencies were due to maintenance problems in the data processing and aggregation procedures. The working group chair and the European Commission were noticed instantly and ad hoc corrections were done to ensure consistency. From September 2015 to February 2015 a thorough review of all data processing and aggregation procedures has been carried out and procedures have been updated and upgraded. This resulted in the timely delivery of high quality data for the economic data call in February 2015.

Data requests by end-users are administrated in a separate database “FIDAREQ”.

Regional data bases

Limited progress was made during 2015 in the further development of the Regional Data Base (FishFrame RDB) which holds data for the Baltic, North Sea and East Atlantic and the North Atlantic Region. Support was given by NLD to meetings of the Steering Committee (SCRDB, Copenhagen) and a meeting of a workshop in Sète (WKRDB) developing an RDB data format for design based sampling and estimation.

VI.2 Actions to avoid deviations

Not relevant

VII List of acronyms and abbreviations

acronym/abbreviations	abbreviation of
ACCESS	Microsoft database
ALK	age-length key
AR	Annual Report
ARTIS	Database with economic data maintained by LEI
BTS	Beam Trawl Survey
CECAF	Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries
CEFAS	Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Lowestoft UK)
CFP	Common Fishery Policy
CMR	Corten Marine Research
COST	Common Open Source Tool
CR	Commission Regulation
CV	Coefficient of variation
CVO	Centre for Fisheries Research (Netherlands)
DATRAS	ICES Database with survey data
DCR	Data Collection Regulation
DCF	Data Collection Framework (successor of DCR from 2009 onwards)
DEU	Germany
DG MARE	Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission
DIG	ICES Data and Information Group
DNK	Denmark
DTU-Aqua	National Institute of Aquatic Resources of the Technical University of Denmark
EC	European Commission
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ELVV	Department of Ministry of Economic Affairs: European Argiculture Policy, Fisheries and Foodsafety
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	European Statistical Office
EWG	Expert Working Group
EZ	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
FIDAREQ	Database administrating data requests
FRISBE	Database with biological data maintained by IMARES
GBR	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
GER	Germany
GES	Good Enviromenal Status descriptors
GNS	Gear code: Gill net
GOV	IBTS standard gear
HAWG	ICES Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62ºN
HP	engine power expressed in horse power
IBTS	International Bottom Trawl Survey

IBTSWG	International Bottom Trawl Survey Working Group
ICES	International Council for Exploration of the Sea
IMARES	Institute for Marine Resources & Ecosystem Studies, Wageningen UR
IMROP	Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota
JFATB	Joint Session of the ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour [WGFTFB] and the Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LEI	Institute of Agricultural Economics
LM	Liaison Meeting
LTU	Lithuania
LVA	Latvia
MS	Member State of the European Union
MCD	Mixed crustacean and Demersal fish target composition
MSFD	Marine Strategy Framework Directive
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NA	North Atlantic
NLD	The Netherlands
NP	National Data Collection Programme
OTB	gear code for otter bottom trawl
OTM	gear code for otter midwater trawl
PCU	price per Capacity Unit
PGCCDBS	ICES Planning Group on Commercial Catch, Discards and Biological Sampling
PGECON	Planning Group for Economic Issues
PGMED	Planning Group for the Mediterranean
PGRFS	ICES Planning Group on Recreational Fishery Surveys
POL	Poland
PTM	gear code for pair trawl
RCM	Regional Coordination Meeting
RCM LDF	RCM Long distance Fisheries
RCM NA	RCM North Atlantic
RCM NS&EA	RCM North Sea and Eastern Arctic
RCM Med&BS	RCM Mediterranean and Black Sea
RCM Baltic	RCM Baltic Sea
RDB	Regional Data Base
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RV	Research Vessel
SC RDB	Steering Group Regional Data Base
SGELECTRA	ICES Study Group on Electrical Trawling
SGRN	Subgroup on Research Needs and Data Collection (subgroup from STECF)
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SN	national statistical office Statistic Netherlands

