WORKING GROUP ON DATRAS GOVERNANCE (WGDG)
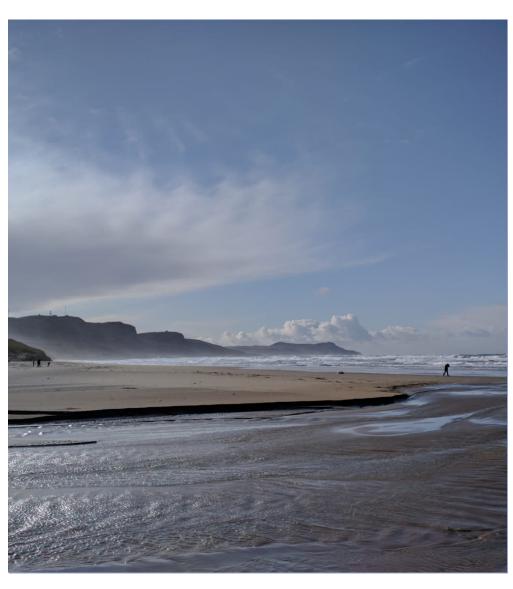
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Working Group on DATRAS Governance (WGDG)

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i Executive summary

The Working Group on DATRAS Governance (WGDG) aims to align the Database of Trawl Surveys (DATRAS) for the different surveys, to evaluate the database using guidance developed by Data and Information Group (DIG), to oversee, align and advise on requests for further development of DATRAS, and to provide a platform for end-user feedback. WGDG consists of representatives of ICES working groups delivering data to DATRAS: the Baltic International Fish Survey Working Group (WGBIFS), the International Bottom Trawl Survey Working Group (IBTSWG), and the Working Group on Beam Trawl Surveys (WGBEAM), as well as representatives of ICES Data Centre and of DIG. This report contains the main results of the past year's meetings.

The focus in this reporting period (June 2020-May 2021) has, as in previous years, been on alignment of DATRAS over different surveys, the main output being the implementation of the generic DATRAS format for submission across surveys. The implementation of the submission was smooth, the communication of the changes to end-users can still be improved.

In spring 2021 the governance framework description for DATRAS was reviewed, later than planned, so the qualitative evaluation of the framework is scheduled for autumn 2021. The framework has been developed by the ICES Data and Information Group and encompasses topics like data security, data discoverability, database development and is meant to give an overview of the current state of the database in its widest context. The evaluation of the framework will highlight the points for attention in further development.

ii Expert group information

Expert group name	Working Group on DATRAS Governance (WGDG)
Expert group cycle	Multiannual fixed term
Year cycle started	2020
Reporting year in cycle	2/3
Chair(s)	Ingeborg de Boois, The Netherlands
Meeting venue(s) and dates	10 November 2020, online meeting (7 participants)
	28 January 2021, online meeting (7 participants)
	20 April 2021, online meeting (7 participants)

1 Introduction

Purpose of the working group

The ICES Database on Trawl Surveys (DATRAS) contains data from fish trawl surveys that are used for (stock) assessment purposes. The Working Group on DATRAS Governance aims to align DATRAS, and the requests related to DATRAS, for the different surveys, to evaluate the database using guidance developed by Data and Information Group (DIG), to oversee and advise on requests for further development of DATRAS, and to provide a platform for end-user feedback.

The Working group on DATRAS governance consists of representatives of ICES working groups delivering data to DATRAS (currently WGBIFS, IBTSWG, WGBEAM), the DATRAS Team of ICES Data Centre and of DIG. One participant is also involved in the Working Group on SmartDots Governance (WGSMART).

Due to the group's composition WGDG is a good platform for combining issues, requirements etc. on DATRAS from different survey groups on one hand, and on the other hand useful place to explain requests from end-users or survey groups to the DATRAS Team of ICES Data centre.

