

Data call: Data submission for ICES work related to a European Union (EU) special request on monitoring programmes for bycatch of protected, endangered and threatened species.

1. Scope of the Data Call

ICES have received a special request for advice relating to bycatch monitoring systems for Protected, Endangered and Threatened Species (PETS) from the EU (DGENV). This data call aims to gather information on existing fisheries monitoring programmes in ICES and EU countries that collect data on the bycatch of PETS. This information will be used to initiate an inventory of all relevant monitoring efforts in the Northeast Atlantic and for EU member states with fisheries operating in the Mediterranean & Black Sea. The inventory will be used as background documentation in two dedicated workshops related to the special request to take place in 2023 that will look at different sampling strategies across the ICES area.

2. Rationale

Data collected through this data call will be used specifically as a basis for a technical service for DG Environment on current sampling programmes where information on bycatch of PETS is collected.

In addition, the data will provide valuable background information for the ICES Working Groups on Bycatch of protected species (WGBYC) and on commercial catches (WGCATCH) in order to assess the suitability of existing monitoring efforts and plan future work and strategic initiatives. These ICES groups will contribute to develop and maintain the inventory of monitoring programmes in the future.

3. Legal framework

All governments or intergovernmental commissions that request and receive advice from ICES, and all contracting parties to OSPAR and HELCOM, have signed international agreements under UNCLOS 1995 Fish Stocks agreement articles 5 and 6, as well as WSSD 2002 article 30. By signing, they agree to incorporate the effect of fisheries on other components of marine ecosystem, and to implement an ecosystem approach to oceans policy that includes fisheries. These agreements also include an obligation to support assessments of the effects of fisheries on protected and endangered species, and on the environment (UNCLOS FSA art 6).

For countries which are also EU members, this data call will aid synergies within the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) and The Habitat Directive ([92/43/EEC](#)).

ICES also has a policy on data use, which governs decisions on who is given access and what they can do with the data; see <https://www.ices.dk/data/guidelines-and-policy/Pages/ICES-data-policy.aspx>

4. Deadlines

ICES request member countries to complete and submit the inventory on monitoring programs of protected species bycatch by **17th June 2022**.

5. Data to report

This data call requests member countries to submit information on the programs that collect protected species bycatch data. The data call and one Annex are available for download from the ICES library at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.19745890>

5.1 Temporal and geographic scope

Data are requested for the period 2017-2022.

The geographic scope includes FAO major fishing areas 27 and 37.

5.2 Data types

ICES member countries and relevant EU member states should provide information on programmes monitoring protected species bycatch including a description, among others, of;

- Main objective of monitoring scheme
- Primary sampling unit
- Monitoring method
- Monitoring coverage of different fleets

For a full description of the requested information see Appendix 1

6. Data submission

The data submission template (Annex 1 Template Inventory of monitoring programmes) is available at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.19745890>.

In the data submission template there are two worksheet tabs (Appendix 1: Sampling Scheme bycatch studies, Table 2 – Sampling coverage) and a Vocabularies sheet. The worksheets and their respective data entry fields are described in more detail in Appendix 1 below.

Once completed, templates should be submitted to data.call@ices.dk indicating the name of the country.

Example:

“Annex 1 Template Inventory of monitoring programmes FR”

7. Contact information

For support concerning any issues about the data call content please contact the ICES Secretariat advice@ices.dk

8. Electronic outputs

Information on programs monitoring protected species bycatch will be made publicly available through the ICES web page.

Appendix 1. Data submission format in detail

There are two tables (worksheets) and a Vocabularies sheet in the Excel file template for submission (Annex 1 Template Inventory of monitoring programmes). This Appendix includes a description of each field.