SPF	small pelagic fish
SPRFMO	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation
SPSS	Software package for statistical analyses
SSC	gear code for Scottish Seine
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
TBB	Gear code: Twin Beam Trawl
TBS	Gear code: Beam Trawl Shrimp
TNS NIPO	Dutch research organization specialized in market research
UK	United Kingdom
VAT	Value Added Tax
VIRIS	Visserij Registratie en Informatie Systeem (Database with logbook entries in the Netherlands, maintained by EZ)
VISSTAT	Dutch data base with (non-biological) data on fisheries
VMS	Satellite based Vessel Monitoring System
vTI	Heinrich von Thünen-institute, Germany
WGALES	ICES Working Group on Atlantic Fish Larvae and Eggs Surveys
WGBEAM	ICES Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys
WGBYC	ICES Working Group on Bycatch of Protected Species Fishing Behaviour
WGCATCH	ICES Working Group on Commercial Catches Sampling
WGCHAIRS	Annual Meeting of Advisory ICES Working Group Chairs
WGCRAN	ICES Working Group on Crangon Fisheries and Life History
WGECO	ICES Working Group on the Ecosystem Effects of Fishing Activities
WGEEL	EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eel
WGEF	ICES Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes
WGEGGS	ICES Working Group on North Sea Cod and Plaice Egg Surveys in the North Sea
WGFAST	ICES Working Group on Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology
WGFTFB	ICES-FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behaviour
WGISUR	ICES Working Group on Integrating Surveys for the Ecosystem Approach
WGIPS	ICES Working Group of International Pelagic Surveys
WGMEGS	ICES Working Group on Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Egg Surveys
WGMG	ICES Working Group on Methods of Fish Stock Assessments
WGMIXFISH	ICES Working Group on Mixed Fisheries Advice for the North Sea
WGNEW	ICES Working Group on new MoU species
WGNEPS	ICES Workig Group on Nephrops Surveys

WGNSSK	ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak
WGRFS	ICES Working Group on Recreational Fishery Surveys
WGSAM	ICES Working Group on Multispecies Assessment Methods
WGWIDE	ICES Working Group on Widely Distributed Stocks (consists of parts of former WGNPBW and WGMHSA)
WKARDAB2	Workshop on Age reading of Dab (*Limanda limanda*)
WKFATHOM	Workshop on Egg staging, Fecundity and Atresia in Horse Mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) and mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*)
WKGMSFDD3-II	Workshop on guidance for the review of MSFD decision descriptor 3 – commercial fish and shellfish II
WKIELD	Workshop on the ICES Egg and Larval Database
WKMSMAC2	Workshop on Maturity Staging of Mackerel and Horse Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus* and *Trachurus trachurus*)
WKMSSPDF2	Workshop2 on Sexual Maturity Staging of sole, plaice, dab and flounder
WKMSTB	Workshop on Sexual Maturity Staging of Turbot and Brill
WKRDB	ICES Workshop to develop the RDB data format for design based sampling and estimation with particular emphasis on population data

VIII. Comments, suggestions and reflections

Comments to the report

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Comments to the tables

- The pre-defined lists referring to RFMO/RFO/IO are not consistent with the guidelines. MS used the pre-defined lists. E.g. guidelines definition 'IO: ICES', drop-down list table 'ICES'.
- The pre-defined lists in Table III.E.2 (columns A and C) did not provide the correct or incomplete information to fill in the sheet. MS put in the values as mentioned in the guidelines.

Other comments

- NLD requests to make the LM recommendations available for all MSs well before the submission deadline for AR. LM 2014 report states that 'The LM considers that recommendations on DCF issues from STECF and other relevant groups (e.g. PGMed, PGECON) should also be included in the ICES database. The LM agreed, however, that only those recommendations that have been approved by the LM should enter the database. The Commission informed LM members that it will contract a person to compile all recommendations approved by the LM by early 2015 so that MS can use this compilation when preparing their Annual Reports for 2014.'.
  The recommendations agreed upon by LM 2014 are however not mentioned in the ICES recommendations database.
- NLD requests to reconsider the deadline of 31 May for submission of the AR. Almost all data requests for 2015 and data analyses in international working groups took and will take place in the first two quarters of the year. This causes a high work peak in this period and problems in resource management to produce these data timely. In addition, in the same period, data need to be processed for the production of the AR. This increases the risk of not being able timely to comply with all requests. NLD therefore proposes to defer the deadline for the submission of this report to later in the year (e.g. August)
- In response to the comments on the Annual Report 2014, The Netherlands provided a revised version of the AR 2014 by September 2015. At the time of writing the AR 2015, no response to the adapted AR 2014 has been received. Hence, the AR 2015 contains similar descriptions and explanations as the revised AR 2014. The Netherlands would have preferred to incorporate the final findings on the AR 2014 in its 2015 report. The Netherlands requests to produce the final response to an annual report, prior to the production of the report covering the following year.