Terms of reference, and summary of progress

ToR	ToR Description	Background	Progress in relation to ToR
a	Further evolve the framework on the governance of DATRAS	DIG had provided a governance framework to review a database in the broadest sense of the word. Transparency about the status of the ICES databases is crucial to maintain and improve the quality of the databases and the data.	Feedback by reviewers on updated version of governance framework, review processed. Governance evaluation process scheduled for 2nd half 2021
b	Oversee and advise on the interpretation and prioritisation of recommendations from expert groups addressed to DATRAS	Three different groups (IBTSWG, WGBIFS, WGBEAM) currently provide the survey information directly to DATRAS, and some groups use the DATRAS format as a starting point for data submission (e.g. WGIPS). Overview of the general issues and developements is crucial to maintain the system effectively.	The 2019, 2020 and some 2021 recommendations to WGDG and ICES DATRAS Team have been taken into account. Additionally, requests raised from submitters or during survey working groups have been taken into account.
c	Facilitate common functionality in terms of data providers and data user across different surveys to improve upload efficiency and allow broader perspectives (covered by more than one survey) can be effectively addressed.	Alignment over the surveys will facilitate automation processes at the submitter's side, and provide the opportunity to increase the information provided in the sets that have been in DATRAS from the start.	Main developments: DATRAS unified format launched in Q3 2020 Aligned requests with respect to DATRAS data to IBTSWG, WGBIFS, WGBEAM.

d	Provide a platform for end user feedback to the DATRAS system, as well as feedback on the outcomes of those suggestions.	A database filled by a significant number of institutes and used by many people and (stock) assessment groups needs to be kept up to date with respect to user requirements without ad-hoc solutions for everyone.	Recommendations by end-user groups have been taken into account.

Meeting frequency and reporting

The group meets three to four times a year by web conference. From all meetings detailed minutes are available at the working group's SharePoint, including actions for the participants. This report contains the main results of the past year's meetings (June-May).

2 Progress report and outlook

Elaborate the framework on the governance of DATRAS (ToR a)

The governance framework provided by DIG has been filled in for DATRAS. A DIG subgroup has reviewed the filled in framework in spring 2021. The suggestions have been taken into account. The qualitative evaluation of the current state of the data(base) governance of DATRAS was postponed due to the slow reviewing process, and will be carried out by WGDG in autumn 2021, in close collaboration with DIG.

Advice to ICES Data Centre on the interpretation and prioritization of recommendations (ToR b) & Provide a platform for end-user feedback to the DATRAS system (ToR d)

The following recommendations directed to ICES DATRAS Team and/or WGDG have been reviewed and responded to in the recommendations database:

- WGBEAM recommends to create CPUE per length per Hour and Swept-area as a DATRAS product for Inshore surveys (currently DFS/DYFS/SNS) (WGBEAM 2019-36);
- WGBEAM noted requirements for further developments of DATRAS and recommends that this is discussed in WGDG (WGBEAM 2021-18);
- The Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS) recommends WGDG (Working Group DATRAS Governance) to make it possible for member states to include oxygen concentration into the DATRAS database. As of now, there is only possibility to upload salinity and temperature into the DATRAS database (WGBFAS 2020-79);
- Timely provision of indices series of the surveys in the assessment year (WGBFAS 2020-81, 2020-83);
- Cooperation on the future streamlining and integration of the SmartDots database with the Regional Database (RDBES) and DATRAS (WGSMART 2019-8);
- Production of survey indices on a regular basis by ICES according to the stock annexes for whg.27.47d and whg.27.47d (area-specific indices; North, South) using new substitution method and upload to DATRAS as standard data product (Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) 2020-45).

On top of the formal recommendations, some requests arose due to data submission issues:

- Within the IBTS, there was a wish to add an additional sampling type. This has been put into place, and communicated in IBTSWG.
- As a consequence of the unified format, the development stage of measured specimens could be filled in. The checks were however not prepared for this, so WGDG has provided advice to DATRAS Team on the change of the consistency checks.

Some recommendations made to WGDG and/or ICES DATRAS team in 2021 are still under discussion:

- WGBEAM: 3 recommendations
- WGBIFS: 2 recommendations
- WGBFAS: 1 recommendation

Align DATRAS over the different surveys (ToR c)

The DATRAS unified format has been introduced in autumn 2020. Submitters were informed in good time regarding the format change with the result that no delay in data submission was experienced due to the change in data format. More consideration should have been provided when it came to communicating these changes to the data end-users as many were surprised by the change of column names in DATRAS. The update of the DATRAS documents still has to take place and is scheduled for 2021, by WGDG and DATRAS Team.