Table 1. Sampling Scheme bycatch studies

Field Name	Description	Guidance
Country	Country in charge of the sampling scheme <small>ISO 3166 code</small>	Use vocabulary link https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=337
Sampling year	Start year-End year when the sampling design was implemented in data collection. Any other period of time (e.g. months) or sampling gaps to be addressed in 'Comments'	
Type of monitoring	Description of the Sampling Scheme Type (e.g. National routine commercial fisheries, Research project incidental bycatch, etc.)	Use vocabulary link https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1665
Scheme	Unique ID of the sampling scheme. Name of the scheme.	For each sampling programme, the same Unique ID should be used in Table 1 and Table2
Main objective of monitoring scheme	Describe the main objective of programme. The target species/taxa of the bycatch monitoring program	Use vocabulary link http://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1501
Ecoregion	Ecoregion within FAO major fishing areas 27 and 37 from drop down list	Use vocabulary options provided in the template drop down list. See "Vocabularies" sheet
Target population	Definition/Identification of the Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) population sampled.	
Sampling frame	Describe briefly the PSU list sampled (e.g., list of vessels)	
Primary Sampling Unit (PSU)	PSU within each scheme (e.g. fishing trip, fishing vessel, vessel x trip). If multiple PSU within the same scheme, list all PSUs.	
Part(s) of the target population excluded from the sampling frame	Describe and identify if there are exclusions to the sampling frame due to access problems or other situations that were not over seen (e.g. Inaccessible ports, vessel size categories you don't sample, non-cooperative vessels, vessels with low fishing effort, etc.)	

Field Name	Description	Guidance
Monitoring method	Type of monitoring method used to collect the data.	Use vocabulary options provided in the template drop down list. See “Vocabularies” sheet
Species / groups of species identified or sampled	list species groups (e.g. fish, mammals, birds) that are recorded If it only applies to PETS species, it should be explicit	
Species / groups of species registered in national database	list species groups (e.g. fish, mammals, birds) that are recorded. If it only applies to PETS species, it should be explicit	
What part of the fishing operation are observed	e.g. dropouts, slipping, sorting and / or presorting. Reference and code list from the table being reviewed	Use vocabulary link https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1630
Does the sampling protocol allow for the quantification of PETS observation effort?	The observation effort might cover a whole trip, or a part of a trip. A partial observation of a trip might include a known fraction of hauls, sorting/processing or catch.	Enter ‘Y’ (yes) if the PETS observation effort can be quantified. Enter ‘N’ (no) if the PETS observation effort cannot be quantified.
End-user of PET data	Organization or institution that receives and analyzes the data collected.	Use vocabulary options provided in the template drop down list. See “Vocabularies” sheet

Table 2. Sampling coverage

Field Name	Description	Guidance
Country	Country in charge of the sampling scheme ISO 3166 code	Use vocabulary link https://vocab.ices.dk/?ref=337
Sampling year	Start year-End year when the sampling design was implemented in data collection. Any other period of time (e.g. months) or sampling gaps to be addressed in 'Comments' column.	
Scheme	Unique ID of the sampling scheme. Name of the scheme. Same for Table 1 and Table 2	

Field Name	Description	Guidance
Metier (level 6 or 5)	Metier level 6 (or level 5 when 6 is not possible)	Metier 6 codes to follow the structure defined in the vocabulary at //vocab.ices.dk/?ref=1647 Further details, scripts and documentation can be found at: https://github.com/ices-eg/RCGs/tree/master/Metiers
Area covered	ICESArea or Geographical subareas (GSA) where the sampling occurs. In the case of the Mediterranean & Black Sea,	Report one area per row. https://vocab.ices.dk/?CodeID=156500 (ICES) https://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/maps/gsas/en/ (Med & BS)
Number of trips sampled	Number of achieved trips in that year x métier x area combination. Provide only if you can obtain a meaningful approximation to their number and you are reporting on a previous year.	
Total number of fishing trips	Total number of trips in that year x metier x area combination.	
Sampling Intensity: Proportion of trips covered by sampling	Proportion of trips sampled in that year x metier x area combination: Total number of fishing trips / trips sampled.	
Perceived importance of these fisheries compared to other fisheries catch of birds	0: not observed; 1: observed but low; 2: medium; 3: high; 4: very high	
Perceived importance of these fisheries compared to other fisheries catch of mammals	0: not observed; 1: observed but low; 2: medium; 3: high; 4: very high	
Perceived importance of these fisheries compared to other fisheries catch of PET fish species	0: not observed; 1: observed but low; 2: medium; 3: high; 4: very high	
Perceived importance of these fisheries compared to other fisheries catch of elasmobranchs	0: not observed; 1: observed but low; 2: medium; 3: high; 4: very high	
Perceived importance of these fisheries compared to other fisheries catch of reptiles	0: not observed; 1: observed but low; 2: medium; 3: high; 4: very high	