IX. References

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X. Annexes

Annex 1 Bilateral Agreements

Bilateral Agreement between The Netherlands (Centre for Fisheries Research) and Germany (Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, vTI) for the collection of length and age samples in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EU

Agreement:

Pelagic freezer trawlers fishing on herring, blue whiting, mackerel and horse mackerel, and beam trawlers fishing on plaice and sole under the German register, which land for first sale into The Netherlands, will be sampled as part of the German National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008). The eventual additional sampling costs will be covered within the German National Sampling Programme 2011-2013.

Description of sampling:

The sampling will be for length and age of discards and landings, sampling will be carried out in accordance with the German National Sampling Programme.

Sampling intensity:

Levels and coverage of sampling will be as agreed at the annual meeting of RCM North Sea & Eastern Arctic.

Data responsibility:

Germany is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. Germany will provide the required data for the species that are requested by the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and the data for the additional species to The Netherlands as and when requested.

Contact persons:

In The Netherlands (CVO): Sieto Verver: sieto.verver@wur.nl

In Germany (vTI-SF): Jens Ulleweit: jens.ulleweit@vti.bund.de

Signatures:

For The Netherlands (CVO)	For Germany (vTI)
Sieto Verver	Dr. Christoph Stransky
Dpt. Head Centre for Fisheries Research	German National Correspondent

Date: 24 March 2010

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

Agreement:

(1) Landings and discards by Anglo-Dutch vessels fishing on the UK register, which land for first sale into the Netherlands, will be sampled as part of the Netherlands National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008). This agreement builds on the practice which has been already adopted and carried out by the Netherlands since 2000. The eventual additional sampling costs will be covered within the Netherlands National Sampling Programme from 2011 onwards.

(2) Scallops landed by Dutch vessels fishing for Scallops in area VII which land for first sale in the UK will be sampled for biological parameters as part of the UK National Programme from 2011 onwards. The eventual additional sampling costs will be covered within the UK National Sampling Programme from 2011 onwards.

(3) The Netherlands holds the obligation to sample bass for biological parameters triennially. The age reading of these samples will be carried out by CEFAS. This agreement builds on the practice which has been already adopted and carried out by the UK since 2006

(4) Landings and discards by Anglo-Dutch vessels fishing on the UK register, participating in metier OTM_SPF>=40_0_0 in the CECAF region, will be sampled as part of the Netherlands National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008) for 2012 and 2013.

Description of sampling:

(1) The sampling will be for length and age of discards and landings, sampling will be carried out in accordance with the Netherlands National Sampling Programme.

(2) The sampling will carried out in accordance with the UK National Sampling Programme

(3) Not relevant

(4) The sampling will be for length and age of discards and landings, sampling will be carried out in accordance with the Netherlands National Sampling Programme.

Sampling Intensity: (1) & (2) Levels and coverage as agreed at the annual meeting of RCM NS&EA and NA. (4) Levels and coverage as agreed at the annual meeting of RCM LDF

Data responsibility:

(1) The Netherlands is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. The Netherlands will provide the required data for the species that are requested by the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and the data for the additional species to the UK as and when requested.

(2) The UK is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. The UK will provide the required data for the species that are requested by the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and the data for the additional species to the Netherlands as and when requested.

(3) Not relevant.

(4) The Netherlands is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. The Netherlands will provide the required data for the species that are requested by the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and the data for the additional species to the UK as and when requested

Contact persons:
In The Netherlands: Sieto Verver (sieto.verver@wur.nl)
In UK: Steve Warnes (steve.warnes@cefas.co.uk)

Signatures:

For CEFAS	For CVO
....	....
Carl O'Brien	Sieto Verver
Defra Chief Fisheries Science Adviser	Dpt. Head Centre for Fisheries Research
CEFAS	CVO
Date: 12-10-2011	Date: 12-10-2011

Bilateral Agreement between the Netherlands (Centre for Fisheries Research) and France (DPMA) for the collection of length and age samples in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EU.

Additional information:

RCM North Sea and Eastern Arctic (2008) recommended that The Netherlands and France should establish a bilateral agreement on the sampling of the landing French trawlers landing into the Netherlands. These trawlers are operated by a Dutch company, but sail under the French flag. As the vessel fly the French flag and are selected for sampling within the French National Programme, France holds the obligation to sample these vessels. But, as France doesn't have access to the majority of the landings, The Netherlands will take over this responsibility.

The Netherlands holds the obligation to sample 120 Red Mullet per year in the North Sea for biological parameters. As France is taking the majority of the landings in IV and VIId, the Dutch samples are of minimum relevance. However, these samples can be taken over by France.