Other topics

Harmonization with the ICES acoustic database is in progress, especially with respect to variable names. Both the acoustic database and DATRAS contain biological fish information, fish length information and fish haul information, but the terminology is different for similar variables. A subgroup with ICES Data Centre representatives, Working Group on Acoustic Trawl Data Portal Governance (WGAcousticGov) chair and WGDG chair will be organized in second half of 2021 to further discuss alignment of variable names.

Annex 1: List of participants

Name	Institute	Country (of institute)	E-mail
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Annex 2: Resolution

The **Working Group on DATRAS Governance** (WGDG), chaired by Ingeborg de Boois, Netherlands, will meet by web conference, four times per year and may also meet physically once per year, to work on ToRs and generate deliverables as listed in the Table below.

	Meeting dates	Venue	Reporting details	Comments (change in Chair, etc.)
Year 2020	26 September 2019 17 December 2019 **18+25 May 2020**	Online meetings Copenhagen, Denmark (during DIG)		
Year 2021	10 November 2020 28 January 2021 **20 April 2021**	Online meetings		
Year 2022	22 September 2021 TBD **TBD**	Online meetings Copenhagen, Denmark (during DIG)	Final report by XX May to DSTSG and DIG	

ToR descriptors

ToR	Description	Background	Science plan codes	Duration	Expected Deliverables
a	Further evolve the framework on the governance of DATRAS	DIG had provided a governance framework to review a database in the broadest sense of the word. Transparency about the status of the ICES databases is crucial to maintain and improve the quality of the databases and the data.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	A functional and efficient framework with clear responsibilites and taks for the governance of DATRAS.
b	Oversee and advise on the interpretation and prioritisation of recommendations from expert groups addressed to DATRAS	Three different groups (IBTSWG, WGBIFS, WGBEAM) currently provide the survey information directly to DATRAS, and some groups use the DATRAS format as a starting point for data submission (e.g. WGIPS). Overview of the general issues and developements is crucial to maintain the system effectively.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	A table of prioritised requests from data providers and data users for consideration by the data centre for improvements and updates to the data services on trawl and litter data based on the ICES data infrastructure.
c	Facilitate common functionality in terms of data providers and data user across	Alignment over the surveys will facilitate automation processes at the submitter's side, and provide the opportunity to increase the	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	

	different surveys to improve upload efficiency and allow broader perspectives (covered by more than one survey) can be effectively addressed.	information provided in the sets that have been in DATRAS from the start.			
d	Provide a platform for end user feedback to the DATRAS system, as well as feedback on the outcomes of those suggestions.	A database filled by a significant number of institutes and used by many people and (stock) assessment groups needs to be kept up to date with respect to user requirements without ad-hoc solutions for everyone.	3.2, 4.1, 4.2	Generic ToR	Links to TOR b providing the input for that task in future.

Summary of the Work Plan

Year 1	Work on all terms of reference in four 1.5 hour skype meetings, provide oral report to data and information group (DIG)
Year 2	Work on all terms of reference in four 1.5 hour skype meetings, provide oral report to data and information group (DIG)
Year 3	Work on all terms of reference in four 1.5 hour skype meetings, provide oral report to data and information group (DIG), evaluate the relevance and functioning of the group

Supporting information

Priority	High. WGDG works to align DATRAS for the different surveys, evaluate the database for the Data and Information Group (DIG) and oversee future development of DATRAS. These tasks are well aligned with ICES strategic plan to continue to build our capacity and expertise in managing, analysing, and interpreting data to support science and advice.
Resource requirements	A commitment of time from the members of the group consistent with progressing actions identified in the quarterly meetings
Participants	Members of ICES Data Centre involved in DATRAS developments, chair with a direct link with (=participating in) DIG, representatives of survey groups submitting data to DATRAS (currently WGBIFS, IBTSWG, WGBEAM)
Secretariat facilities	Community Sharepoint site, Remote meeting facilities.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	This is an integral component to the overall Quality Assurance framework (of Advice) that ACOM together with the Coordination group are describing
Linkages to other committees or groups	There is a very close working relationship with the fish trawl survey groups. There is a strong linkage to DIG as the main umbrella for data/software governance structures.
Linkages to other organizations	No