DCF national correspondents
Els Torreele, Jørgen Dalskov, Elo Rasmann, Heikki Lehtinen, Maximilien Simon, Christoph Stransky, Leonie O'Dowd, Didzis Ustups, Jolita Nečiūnienė, Inge Janssen, Zbigniew Karnicki, Emilia Batista, Maria del Pilar Vara del Rio, Anna Hasslow, Mathew Elliott.
ICES ACOM members and observers
Els Torreele, Morten Vinther, Robert Aps, Matti Salminen, Alain Biseau, Christopher Zimmermann, Gudmundur Thordarson, Maurice Clark, Didzis Ustups, Tomas Zolubas, Nathalie Steins, Jan Horbowy, Fatima Borges, Francisco Velasco, Max Cardinale, Harald Gjøsæter, Yuri Efimov, Nick Bailey, Petur Steingrund, Jesper Boje

Our Ref: L.27/ACB/RC/mo 08 May 2017

Subject: Data call 2017: Independent Recreational survey estimates of seabass in support of the ICES fisheries advice in 2018

Dear National Correspondents, ACOM members and observers,

Please find enclosed a document describing the rationale, scope and technical details of the data call for 2017 seabass independent survey estimates. Also, enclosed are two annexes with additional information and examples on how to submit data.

The data will be used worked and used by expert groups contributing to the advisory process addressing requests for advice on fisheries and fish stocks from ICES advice recipients.

For countries which are also EU members this data call is under the Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 and No 665/2008.

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk. For support concerning InterCatch issues please contact: InterCatchsupport@ices.dk. For questions on data submission, please contact: accessions@ices.dk.

Sincerely,

Anne Christine Brusendorff
General Secretary

CC: Kieran Hyder (WGRFS Co-Chair), Harry Vincent Strehlow (WGRFS Co-Chair), Venetia Kostopoulou (DG MARE, DCF); Bas Drukker (DG MARE, DCF)

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Seabass Recreational Fisheries Data Call 2017

Data call: Seabass recreational fishery survey data submission for ICES fisheries advisory work 2

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Data call: Seabass recreational fishery survey data submission for ICES fisheries advisory work

1. Scope of the Data call

ICES Member Countries are requested to provide, for seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) stocks in ICES areas 4–9:

- Independent survey estimates of numbers and weight of fish caught by recreational fisheries, separately for retained and released fish, from all surveys conducted since the inception of the EU Data Collection Regulation and subsequent Data Collection Framework. Estimates must be provided separately for each seabass stock unit defined by ICES, for which data are available.
- Estimates of length compositions of retained and (where available) released fish derived independently by stock unit.
- Data quality indicators, including precision (standard error) of catch estimates; numbers of primary sampling units for length compositions; total numbers of fish measured and aged; evaluation of potential for bias.
- Supporting information describing the survey and analysis methods used for deriving the estimates.

All countries having recreational catches on these seabass stocks should submit data

The data and supporting material are to be evaluated by the WGRFS (Working Group on Recreational Fishery Surveys) which will inform ICES advisory groups involved in the provision of ICES advice for the stocks covered by the data call as well as other methods development groups such as WKLIFE that have interest in fishery catch data.

This data call follows the principles of personal data protection as referred to in paragraph (16) of the preamble in Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008.

2. Deadline

ICES requests the data to be delivered by a specific date to provide enough time for additional quality assurance prior to the Working Group meeting. See Table 1 for the data submission deadlines. **Missing the reporting deadline will compromise the indispensable data quality checking (on a stock basis) before the review of the data by WGRFS for use in future assessments.**

Table 1. Data submission deadline for ICES expert groups and respective chair contact.

EXPERT GROUP (EG)	CHAIR OF THE EG	EMAIL ADDRESS	DATA SUBMISSION DEADLINE
WGRFS	KIERAN HYDER	kieran.hyder@cefas.co.uk	**08.06.2017**

3. Data submission

ICES Member Countries are requested to supply data as specified on the data request spreadsheets (Annex 1) to ICES Secretariat via email (accessions@ices.dk), separately for the stock units defined by ICES in Table 2.

