

## 1.1 Reporting to InterCatch

The InterCatch-formatted national data should be uploaded into InterCatch, which is available on this link: <https://InterCatch.ices.dk/Login.aspx>.

Please see the 'InterCatch Exchange Manuals' on the ICES website for information on the required exchange format, and the codes used, at: <http://ices.dk/data/data-portals/Pages/InterCatch.aspx> An overview of the data fields used in the InterCatch exchange format are detailed in DC\_Annex\_2\_InterCatch Exchange format overview updated.docx. The codes for métiers/fleets and areas are listed in appendices I, II, and III.

For stocks where discard data have been submitted to InterCatch in previous years, they should also be submitted for 2022 (see DC\_Annex\_1.xlsx).

Area-disaggregated catch data should be submitted to InterCatch in a consistent manner between Data Calls. If area aggregations must be made, it should be clearly stated in the InfoStockCoordinator information text field (field number 23 in the import file to InterCatch).

### 1.1.1 Data conversion to InterCatch format

A description of the InterCatch Exchange format is found in the InterCatch User Manual<sup>1</sup>. An overview of the fields in the InterCatch commercial catch format is found in the InterCatch Format overview<sup>2</sup>, where valid codes are also listed.

To ease the process of converting the national data into the InterCatch format, Andrew Campbell from the Marine Institute (Ireland) has made the conversion tool "InterCatchFileMaker", which converts data manually entered in the 'Exchange format spreadsheet' into a file in the InterCatch format. **Be aware that the tool does not currently support the catch categories BMS Landings and Logbook Registered Discards** (see section 1.1.4.). The conversion tool "InterCatchFileMaker" can be downloaded from the ICES webpage under 'Format conversion tools' ([link](#)). The download includes a spreadsheet in which the catch and sampling data can be placed; the program then converts the data into the InterCatch format.

If the "InterCatchFilemaker" conversion program and the exchange format spreadsheet have been used to convert your data to InterCatch format, then the values in the data field "NumSamplesAge" in the InterCatch format file must be entered manually.

If in some areas and quarters there are only length samples available (if age samples are missing), then it is possible to use ALKs from neighboring areas or quarters to calculate CANUM and WECA for "Species Data" (SD) records, before importing data to InterCatch. In this case "-9" must be entered in the data fields of "NumSamplesAge" and "NumAgeMeas".

### 1.1.2 Age and length data in parallel in InterCatch

InterCatch can work with age and length data in parallel. Previously it was important that length data were imported last, though currently the order in which catches with sample data (age/length) are imported does not matter. In the current version it is important that, within a given stratum, a catch *with* samples is not imported before a catch *without* samples. So as an example; never import a catch with age samples followed by the same catch without samples, because this will erase the age samples already imported. This is a way that can be used to remove wrongly imported age or length data which do not belong to the strata. A simple procedure to follow would be to first import catches for all strata, together with the existing age samples. Then in a second import, include only the strata where there are catches with length samples.

### 1.1.3 Sample information on age and length data in InterCatch

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ices.dk/data/Documents/Intercatch/InterCatch%20User%20Manual.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://datsu.ices.dk/web/selRep.aspx?Dataset=76>

When age or length data are imported in InterCatch, ICES requests that the following age and length sampling information fields are filled in for both landing and discard samples:

- Number samples of length, field: NumSamplesLngt
- Number length measured, field: NumLngtMeas
- Number samples of age, field: NumSamplesAge
- Number age measured, field: NumAgeMeas

**Data submitters are encouraged to use the fields related to data quality within InterCatch (NumSamplesLngt, NumLngtMeas, NumSamplesAge, NumAgeMeas). This will help stock assessors make allocations in InterCatch, and identify changes in sampling levels from one year to another.**

The units of the samples in the record types “NumSamplesLngt” and “NumSamplesAge” of the species data record refer to the number of primary sample units (vessel, trip, harbour day, etc.). The units should be given in the InterCatch species information field named “InfoFleet”.

If there are any questions regarding InterCatch submissions, please contact the working group chair (see Table 4.1) and ICES Secretariat at [InterCatchsupport@ices.dk](mailto:InterCatchsupport@ices.dk).

#### **1.1.4 Catch categories in InterCatch**

##### **Landing, ‘L’**

The ‘Landing’ catch category in InterCatch will cover the scientific estimates of landing.

##### **Discard, ‘D’**

The ‘Discard’ catch category in InterCatch will cover the discard fraction based on fishery observer estimations. This category is the part of the catch, which is thrown overboard into the sea.

This component should be in the CATON field, and in the OffLandings field a “-9” should be inserted (see Figure 2).