Agreement:

(1) Landings and discards by French-Dutch vessels fishing on the French register, which land for first sale into the Netherlands, will be sampled as part of the Netherlands National Programme under the requirements of the EC Data Collection Framework (199/2008. The eventual additional sampling costs will be covered within the Netherlands National Sampling Programme from 2011 onwards.

(2) France will sample an additional 120 individuals of Red Mullet (*Mullus surmuletus)* per year to replace the Dutch samples.

Description of sampling:

(1) The sampling will be for length and age of discards and landings, sampling will be carried out in accordance with the Netherlands National Sampling Programme.

(2) The sampling will be done for biological variables following the French standard sampling protocol and procedures.

Sampling Intensity:

(1) Levels and coverage as agreed at the annual meeting of RCM NS&EA and NA and in compliance with the Dutch sampling scheme.

(2) Levels and coverage in compliance with the French sampling scheme.

Data responsibility:

(1) The Netherlands is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework. The Netherlands will provide the required data for the species that are requested by the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and the data for the additional species to France as and when requested.

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

Contact persons:

In The Netherlands: Sieto Verver (sieto.verver@wur.nl)
In France: Patrice Chasset (Patrice.chasset@agriculture.gouv.fr)

Signatures:

For CVO	For DPMA
Sieto Verver Dpt. Head Centre for Fisheries Research CVO	Patrice Chasset National Correspondent MAAP/DPMA/MAS
Date: 01/06/2010	Date: 01/06/2010

Bilateral Agreement between the Netherlands (Centre for Fisheries Research) and Denmark (DTU-Aqua) for the collection of length and age samples in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) 199/2008, and its Commission Decision 2010/93/EU.

Additional information:

The Netherlands discussed with Denmark sampling of Dutch vessels fishing in IIIa which land in Denmark. Only a few vessels in a short time-frame land into Denmark and on top of this, the majority of the landings is loaded into trucks for transport to The Netherlands. This practice hampers sampling activities. Denmark doesn't have access to the landings and therefore can't sample the métiers. The involved métiers are TBB_DEM_90-119_0_0 and TBB_DEM_>=120_0_0. As The Netherlands don't have access to the landings as well, The Netherlands will ask for derogation of sampling these métiers.

Despite this, the obligation to sample IIIa plaice for biological parameters remains. To cover this, The Netherlands and Denmark agree on the following:

Agreement:

(1) The Netherlands hold the obligation to sample plaice from IIIa for biological parameters. Denmark will take over this obligation by taking extra samples, additional to the Danish sampling scheme to cover for the Dutch landings, accounting 1273t (average 2007-2008). These samples are added to the normal Danish sampling schedule.
(2) Denmarks hold the obligation to sample plaice and sole from IV for biological parameters. The Netherlands will take over this obligation by taking extra samples, additional to the Dutch sampling scheme to cover for the Danish landings, accounting 240t (2009) of sole and 580t (2009) of plaice. These samples are added to the normal Dutch sampling schedule.

Description of sampling:

(1) The sampling of the biological variables will be carried out in accordance with the Danish National Sampling Programme. Denmark will describe the additional samples in its National Programme and Technical Report.
(2) The sampling of the biological variables will be carried out in accordance with the Dutch National Sampling Programme. The Netherlands will describe the additional samples in its National Programme and Technical Report.

Sampling Intensity:

(1) Sampling intensity and strategy are in full compliance with the Danish sampling schedule and the samples are treated as normal Danish samples.

(2) Sampling intensity and strategy are in full compliance with the Dutch sampling schedule and the samples are treated as normal Dutch samples.

Data responsibility:

(1) Denmark is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework.
(2) The Netherlands is responsible for submitting the data to the relevant ICES Expert Groups, and to the EC under the requirements of its Data Collection Framework.

Contact persons:

In The Netherlands: Sieto Verver (sieto.verver@wur.nl)
In Denmark: Marie Storr-Paulsen (msp@dtu-aqua.dk)

Signatures:

For CVO	For DTU-Aqua
Sieto Verver	Jørgen Dalskov
Dpt. Head Centre for Fisheries Research	National Correspondent
CVO	DTU-Aqua
Date: 3/6/2010	Date: 3/6/2010

Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania,The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters

Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland agree to co-operate in the biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters in 2012 and 2013. This agreement is in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation 199/2008 and Commission Decision 2010/93/EU.

