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**Our Ref: H.4/DM/av**

3 November 2023

Subject: Data call in support of WKBHMB

Dear Reader,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call to support the ICES benchmark on horse mackerel and boarfish (WKBHMB).

The data will be used by ICES expert groups contributing to the advisory process addressing requests for advice on fisheries.

For EU Member States, this data call is under Council Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy and regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 May 2017 and Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021.

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: [Advice@ices.dk](mailto:Advice@ices.dk).

For questions on data submission, please contact: [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk).

Sincerely,



Lotte Worsøe Clausen  
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# Data call: Data submission for ICES benchmark on horse mackerel and boarfish (WKBHMB)

## 1. Scope of the Data call

ICES Member Countries with fisheries in the area of interest are requested to provide landings and discards (catches), sample information and/or survey data for horse mackerel, *Trachurus trachurus*, and boarfish, *Capros aper*, in the northeast Atlantic.

## 2. Rationale

The data requested will be used by the ICES benchmark workshop on horse mackerel and boarfish (WKBHMB) in 2024. The end products of the benchmark will include an agreed set of data and assessment methodologies to be used in future update assessments and as basis for advice for three horse mackerel stocks (Western [hom.27.2a4a5b6a7a-ce-k8], Southern [hom.27.9a], and North Sea [hom.27.3a4bc7d]), and one boarfish stock (boc.27.6-8).

## 3. Legal framework

All governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995\* Fish Stocks agreement article 5 and 6 (to incorporate fisheries impacts on other components of marine ecosystems) and WSSD 2002 article 30 (to implement an ecosystem approach in relation to oceans policy including fisheries).

For EU Member States, this data call is under Council Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy and regulation (EU) 2017/1004 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 May 2017 and Commission Delegated Decision (EU) 2021/1167 of 27 April 2021.

Please note that the absence of DCF/EU MAP activity should not exempt countries from reporting.

This Data call follows the principles of personal data protection, as referred to in paragraph (9) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 2017/1004.

## 4. Deadlines

ICES requests that the data be delivered by **4 December 2023**, to provide enough time for additional quality assurance prior to the workshop meeting. Missing the reporting deadline will compromise the data quality.

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\* United Nations (UN). 2011. Agreement related to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?OpenElement>

## 5. Data to report

### 5.1 Geographic scope

Data are requested for three horse mackerel and one boarfish stocks:

**Western (hom.27.2a4a5b6a7a-ce-k8):** Horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) in Subarea 27.8 and divisions 27.2.a, 27.4.a (quarters 3 and 4), 27.5.b, 27.6.a, 27.7.a-c,e-k (the Northeast Atlantic)

**North Sea (hom.27.3a4bc7d):** Horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) in divisions 27.3.a, 27.4a (quarters 1 and 2), 27.4.b-c, and 27.7.d (Skagerrak and Kattegat, southern and central North Sea, eastern English Channel)

**Southern (hom.27.9a):** Horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) in 27.9.a (Atlantic Iberian waters)

**Boarfish (boc.27.6-8):** Boarfish (*Capros aper*) in 27.6, 27.7 and 27.8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay)

### 5.2 Data types

For horse mackerel:

#### *Catch and biological data*

- Time series of landings and discards (biomass in tonnes) and age distributions (numbers, mean length and mean weight by age) disaggregated by Division (including specific horse mackerel areas within 27.9.a; Table 1), métier level 5<sup>†</sup>, and quarter for the period 1982-2022 following the InterCatch format.
- Time series of landings and discards (biomass in tonnes) and length distributions (numbers and mean weight by 1cm length intervals) disaggregated by Division (including specific horse mackerel areas within 27.9.a), métier level 5 and quarter for the period 1982-2022 following the InterCatch format.
- Time series of age-length keys (1 cm length intervals) disaggregated by Division (including specific horse mackerel areas within 27.9.a; Table 1), and quarter for the period 1982-2022 following the format in **Annex 1**.
- Catch by ICES Statistical rectangle, month/quarter and year from 1982 to 2022 in .csv format. Monthly/quarterly data should be submitted to [accessions@ices.dk](mailto:accessions@ices.dk) with the name "WKBHMB2024\_HOM\_[COUNTRY NAME]\_CBySR.csv"
  - For monthly data, when possible: Year, Species, Country, StatRect, "M"/Month, Catch
  - Otherwise, for quarterly data: Year, Species, Country, StatRect, "Q"/Quarter, Catch

#### *Maturity data*

- Time series of maturity at age and maturity at length data (ogives), disaggregated by Division and quarter for the period 1982-2022 following the template provided in **Annex 2**.

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<sup>†</sup> <https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1651>

**Table 1.** Horse mackerel areas within 27.9.a (see full list of AreaCodes <https://vocab.ices.dk/?codetypeguid=d94d4dca-c8d1-40ea-8b82-ff93ae3a7dcf>).

Area code	Description
<a href="#">27.9.a.c.n</a>	Division 9.a between 39°30'N–42°00'N
<a href="#">27.9.a.c.s</a>	Division 9.a between an oblique line from (37°01.8'N, 9°00'W) to (36° 48.3'N, 9°16.9'W) and 39°30'N
<a href="#">27.9.a.n</a>	Division 9.a between 42° 00' N–43° 00 ' N
<a href="#">27.9.a.s</a>	Division 9.a between an oblique line from (37°01.8'N, 9°00'W) to (36° 48.3'N, 9°16.9'W) to 05°36' W
<a href="#">27.9.a.s.a</a>	Division 9.a between an oblique line from (37°01.8'N, 9°00'W) to (36° 48.3'N, 9°16.9'W) to 07°23.5' W
<a href="#">27.9.a.s.c</a>	Division 9.a between 07°23.5'W–05°36'W

For boarfish:

### *Catch and biological data*

- Time series of landings and discards (in tonnes) and length distributions (numbers and mean weight by 0.5cm length intervals) disaggregated by Division, métier level 5<sup>‡</sup> and quarter for the period 1991 to 2022 following the InterCatch format.
- Catch by ICES Statistical rectangle, month/quarter and year from 1991 to 2022 in .csv format. Monthly/quarterly data should be submitted to [accessions@ices.dk](mailto:accessions@ices.dk) with the name "WKBHMB2024\_BOC\_[COUNTRY NAME]\_CBySR.csv"
  - For monthly data, when possible: Year, Species, Country, StatRect, "M"/Month, Catch.
  - Otherwise, for quarterly data: Year, Species, Country, StatRect, "Q"/Quarter, Catch

**Maturity data** Time series of maturity at length (ogives) data disaggregated by Division and quarter for the period 1991-2022 following the template provided in **Annex 2**.

### *Survey data*

- Time series of abundance (numbers) and biomass (tonnes) estimates at length (0.5cm intervals) from the WESPAS, PELGAS, PELACUS, PELTIC and JUVENA acoustic surveys. One file per survey should be submitted to [accessions@ices.dk](mailto:accessions@ices.dk) with the name "WKBHMB2024\_BOC\_[COUNTRY\_NAME]\_[SURVEY\_NAME]"

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<sup>‡</sup> <https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1651>

## **6. Data submission**

Files should be submitted to [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk), must have country reference, and should include species and data type references. The files should be submitted in as few e-mails as possible.

## **7. Contact information**

For support concerning any data call issues about the data call please contact the Advisory Department ([Advice@ices.dk](mailto:Advice@ices.dk)).

For support concerning InterCatch format please contact: [InterCatchSupport@ices.dk](mailto:InterCatchSupport@ices.dk).

For support concerning other data-submission issues, please contact: [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk).