

### DCF national correspondents

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**Our Ref:** H.4/LWC/HKN/av

29 January 2024

**Subject:** Data call for commercial fisheries landing and sample data for the 2024 Regional Coordination Groups Baltic and North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic and ICES Annual Advice Work.

Please find enclosed a document describing the subject, scope and data to report of the data call for fisheries data 2024 for Regional Coordination Groups and ICES expert groups, benchmark and data evaluation workshops.

The Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) have the task of coordinating the data collection activities in their respective regions. The RCG chairs are preparing the work required for this year's RCG meetings and intersessional work.

The data will contribute to ICES advisory processes and the ICES Advisory Plan. ICES has standing requests to advise on fishing opportunities, stock status and mixed fisheries considerations for a number of fish and shellfish stocks, and to advise on bycatch of endangered, threatened, and protected species. The advice process also includes benchmarks. ICES expert groups providing advice are expected to follow further developments of the RDBES. ICES expert groups included in Table 1 of the document will be given access to RDBES data. ICES benchmark and data evaluation workshops will also be given access.

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: [RDBsupport@ices.dk](mailto:RDBsupport@ices.dk).

Sincerely,



Lotte Worsøe Clausen  
Head of the Advice Department, ICES



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the Exploration of the Sea  
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l'Exploration de la Mer

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## Data call for commercial fisheries landing and sample data for the 2024 Regional Coordination Groups Baltic and North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic and ICES Annual Advice Work

29 January 2024

### SUBJECT

Data call for commercial fisheries landing and sample data for the 2024 Regional Coordination Group Baltic and Regional Coordination Group North Atlantic, North Sea & Eastern Arctic (NANSEA) meetings. To update Regional Work Plan (RWP) Table 2.1 for NANSEA (List of required species/stocks) and Baltic and Table 2.5 (Sampling plan for biological data) for Baltic with the 2021–2023 data and to contribute to the ICES Annual Work Plan.

### SCOPE OF THE DATA CALL

The Regional Coordination Groups (RCGs) have the task of coordinating the data collection activities in their respective regions. The RCG chairs are preparing the work required for this year's RCG meetings and intersessional work.

The RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic back-to-back technical meeting will be held **from the 11 to 14 June 2024**. The meeting will be physical with a possibility to join virtually if needed.

This data call will provide the necessary data to fulfil the following objectives:

- To produce overviews of fisheries landings, effort and sampling in each region, aiming at defining regional sampling strategies under the EU-MAP at the RCGs and by intersessional groups;
- To update Regional Work Plan tables with 2021–2023 data;
- To support the development of data conversion from the Regional Database & Estimation System (RDBES) to STECF FDI data format.

To contribute to ICES advisory processes and the ICES Advisory Plan<sup>1</sup>. ICES has standing requests to advise on fishing opportunities, stock status and mixed fisheries considerations for a number of fish and shellfish stocks, and to advise on bycatch of endangered, threatened, and protected species. The advice process also includes benchmarks. ICES expert groups providing advice are expected to follow further developments of the RDBES. ICES expert groups included below in Table 1 will be given access to RDBES data. ICES benchmark and data evaluation workshops will also be given access.

### LEGAL BACKGROUND

#### 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. The RCG chairs herewith ask member states (MS) to provide 2021–2023

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<sup>1</sup> ICES. 2019. Advisory Plan. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5468>



national landings data (CL) and effort data (CE) and 2023 commercial sampling data (CS), according to the RDBES data format.

In line with Article 17.3 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, these data shall be provided to the RCGs, via the RDBES and the Upload logs. Referring to Chapter V Articles 100 - 105 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, MS should note the implications of a potential lack of transmission of the requested data by the MS within the specified deadline. Therefore, the MS are encouraged to respect the deadline and to provide all requested data.

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

#### For non-EU Member States:

All governments and intergovernmental commissions requesting and receiving advice from ICES have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995<sup>2</sup> 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).

## DEADLINE

It will be possible to upload data to the RDBES portal from 1 March 2024. The deadline for uploading the data is the **2 April 2024**.

## DATA TO REPORT

Countries are asked to ensure **all data** for **all species** and **all métiers (level 6) from the FAO area 27** (not only the major species and major métiers) are uploaded to the Regional Database & Estimation System (RDBES) hosted by ICES. The temporal scope of the requested data is **2021–2023** for commercial landings and effort statistics and **2023** for commercial sampling data.