Data for this fraction should be reported even when discard values are low. Discard estimations for pelagic species based on demersal observer programs should also be reported. This is especially important for some small pelagic stocks.

##### **BMS Landing, ‘B’**

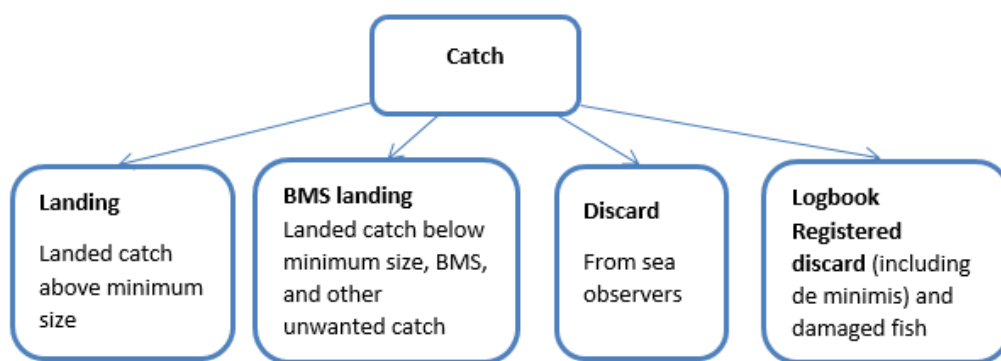
Relevant to stocks under landing obligations. The BMS landings consist of fish and crustaceans Below Minimum Size, as registered in the logbook or as estimated by fishery observers (see Figure 2).

If it is possible to separate BMS and discards fractions from e.g. at sea observer programme then the BMS estimate should be inserted into the CATON field. If it’s not possible to separate discard and BMS fractions then a zero “0” should be entered into the CATON field for BMS. Either way, the value of BMS as reported in the logbook should always be inserted in the OffLandings field (see Figure 2).

##### **Logbook Registered Discard, ‘R’**

This component corresponds to discards which are registered in the logbook.

ICES does not require this fraction to be provided as it is not used for the provision of ICES advice.



**Figure 1.** Description of the four current catch categories.

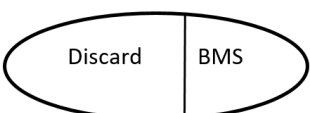
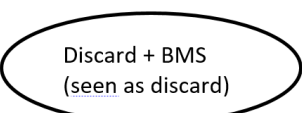
BMS landings should be submitted as requested in DC\_Annex\_1.xlsx for stocks to which landing obligations applies.

In InterCatch only CATON is used to derive the total catch used in stock assessment. The values for the different categories in the OffLandings fields (OfficialLanding) are only informative and will not be used in the catch estimate.

Use only the Reporting Category R (for all catch categories). In case of black landings (non-reported) please use Reporting Category N.

### Reporting of discard and BMS in the SI record fields CATON and OffLandings

To clarify the values to insert into the CATON and OffLandings fields in the SI record, the following figure gives an overview of the two different discard-BMS scenarios. The overview shows how to fill in data from the at sea observer programs for two different discard-BMS scenarios.

	<b>Scenario 1</b> <b>Discard and BMS can be split</b> 	<b>Scenario 2</b> <b>Discard and BMS cannot be split</b> 
<b>SI record with</b> <b>Catch Category=D</b> (D for discard)	CATON = Discard weight OffLandings = -9	CATON = Discard + BMS weight OffLandings = -9
<b>SI record with</b> <b>Catch Category=B</b> (B for BMS)	CATON = BMS weight OffLandings = declared* BMS	CATON = 0 OffLandings = declared* BMS <b>If there is no declared BMS</b> No SI record with 'Catch Category = B' is needed

\*Declared BMS from logbooks, sales notes or landing declarations.

**Figure 2.** CATON and OffLandings for two different discard-BMS scenarios

### 1.1.5 Effort data in InterCatch

Effort is recorded in position 11 of the InterCatch header information. Different units of effort are required by different WGs as specified in Table 6.1 of the datacall main text.

**Table 1.** Units of effort requested/accepted by WGs.

	kW×day	Days at sea
WGBFAS		X
WGCEPH	X	X
WGMIXFISH-Advice	X	X
All others	X	

**Please note that the effort value should be the same for all species, for a given strata.** The effort in InterCatch supports WGMIXFISH, which needs effort by metier and not by species. If landing data and discard data are imported in separated files, then effort should only be imported once in the landings data. Effort for the discard data should be indicated with a ‘-9’ (indicating no effort). If there has been fishing effort but zero landings, the effort should be also imported.