Having regard the above mentioned Regulations and Decisions and the project description "Biological Data Collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF water in compliance with the DCF" as discussed at the Regional Coordination Meeting for Long Distance Fisheries in Slovenia, May 2011, the following details apply to this agreement:

Partners
The following institutes are considered as partner within this agreement:

Member State	Institute	Contact person
Germany	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (vTI)	C. Stransky
Latvia	Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and environment	G. Kornilovs
Lithuania	The Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	V. Grušauskas
The Netherlands	Centre for Fisheries Research (CVO)	F.A. van Beek
Poland	Sea Fisheries Institute	I. Wojcik

Coordination
The Netherlands coordinate the execution of this multi-lateral agreement. The Netherlands will contract independent contractor 'Corten Marine Research' (CMR) as agent between The Netherlands and IMROP, the Mauritanian Fisheries Research Institute. CMR will hire Mauritanian observers from IMROP to carry out the actual sampling. CMR and IMROP will have an agreement in which the mutual obligations will be formalized; among others that only the additional costs for this specific task will be priced.

Sampling protocol
Biological sampling is carried on board fishing vessels in CECAF area by Mauritanian observers. These observers are instructed by CMR and follow the sampling protocol as described in "Biological Data Collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters in compliance with the DCF", version 31-05-2011.

Data responsibility
CMR is responsible for data collection, quality control and delivery to the CECAF pelagic working group of all data collected under this agreement. CMR also reports all data to CVO and CVO will distribute the data to Partners.

Costs
The total costs for the sampling programme amount € 64,768,= per year. This sampling programme is eligible for 50% funding under the current DCF. The Netherlands will include the total costs in its Annual Cost Statement. The remaining 50% of the costs (€ 32,384,=) is paid for by all partners following a key based on average catches in 2006-2010.

AMENDMENT TO:

Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters

The Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters, as signed by all countries named in June 2011 (See annex) is amended as follows from 1st January 2014 onwards:

Term:

The multi-lateral agreement is extended beyond its initial end date of 31 December 2013. The new end date is 31 December 2015.

Costs:

The cost share for each country of the total costs follows a key based on the share in average landings in 2008-2012. This results in the following share by country and the 50% co-financing by the Commission.

Total Landings 2008-2012 (RCM LDF Data) and cost shares by partners

Partner	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	average 2008-2012	Landings share	Cost share	
Netherlands	83,630	68,019	92,980	55,044	34,926	66,920	**22.95%**	€	**7,432**
Germany	0	0	20,650	37,088	14,582	14,464	**4.96%**	€	**1,606**
Poland	17,709	46,287	14,605	60,177	29,178	33,591	**11.52%**	€	**3,731**
Lithuania	120,100	124,480	116,040	121,000	44,133	105,151	**36.06%**	€	**11,678**
Latvia	68,410	81,283	87,237	89,667	30,723	71,464	**24.51%**	€	**7,937**
TOTAL	*289,849*	*320,069*	*331,512*	*362,976*	*153,542*	*291,590*	*100.00%*	€	***32,384***
							EU-cofinacing (50%, through The Netherlands)	€	**32,384**
							Total	€	**64,768**

Co-financing is commissioned through the Dutch EU-cofinancing for Data Collection. Should the co-financing percentage change, the contribution by the partners will be matched accordingly (either increased or decreased).

AMENDMENT TO:

Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters

April 2015

This Amendment adapts the Amendment dated December 2014 to extend the effective time-frame for this multi-lateral agreement and to reflect budget modifications for 2016. This amendment commences 1st of January 2016.

The Multi-lateral agreement between Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in CECAF waters, as signed by all Member States concerned in June 2011, and amended in December 2014, is amended as follows from 1st January 2016 onwards:

Term:

The multi-lateral agreement is extended until 31 December 2016.

Costs:

The cost share of the total costs for 2016 for each Member State follows a key based on the share in average landings in 2008-2012, as previously agreed. Following EMFF co-funding rules, co-funding of the national expenses shall be covered through the National EMFF budget of each respective Member State.

Cost shares are maximum amounts, in case of lower costs, deductions might apply in line with the relative shares.