The types of data to submit are listed below:

- Aggregated commercial Landing statistics for all species: Landing, Below Minimum Size (BMS), Logbook Registered Discard (RegDis) in the record type CL (Commercial Landing);
- Aggregated commercial Effort statistics for all fisheries in the record type CE (Commercial Effort);
- The sample species list in the record type SL (Species List);
- The vessel details in the record type VD (Vessel Detail);
- Detailed biological sample data for all species also including discard and incidental bycatch, from at sea and onshore commercial sampling programs in a combination of several record types - a hierarchy of record types under CS (Commercial Sampling), and other supporting information.

The commercial sampling data should also include information on the biological structures (e.g. otoliths) collected for age data but not read yet, code specified in the RDBES Exchange Format documentation (see below).

## DATA SUBMISSION

**The data should be uploaded to RDBES using the RDBES Exchange Format.** For information on the required exchange format and used codes the documents are available on the ICES GitHub:

<https://github.com/ices-tools-dev/RDBES/tree/master/Documents>

<sup>2</sup> 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>



The commercial sampling data requested in this data call is primarily for 2023 data, but if data from 2022 has changed substantially or is incomplete, then please upload these as well. If you do upload or amend 2022 sampling data, please record it in the **Upload log** and keep the chairs informed. The data submitted in response to this data call will overwrite previous submissions, following the RDBES overwriting rules.

### Missing codes

If codes for e.g. species or métiers are not present in the RDBES, please contact [RDBsupport@ices.dk](mailto:RDBsupport@ices.dk) to request the missing codes with sufficient time before the submission deadline, so data can be uploaded. The non submission of data due to missing codes should be avoided.

### UPLOAD LOGS

Upload logs (i.e. spreadsheets) must be submitted by all participating countries. This is an important part of the process and needs to be completed to ensure that data users know what the data in the RDBES represent and the RDBES administrators can manage any improvements. The upload log should summarise the countries upload experience and issues summarising what data were not uploaded and why. These spreadsheets should always be submitted even if there were no issues. See the attached example and file named "Upload Log 2024 example". This file is to be completed by each data submitter and sent to [data.call@ices.dk](mailto:data.call@ices.dk) and the chairs of the RCGs: [jsv@aqua.dtu.dk](mailto:jsv@aqua.dtu.dk), [madamowicz@mir.gdynia.pl](mailto:madamowicz@mir.gdynia.pl) and [rita.vasconcelos@ipma.pt](mailto:rita.vasconcelos@ipma.pt)

- Please complete all fields of the upload log. Use "NA" if no action or reference is required.
- Where issues regarding reference lists' codes or missing codes could not be solved by the ICES Secretariat on request, please list the métiers, species, or harbour names.
- If you do upload or amend 2022 sampling data, please record it in the Upload log.

For support concerning choosing the right hierarchy or how to structure data within the hierarchy, please add an issue at: <https://github.com/ices-tools-dev/RDBES/issues> where answers will be given. If the requester does not have a GitHub account please contact [RDBsupport@ices.dk](mailto:RDBsupport@ices.dk). The RDBES Development Support Core Group will answer the questions here. For support concerning issues regarding submission of the data file to the RDBES please contact: [RDBsupport@ices.dk](mailto:RDBsupport@ices.dk).

### DATA ACCESS

Data will be made available to selected members of RCGs and/or the ICES groups mentioned in Table 1 working with the data after signing the Conditions for detailed RDBES data use. Data extracts will be stored on the ICES SharePoint in a folder with restricted access.

We look forward to your cooperation.

Josefine Egekvist & Rita Vasconcelos, Chairs RCG NANSEA

Maciej Adamowicz, Chair RCG Baltic

Lotte Worsøe Clausen, Head of Advice department, ICES Secretariat

**Table 1. List of ICES expert groups with access to RDBES data gathered through the present data call. If other ICES expert groups need access to data, a request will be sent to National Correspondents or ACOM members.**

WGBAST
HAWG
WGNAS
WGBFAS
AFWG
WGNSSK
NWWG
WGBIE
WGDEEP
NIPAG



**Regional Coordination Group**  
North Atlantic  
North Sea & Eastern Arctic



**Regional Coordination Group**  
Baltic



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WGCSE
WGCEPH
WGHANSA
WGMIXFISH-Methods
WGMIXFISH-Advice
WGEF
WGWIDE
WGScallop
WGEEL
WGBYC
WGCATCH
ICES benchmark workshops and data evaluation workshops taking place in 2024
WGRDBES-EST
WKRDBES-RaiseStock
WKRDBES-StockCoord
WKRDBES-INTRO
WGECON
WGSOCIAL
WKSUP
WKLIFE
WGIAB