Table 2. Stock units for supply of data

stock_code_2017	stock_code_pre-2017	Full name_2017
bss.27.4bc7ad–h	bss-47	Seabass (Dicentrarchus labrax) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea)
bss.27.8ab	Bss-8ab	Seabass (Dicentrarchus labrax) in divisions 8.a–b (northern and central Bay of Biscay)
bss.27.8c9a	Bss-8c9a	Seabass (Dicentrarchus labrax) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (southern Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)
bss.27.6a7bj	bss-wosi	Seabass (Dicentrarchus labrax) in divisions 6.a, 7.b, and 7.j (West of Scotland, West of Ireland, eastern part of southwest of Ireland)

Data to be submitted (using annexes 1 and 2) include:

- Independent survey estimates of numbers and weight of fish caught by recreational fisheries, separately for retained and released fish, from all surveys conducted since the inception of the EU Data Collection Regulation and subsequent Data Collection Framework. Estimates must be provided separately for each seabass stock unit defined by ICES and where covered by national surveys. The time period covered by each survey must be given.
- Estimates of length compositions of retained and (where available) released fish derived independently by stock unit [in 1 cm length classes unless data have been collected in larger length bins]
- Data quality indicators for each survey should include:
    - indicators of precision such as standard error of catch estimates; numbers of primary sampling units for length compositions; total numbers of fish measured;
    - evaluation of potential for bias such as partial frame coverage, non-random selection of fishers, sites or vessels, recall bias.
- Supporting information describing the survey design and coverage, and analysis methods used for deriving the estimates and quality indicators for each stock unit.

All countries having recreational catches on these seabass stocks should submit data. If no data is available please inform ICES that no data is available.

The DCR/DCF has required estimates of seabass recreational catches only for western waters and not the North Sea, which would provide only partial coverage of the bss.27.4bc7ad–h stock. If surveys covering this stock include Divisions 4.b–c, estimates should be given for the full stock area including 4.b–c to avoid bias. Survey coverage of the total stock area must be clearly shown in the supporting information.

The definition and numbers of independent primary sampling units (PSU) for length compositions depend on the survey design and could for example include: annual numbers of angler diaries with seabass length data; numbers of site visits during on-site surveys, where seabass lengths were recorded; number of charter boat trips providing length data for seabass. The PSUs and methods of selection must be clearly defined in the supporting information.

Data emailed to accessions@ices.dk should have subject and filename as follows**:**

"Country_WGRFS DataCall2017_[stock code]_recreational catch data"

"Country_WGRFS DataCall2017_[stock code]_survey summary "

The recreational catch data file should include, separately for retained and released fish: estimates of catches by number and by weight, with standard errors; length compositions for retained and released fish, with numbers of primary sampling units providing length data and total numbers of fish measured and (if available) aged.

4. Metiers

There is no DCR/DCF requirement to provide data by detailed types (metiers) of recreational fishing (e.g. rod and line or handline; fixed gears such as nets or pots; spearfishing). However, if a breakdown of annual catch estimates by type of fishing is an output of the national analysis procedure, please provide information on this in the supporting material to allow WGRFS to understand how the total catch estimate is derived from component estimates. In particular, if different survey approaches have been adopted for different types of fishing these must be described in the supporting information document.

5. Contacts

For questions about the content of the data call, please contact: advice@ices.dk
For questions on data submission, please contact: accessions@ices.dk

6. Data stratifications:

Estimates should be given by stock unit and stratified by year.

7. Data submission formats

When submitting to accessions@ices.dk:

Catch estimates, length compositions and sample numbers may be transmitted in Excel following the format provided in "Annex 1 seabass_recreational_fishing_data.xlsx" and the summary of the survey should follow the format provided in "Annex 2 survey_summary.docx". These documents are provided with the call.

Discard survival rates **should not** be accounted for by the countries, when uploading the data

8. Units for data submission

Catch numbers:	in `000
Catch weight:	in tonnes
Mean weight:	in kg.
Length composition:	in 1-cm length bins