Total Landings 2008-2012 (RCM LDF Data) and cost shares by partners

Partner	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	average 2008-2012	Landings share	Cost share per year
Germany	0	0	20,650	37,088	14,582	14,464	**4.96%**	€ 3,358
Latvia	68,410	81,283	87,237	89,667	30,723	71,464	**24.51%**	€ 16,593
Lithuania	120,100	124,480	116,040	121,000	44,133	105,151	**36.06%**	€ 24,413
Netherlands	83,630	68,019	92,980	55,044	34,926	66,920	**22.95%**	€ 15,537
Poland	17,709	46,287	14,605	60,177	29,178	33,591	**11.52%**	€ 7,799
TOTAL	*289,849*	*320,069*	*331,512*	*362,976*	*153,542*	*291,590*	*100.00%*	€ 67,700

Multi-lateral agreement between the responsible institutions of Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland for biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in SPRFMO waters

Germany, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Poland agree to co-operate in the biological data collection of pelagic fisheries in SPRMFO waters in 2015 and 2016. This agreement is in accordance with EC Regulation 665/2008, laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation 199/2008.

Having regard the above mentioned Regulation, the project proposal including budget forecast "Biological Data Collection of pelagic fisheries in SPRFMO waters in compliance with the DCF" (Annex 1) as well as the "Observer Manual for biological data collection in SPRFMO waters" (Annex 2), discussed at the Ad Hoc Regional Coordination Meeting for Long Distance Fisheries in Hamburg, April 21st , 2015, the following details apply to this agreement:

Partners
The following Member States are considered as partner within this agreement:

Member State	Institute	Contact person
Germany	Thünen Institute (TI)	Christoph Stransky (National Correspondent)
Lithuania	Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	Indre Sidlauskiene (Director)
The Netherlands	Centre for Fisheries Research (CVO)	Sieto Verver (Head CVO)
Poland	National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI)	Ireneusz Wójcik (Head of Department, DCF Coordinator)

Coordination
The Netherlands coordinates the execution of this multi-lateral agreement. The Netherlands will contract independent contractor 'Corten Marine Research' (CMR) to carry out the actual work.

Sampling protocol
Biological sampling is carried out on board EU fishing vessels in SPRFMO area by CMR observers. These observers are instructed by CMR and follow the sampling protocol as described in "Observer Manual for biological data collection in SPRFMO waters", based on data collection requirements set out in "***CMM 3.02,*** *Conservation and Management Measure on Standards for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data (SPRFMO-COMM-03 (2015)* ***ANNEX K****)".*

Data responsibility
CMR is responsible for data collection, quality control and delivery to the SPRFMO scientific working group of all data collected under this agreement. CMR also reports all data to CVO and CVO will distribute the data to Partners upon request.

Costs
The total costs for the sampling programme is estimated at the amount of € 81,705,= ex VAT per year. This sampling programme is eligible for co-funding under the national EMFF budget of the respective partners.

The total costs are shared by the partners following the relative shares in fishing opportunities in the SPRMFO area as set in the *Council Regulation (EU) 2015/523 of 25 March 2015 amending Regulations (EU) No 43/2014 and (EU) 2015/104 as regards certain fishing opportunities.* Cost shares are maximum amounts, in case of lower costs, deductions might apply in line with the relative shares. The yearly costs by partner are shown in the following table:

Partner	Share (%)	Contribution
Germany	25.15	€ 20.548
Lithuania	17.50	€ 14.300
The Netherlands	27.26	€ 22.273
Poland	30.09	€ 24.584
	Total contribution	***€ 81.705***

The Netherlands sends each Partner an invoice per year, to which standard financial conditions apply.

Access to vessels

On top of *Council Regulation 199/2008* (Section 2, Article 11), each Partner ensures access to its fleet for the observers under this agreement. Denied access to vessels does not exempt a Partner from legal or financial obligations.

Term

This agreement commences retrospectively on January 1, 2015. With exception of financial obligations, this agreement ends on December 31, 2016. This agreement, with exception of financial obligations, is subject to dissolve prior to this date in case the pelagic fishery in the SPRMFO area by EU vessels closes.

Signatures

Member State	Name	Function	Signature
Thünen Institute (TI) Germany	Christoph Stransky	National Correspondent	C. Stransky Date: 21 April 2015
Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (FS) Lithuania	Indre Sidlauskiene	Director	Date: 22 June 2015
Centre for Fisheries Research The Netherlands	Sieto Verver	Head Centre for Fisheries Research	Date: 21 April 2015
National Marine Fisheries Research Institute (NMFRI) Poland	Ireneusz Wójcik	Head of Department (NMFRI), DCF Coordinator	Date: 21 April 2015

<u>Annex 1</u>: *"Biological Data Collection of pelagic fisheries in SPRFMO waters in compliance with the DCF".*

<u>Annex 2</u>: *"Observer Manual for biological data collection in SPRFMO waters".*

Annex 2 Subcontracts

Copies of the subcontracts between IMARES and its subcontractors are in the National Programme.